

township corporations shall be perfected, all officers provided for in this constitution, but whose official functions shall have been superseded by such organizations, shall be dispensed with, and the affairs of such towns and of the counties as affected by the action of such towns, shall be transacted in such manner as the general assembly shall direct."

Mr. BARRON. Will the gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes, sir; two of them; any question but the previous question.

Mr. BARRON. Would the gentleman have any objection to having a town upon his farm?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I would not let it go there, if I could control the matter.

Mr. BARRON. Not if they paid you for it?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Not a town in this sense; these towns have no houses in them. If the gentleman means whether I would have a town there in the character of a city, that is another matter. But a township need not have a hut in it; the people may live in straw houses, or in huts quarried in the earth. Townships are to be erected. But the gentleman does not suppose that the legislature are to build houses in these towns. I will go for that.

Now, I submit to my friends that no party politics are involved in this matter at all. I hope gentlemen will not be alarmed because your humble servant proposes to offer an amendment, as unacceptable as my propositions generally are. But do you gentlemen, Marylanders, want to go to Boston, or Hartford, or any other section of the northern part of the country, to learn how to manage your own municipal affairs? Are you not satisfied with what you have always been in the habit of doing; with what your fathers have been in the habit of doing?

I would therefore in the most modest way, ask leave to move so to amend this section that it shall at least read, "The general assembly *may* provide, by general law, for dividing the counties into towns," &c., instead of having it read, "The general assembly *shall* provide," &c. Let the legislature have some discretion in the matter. We are receiving more northern men every day, and probably the time will arrive when we will have such a number of them that the State will be governed by them. I do not believe that the people of our State would now know how to manage townships of this sort. I ask permission therefore to open this section to amendment so far as to change "shall" to "may," so as to allow the legislature some discretion in this matter; not compel them, bind them, oblige them to make this change.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Is it competent to propose that amendment, in case this section is opened to amendment? This report as it came from the hands of the committee read:

"The general assembly *may* provide," &c. On its second reading the motion was made to strike out "may" and insert "shall," and the convention adopted that motion. I would suggest that it is not competent now to move to strike out that which the convention has put in.

The PRESIDENT. If the convention agrees to open the section for this amendment, it operates virtually as a reconsideration.

The question was upon the motion of Mr. CHAMBERS to suspend the rules.

On this question Mr. CHAMBERS called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

The question was then taken, by yeas and nays, and resulted—yeas 25, nays 42—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Billings'ey, Blackiston, Bond, Brisc e, Brown, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Davis, of Charles, Dent, Duvall, Hoffman, Hollyday, Horsey, Johnson, Lansdale, Larsh, Lee, Marbury, Parran, Peter, Ridgely, Smith, of Dorchester, Sneary, Wilmer—25.

*Nays*—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Brooks, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Hopkins, Hopper, Keefer, Kennard, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Mullikin. Negley, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Schlosser, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Worcester, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Todd, Valliant, Wickard, Wooden—42.

The motion to suspend the rules was therefore not agreed to.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The words "towns" and "townships" are used interchangeably, or promiscuously in this section. I would therefore ask permission to move to strike out the word "town" where it occurs, and insert the word "township" so as to make this section uniform in that respect.

The PRESIDENT. That is a merely verbal alteration, which the chair will direct the secretary to make.

Mr. DAVIS, of Charles, moved to strike out the second section.

The question being taken, the motion to strike out was not agreed to.

The report having been read a third time, the question was upon its adoption.

The question was then taken, by yeas and nays (under rule forty-three), and the report was adopted—yeas 48, nays 20—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Brooks, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Hoffman, Hopkins, Hopper, Keefer, Kennard, Larsh, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Mullikin, Negley, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Ridgely, Russell, Schlosser, Smith, of Carroll, Smith,