

A P P E N D I X . *

CONSTITUTION SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE.

In obedience to the requirements of the sixth section of the 12th article of the constitution, and for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of the people of the State in regard to the adoption or rejection of the constitution the governor on the 9th day of September issued the following proclamation:

STATE OF MARYLAND, }
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. }

To the Sheriffs of the Several Counties of the State and of the City of Baltimore:

Whereas, by an act of the general assembly of Maryland, passed at January session, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, entitled "An act to provide for the taking of the sense of the people upon the call of a convention to frame a new constitution and form of government for this State, to provide for the election of delegates to said convention, and the assembling thereof, it was among other things enacted that the constitution which might be framed by said convention should be submitted to the legal and "qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection, at such time, in such manner and subject to such rules and regulations" as said convention should prescribe; and—

Whereas, the said convention assembled in conformity to said act, and did adopt a new constitution, in which they provided that for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of the people of this State in regard to the adoption or rejection of said constitution an election should be held in the city of Baltimore on the twelfth day of October, in the year 1864, and in the several counties of this State on the twelfth and thirteenth days of the same month, and did direct that the governor should issue his proclamation to the sheriffs of the said city and counties, directing them to give the usual notice of said election.

Therefore, you are hereby commanded to give notice in the manner now prescribed by law, that an election will be held in the city of Baltimore on the twelfth day of October next, and in the several counties of the State on the twelfth and thirteenth days of October next, at the usual places of holding elections

in said city and counties, for the adoption or rejection of said constitution by ballot, in the manner by said constitution provided, which election shall be held as aforesaid between the hours of eight o'clock A. M. and five o'clock P. M., on the day or days so respectively appointed for said city and counties, and the judges of election "shall receive at said election the votes only of such electors as are qualified according to the provisions of said constitution."

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State at the city of Annapolis [L. s.] this ninth day of September in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

By the Governor,

A. W. BRADFORD.

WM. B. HILL, Secretary of State.

CORRESPONDENCE.

After the issuing of this proclamation, doubts were expressed as to the legality of the provisions of the constitution, by which its adoption was to be submitted to a vote of the people. While these doubts were agitating the public mind the following correspondence took place and about the fifth of October was made public, viz:

FIRST LETTER OF MR. VICKERS.

CHESTERTOWN, September 14, 1864.

His Excellency, A. W. Bradford, Governor of Maryland:

My Dear Sir—I beg leave, most respectfully, to call your attention to the proceedings of the late convention, which assembled at the city of Annapolis to remodel the constitution or propose a plan of a constitution for the State. I am now living under the only constitution of the State in existence, framed and adopted in the year 1851. That constitution secures to the male inhabitants of the State, over twenty-one years of age, and resident twelve months in the State and six in the county (or city) in which they may reside, by its first section, the right to vote in the ward or election district in which they reside, in "all elections hereafter to be held."

The act of the general assembly passed on

*The following pages—detailing events occurring after the adjournment of the convention—are here published as a portion of the history of the constitution.—*J. Mc Garigle, Sup't Printing Debates of Convention.*