

the gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Dent,) as taking from the legislature the power, should the general government place ten or twenty millions of dollars, or any amount in the hands of the State, of passing any law for the purpose of carrying out the object of compensation under such a provision of appropriation. Not only that, but it would have this farther effect. Even should there be a disposition on the part of Congress to make such an appropriation, the opponents of any appropriation could urge that the legislature had no power to receive and make a disposition of the funds. I regard it therefore, as simply a declaration to the federal government, not only that we are not willing to receive and do not ask any appropriation, but by the action of this convention we tie the hands of our legislature in such a manner that they can receive no such appropriation. And viewing it in this light I shall vote "no."

Mr. NEGLEY. In explanation of my vote I would say that I do not think the meaning attached to this section by the gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Dent,) and the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke,) can properly be attached to this section. The plain sense of the section is that the general assembly shall pass no law, nor make any appropriation—that is, pass no law raising the money, or make any appropriation of the money when raised, to compensate masters of slaves, &c. It would not preclude the legislature from passing a law to create a commission to receive any money and distribute it, which the general government might appropriate. I vote "aye."

Mr. SANDS. I wish to explain my vote. I do not conceive that any such construction as has been placed by the gentlemen from St. Mary's and Prince George's (Messrs. Dent and Clarke) can be placed upon this section. And I now notify them that if they had offered an amendment to that effect, providing that nothing contained in this section shall prevent the legislature from passing law, rule or regulation necessary to dispose of any fund which the general government might appropriate for compensating the owners of slaves hereby set free, I should have voted for it most heartily. I cannot conceive that the section will bear their construction, and therefore I vote "aye."

Mr. VALLIANT. I wish to say in explanation of my vote, that I do not construe this fortieth section as it has been construed by gentlemen upon the other side. If I did I should feel obliged by the pledges I made to my constituents to vote against it. But not construing it as they do, I shall vote "aye."

SUPPORT OF MANUMITTED SLAVES, &c.

Mr. MILLER submitted the following as an additional section:

"Section —. The legislature shall provide by law and make appropriations from the treasury, if necessary, for the comfortable support

and maintenance of such slaves manumitted by the adoption of this Constitution as may, by reason of age or other cause, be unable to support and maintain themselves."

The PRESIDENT. Is not that substantially the proposition submitted by the gentleman from Queen Anne (Mr. Brown,) and rejected by the convention?

Mr. MILLER. Something like it may have been submitted as an amendment to another section, and been voted down for that reason. I consider it perfectly in accordance with parliamentary usage to offer it as an additional section to the report.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset, moved to amend the proposed section, by adding the following: "Provided that all slaves who, at the time that this constitution shall go into effect, shall be manumitted thereby, and shall be minors, shall be thenceforth in the condition of negro apprentices, under the law of this State, to their owner; males until they shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years and females until they shall arrive at the age of eighteen years."

Mr. MILLER moved that the Convention adjourn.

Mr. STIRLING asked for the yeas and nays upon the motion to adjourn, and they were ordered.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays, and resulted—yeas 19, nays 31—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Bond, Brown, Clarke, Dent, Duvall, Edelen, Hoffman, Hollyday, Jones, of Somerset, King, Lee, Mitchell, Miller, Parker, Parran, Peter, Stockbridge, Thomas—19.

Nays—Messrs. Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Earle, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Hatch, Hebb, Hopkins, Kennard, Markey, McComas, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Sands, Schley, Stirling, Swope, Sykes, Todd, Valliant, Wooden—31.

The motion to adjourn was accordingly rejected.

The question recurred upon the amendment submitted by Mr. JONES, of Somerset.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I think that the proposition of the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller,) and the amendment that I have submitted, are both entitled to the consideration of this Convention upon principles of humanity and justice. The gentleman from Charles (Mr. Edelen) has said that in his county the number of slaves, before the federal government had occasion to take the able-bodied males into the army, considerably exceeded in number the white population there. Among the number that is left in that and every other slaveholding county in the State, there are a great many helpless; a great many women and children utterly unable to support themselves, and who must be a burden to somebody. The