

shall decree, and the balance, if any, to be paid to the said complainants, or such of them as the said court shall decree; provided, that no interest be allowed on such balance as may appear to be due, after the application as aforesaid; and the treasurer of the western shore shall, (if it should be so decreed,) deliver to the parties respectively their bond aforesaid, and pay such sum of money as shall be decreed by the court of chancery.

No. 17.

The resolutions purporting to be the "doings of the legislature of the state of Massachusetts," having been laid before the legislature, by the governor of Maryland, and due deliberation having been had thereon, **RESOLVED**, That in the opinion of the legislature of Maryland, the amendment to the constitution of the United States, proposed by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, ought not to be adopted.

No. 18.

RESOLVED, That the state of Maryland, by the principle of representation adopted by the constitution of the United States, having its full influence in the councils of the union, it would be unwise to diminish or relinquish it. This principle ought not to be a source of clamour or complaint in any state where a mixed population doth not exist; in those states where it doth exist, they are subjected to additional taxation, as taxation is apportioned according to representation; the principle of representation was the result of a spirit of accommodation and mutual concession; it is one of those fundamental parts of the constitution which ought not to be invaded. The amendment proposed, in the opinion of this legislature, is calculated to shake the union, an event that cannot be too much dreaded. That patriotic and able statesman, the revered Washington, has emphatically recommended the inviolable preservation of the union. He observes, "towards the preservation of their government, and the permanency of their present happy state, it is necessary that they not only discontinue irregular opposition to its acknowledged authority, but also that they resist, with care, the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexts." "One method of assault," he proceeds, "may be to affect, in the form of the constitution, alterations which will impair the energy of the system, and thus undermine what cannot be directly overthrown." Warned by so great an authority, although we acknowledge the propriety of amending when experience discloses defects, it behoves the people of the United States to touch, with awful caution, their great charter, more especially those peculiar principles contained therein, the effects of which were fully seen, and carefully deliberated on, before they were ingrafted into the constitution. When a full, fair and successful experiment of the wise, energetic and salutary provisions of our constitution has been made; when the administration of the government is so ably conducted in its various departments; when tranquility, safety and happiness, are diffused throughout the union, equal rights protected, and the real interests of all eminently promoted and preserved, it would be highly impolitic and unwise to put them to hazard, by sanctioning a measure which can be productive of no advantage to the people of the United States, but may tend to weaken the bonds of the union, introduce national discord and a final subversion of all government.

Relative to a
memorandum pro-
posed by Massa-
chusetts to con-
stitution of U.
States.

Unwise to dimi-
nish principle of
representation,
Sec.