

shall be made by the people voting *directly* for those officers, or *indirectly*, by electors chosen by, and responsible to them, we consider of less importance; as in either mode, the elections will be effective expressions of their will. But we deem it of paramount consequence that the rights of the respective states, as secured by the compromises upon which the constitution was founded, be preserved sacred and inviolate; and to the small states, (including Maryland) particularly that the *federative* principle upon which the elections are now made, in the event of a failure of the people, in the primary elections to make a choice, be maintained.— Adhering to this principle, we esteem it of little consequence, whether the power of contingent choice remains where it is now vested, or, be transferred to some other authority. We believe the house of representatives is as safe and suitable a depository of that power, as any other that can be constituted or provided for, or, any that *exists, other than the people themselves.*

Whether it would be proper and expedient so to change the constitution, as upon a failure of the people on the first trial to make an election, to have in their own hands and exercise, themselves, the power of making subsequent efforts for that purpose; under all the excitement that such an event will never fail to produce, appears to us to be, at least questionable. **And even if the policy and propriety of their**