vention had long been agitated among the people of Maryland, and had been largely mixed with party movements and purposes. From 1820 to the Civil War the State was a close one in regard to the numerical strength of the respective political parties. In general the Whigs were stronger. As one party secured the control of the government, the other agitated the question of " conventional reform," as it was alleged, " to ride into office."

In the movement of 1835-36 for constitutional reform, which resulted in the radical amendments of the constitution of 1836, a portion of the people of the State were prepared to effect the proposed amendments without the aid of the legislature. Local conventions were held in several counties of the State urging the necessity of constitutional reform, and for the purpose of selecting delegates to a state convention to be held in the city of Baltimore in the spring of 1836. The purpose of this convention was to bring pressure to bear on the legislature in order to obtain the desired changes in the constitution. On the 6th of June, 1836, the State Reform Convention, composed of representatives from both political parties, assembled in Baltimore City. In this convention Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Frederick, Montgomery, and Washington counties, and Baltimore City were represented. The convention adopted a set of resolutions recommending to the voters of the State not to support any candidate for the state legislature who did not pledge himself to introduce and support a bill in the legislature providing for taking the vote of the people on the question of reforming the constitution of the State. The convention resolved: " That if within forty days after the commencement of its session the legislature shall refuse or neglect to provide for ascertaining the sense of the people of the State upon this important question, and for calling a convention as prescribed in the previous resolutions, the president of the convention is hereby requested forthwith to convene this convention for the adoption of such *ulterior* measures, as may then be