

deemed expedient, just and proper, as may be best calculated, without the aid of the legislature, to ensure the accomplishment of the desired results.”<sup>5</sup>

The legislature, coerced by the state of public feeling, and by the course pursued by the nineteen Democratic senatorial electors, who refused to qualify and meet the twenty-one Whig electors to elect the Senate,<sup>6</sup> made many of the desired changes in the constitution. The persistence with which the nineteen “reform” electors pursued their determination of electing a senate composed of a majority in favor of reform, and the illegal and revolutionary manner in which they endeavored to bring about a convention for the purpose of forming a new constitution, produced a reaction throughout the State in regard to the calling of a convention. Public meetings were held in many of the counties, and in the city of Baltimore, condemning the course pursued by the “reform” electors as “disorganizing and revolutionary.”<sup>7</sup> The changes made in the constitution by the “reform legislature” of 1836-37 served to check for a few years the demand for a constitutional convention.

The legislature in the effort to secure to Maryland the growing trade of the West, and with the view of developing the mineral resources of western Maryland, was induced to make use of the capital and credit of the State in the aid of various works of internal improvement. In the December session of the legislature of 1835-36, a measure was introduced to grant heavy subsidies to the various projects of internal improvement in course of construction. This measure was opposed in the legislature, and, with a view of enabling the members to learn the sentiments of their constituencies on the subject, was postponed until the extra session held in May.

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<sup>5</sup> Scharf's History of Md., vol. iii, p. 189. See also Niles Register, 5th series, vol. 52, p. 124.

<sup>6</sup> Steiner's Electoral College, Amer. Hist. Association, Rep. 1895. p. 142.

<sup>7</sup> McSherry's History of Maryland, p. 351.