

ment, increased the agitation for "retrenchment and reform." This agitation arose paramount to all other issues. After the Stamp Tax law of 1844 was put in execution, which was the most objectionable among the many laws passed for the purpose of raising a revenue, and which was referred to as the "British Stamp Act,"¹⁷ the demands for a convention became general over the State.

On the 27th of August, 1845, a state reform convention, composed of delegates from several counties, was held in Baltimore City. The convention organized by the selection of Colonel Anthony Kimmel, of Frederick county, president; and George W. Wilson, secretary. A committee of five was appointed for the purpose of drafting a memorial to the legislature in behalf of the convention in favor of "conventional reform." It was decided to establish a permanent central reform committee, consisting of ten members from the city of Baltimore, and five from each county, for the purpose of "securing the great object of retrenchment and reform." The convention adopted a set of resolutions without a dissenting voice. Among which were:

Resolved, That it be recommended to all the election districts in the State to organize reform associations, and to appoint corresponding committees, whose duty it shall be to report to the central committee all information that they may collect with regard to the progress of reform principles, and suggest such measures as may be deemed advisable to advance the cause in their several districts."

Resolved, That it be recommended to the people throughout the State to give their votes to no candidate for either branch of the legislature who will not pledge himself to vote for the call of a convention; the abolition of all useless offices, and the retrenchment of all unnecessary expenses."

Resolved, That we consider any apprehension that, in

¹⁷ Scharf's History of Maryland, vol. iii, p. 212.