

ished, it must be done by the free consent, or acquiescence of the counties, that it was under this agreement of equal representation that the counties entered into the compact of government in 1776.<sup>44</sup>

The style of the preamble as finally adopted was introduced by Mr. Randall, of Anne Arundel county.<sup>45</sup> The important change made substituted "people" for "delegates." The whole clause reading: "We the people of the State of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberty, and taking into our serious consideration the best means of establishing a good constitution in this State, for the sure foundation, and more permanent security, thereof, declare," etc. This preamble was copied verbatim in the constitution of 1867.

The first article of the Declaration of Rights, as reported by the committee read as follows: "That all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole." Mr. Presstman, of Baltimore City, moved an amendment to the above article by adding, "and they have at all times the inalienable right to alter, reform, or abolish their form of government in such manner as they may think expedient."<sup>46</sup> The object of the amendment was to vindicate the revolutionary character of the convention, and to insert in the constitution the right of revolution.

This doctrine that the majority of the voters of the State had the right to alter or change the constitution whenever and in whatever manner the majority deemed best, irrespective of legal authority, or constitutional means received a large support during the reform agitation. Although Mr. Gwinn, of Baltimore City, said in support of the amendment that its object was not to assert the right of revolution, but to compel the recognition by the

---

<sup>44</sup> See Mr. Dashiell's speech, *Debates*, vol. i, pp. 437-441.

<sup>45</sup> *Debates*, vol. ii, p. 785.

<sup>46</sup> *Debates*, vol. i, p. 143.