

antee to the southern counties that the constitution would be respected. If the people of Baltimore City, together with those of Baltimore and Frederick counties, who had less interest in slavery than any other portion of the State, should deem it expedient to abolish slavery there would be no means to prevent them. If the right of the majority to abolish the constitution was recognized, the right of secession must go "*pari passu*" with it. It would become the duty of the Eastern Shore and of the lower counties of the Western Shore to adopt any measures to protect themselves, their liberties, and their property from revolution and anarchy.<sup>62</sup>

The report of the majority, but slightly amended, was adopted. The legislature was authorized to pass a law for ascertaining the wishes of the people in regard to calling of a convention, immediately after the publication of each census of the United States.

What to do with the free-negro population of Maryland had been a problem much discussed for several years. On January 12, 1842, a Slave-Holders' Convention was held in Annapolis. The purpose of this convention was to take such measures as would influence the legislature to pass more stringent laws for the protection of slavery. The convention proposed laws to prevent all manumissions of slaves; except on condition of immediate transportation at the expense of the manumittor, to some place out of the State, and to prevent free negroes from coming into Maryland. Large rewards were recommended for the conviction of persons enticing slaves to run away.<sup>63</sup> In compliance with the recommendations of the convention, the legislature passed more stringent laws in reference to the free negroes.<sup>64</sup>

On the 4th of December, the convention of 1850 ap-

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<sup>62</sup> Debates, vol. i, p. 153.

<sup>63</sup> Niles Register, 5th ser., vol. 61, p. 322.

<sup>64</sup> Scharf's History of Md., vol. iii, p. 325.