

vote. A new duty was imposed upon the governor, by making it obligatory on him to examine semi-annually the treasury accounts.²²

In the legislative and judicial departments the changes made by the constitution were more radical and numerous. The term of office of state senator was reduced from six to four years. One-half of the Senate was to be elected biennially, instead of one-third as formerly. The six-year term was thought to be so long as to take away, in a measure, the responsibility of senators to the people, for their conduct. No change was made in the mode of electing, nor in the numbers of senators. Each county and Baltimore City was given one senator.²³ For the first time in the history of the State, representation in the House of Delegates was based on the aggregate population.²⁴ This principle extended only to the representation of the counties. Baltimore City was limited to four more delegates than the largest county. Baltimore county was the most populous county in the State. Its population in 1850, including free black and slaves, was 41,589. The population of Baltimore City was 169,012, a difference of 127,423.²⁵

The duty imposed upon the legislature to appoint two commissioners to revise and codify the laws of the State deserves to be noticed. There had long been need of a proper codification. Several attempts had been made, but without success.

Another salutary change in the constitution was the provision that no bill should become a law unless it was passed in each House by a majority of the whole number of members elected, and unless, at its final passage, the ayes and noes were recorded.²⁶ Formerly a great number of laws were passed by the silent assent of many of the members of the legislature. No vote being recorded, the mem-

²² Art. ii, sec. 17.

²⁴ See ch. i, p. 17.

²⁵ U. S. Census; Debates, vol. i, p. 287.

²⁶ Constitution 1851, art. iii, sec. 19.

²³ Art. iii, sec. 2.