

and modern law, the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States, the writings of the founders of the Republic, Supreme Court decisions, and various enactments since the formation of the Union—in fact, every conceivable authority or argument of any time or age was skilfully advanced by the advocates of the respective sides of the question. Although knowing the final outcome would certainly be against them, the minority stubbornly continued the fight till the last. They suggested the incorporation of provisions prohibiting the immigration of free negroes into Maryland, or any contracts with or employment of such persons, and providing for the colonization outside of the state of those negroes already within her borders.⁵⁵

Also, Mr. Clarke offered a substitute to the emancipation article, which declared the slaves in Maryland free after January 1, 1865, but on condition that the United States Congress before that time should appropriate the sum of twenty million dollars to compensate the owners for their slaves.⁵⁶ This was of course opposed by the majority as it would in all probability have been a very successful means of indefinitely continuing the institution, and the amendment was withdrawn by general consent.⁵⁷ Mr. Brown of Queen Anne's offered another amendment providing for state assumption of the duty of the comfortable maintenance of the helpless and paupers emancipated, but this was voted down.⁵⁸ The final vote on the article as reported by the committee was taken on June 24, and the provision was adopted on strict party lines by 53 yeas to 27 nays.⁵⁹ This action, so momentous in its consequences, was but the fulfillment by the Convention of the Unconditional Union victories of November 4, 1863 and April 6, 1864, and although it had yet to pass the same ordeal of a further ratification by the people, slavery was practically dead from that hour.

⁵⁵ Proc., 79-80.

⁵⁶ Proc., 210.

⁵⁷ Proc., 215.

⁵⁸ Proc., 219, 223-4.

⁵⁹ Proc., 224-5.