

nothing less, for they evidently desired by this action to strengthen the hands of the President and put Maryland in the position of officially endorsing his administration.⁹¹ This political consideration should not be forgotten, especially as the contemporary excitement incident to Mr. Lincoln's candidacy for a second term may have influenced the Convention. The result was, that Mr. Clarke's amendment was voted down, and also several others by means of which the minority attempted to mitigate the force of the article,⁹² and this latter was finally adopted on June 16 by the party vote of 53 to 32.⁹³

The third in importance and last of the new articles incorporated in the "Declaration of Rights" was that introduced by Mr. Abbott of Baltimore City on June 11, and adopted without debate on July 7, after a slight change of phraseology.⁹⁴ It declared—"That we hold it to be self-evident that all men are created equally free; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, the enjoyment of the proceeds of their own labor and the pursuit of happiness." It was merely a broad statement of the principle involved in the article abolishing slavery.

Another very interesting change was that made in Article 2, which declares the "unalienable right" of the people to "alter, reform or abolish" the form of government which originates from them. The words contained in the old Constitution of 1850-1⁹⁵ which limited this popular right to the "mode prescribed" in that document were omitted. This action was not taken on strict party lines, for although nearly all the members opposing it were of the minority, yet a number of them rose above the rigid

⁹¹ See Proc., 209, for an order introduced by Mr. Hatch, of Baltimore City, with this special end in view.

⁹² Proc., 150-1, 199-201.

⁹³ Proc., 204. (Article 5 in the Constitution.)

⁹⁴ Proc., 173, 233-4. (Article 1 in Constitution.)

⁹⁵ Declaration of Rights, Article 1.