

was taken from the school law of the state of Massachusetts, which had a sinking fund, and the remainder of the report was elaborated after a consideration of all the various state school laws.<sup>199</sup> The report was finally adopted without much difficulty, although there was much discussion of the amount of tax to be levied, and the amount of salary of the State Superintendent. Several members also questioned the legality of the provision providing that the system reported to the Legislature should go into effect in case of the failure of that body to act in the matter, but Mr. Cushing and M. Stirling answered this by affirming the sovereign power to provide what it pleased, which was given to the Convention by the people.<sup>200</sup> Several of the minority members attempted, in a most narrow minded spirit, to prohibit the application of any part of the School Fund toward educating the free negro population, but were overwhelmingly defeated.<sup>201</sup>

As regards the organic law embodied in the Constitution, the only important facts which remain to be noted are first, that it was provided that the Legislature might under certain conditions organize new counties, and second, townships were substituted for election districts as the smallest unit of local government, their powers to be prescribed by the Legislature.<sup>202</sup> Mr. Stockbridge seems to have been largely responsible for this change, his desire being to introduce into Maryland, if possible, the New England system of "Town Meetings."<sup>203</sup> Third and last, three methods of amending the Constitution were provided,<sup>204</sup> that is to say—amendments might be submitted to the people after three-fifths of both houses of the General Assembly had passed them; a convention might be called by a two-thirds vote of each house if the people approved it at the polls; and finally, in the year 1882 and in

<sup>199</sup> Authority of Mr. Cushing. Mr. Van Bokkelen was appointed on November 12, 1864.

<sup>200</sup> Deb., ii, 1201-36, 1241-50.

<sup>202</sup> Art. x.

<sup>203</sup> Proc., 33; Deb., i, 65.

<sup>201</sup> Proc., 453-6.

<sup>204</sup> Art. xi.