

government, as the best, the wisest and the happiest that has ever been known in the annals of nations. Turn to our bill of rights, its first and second sections declare, "that all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole." "That the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof."

It is true the constitution of the State in its fifty-ninth article, points out a mode in which that constitution was to be altered or amended. But that mode has from long experience been found wholly inadequate to the ends for which it was intended. And of all the articles of that constitution, the provision for its amendment has proved itself the most unwise. It is indeed an anomalous proceeding in popular government, and scarcely known to any other than our State constitution, that the Legislative body, one intended merely for the framing of wholesome and remedial laws for their immediate constituents, should be called upon, from time to time to give a constitution and form of government to that constituency, whose legislators they are. With as great propriety, and perhaps with as favorable a result, should the executive and judicial branches of government be entrusted with the performance of legislative functions, as that the Legislature should hold the exclusive power of revising and amending the constitution. Long experience too has fully proved that the amendments of the constitution, when made by the Legislative branch of government, are too often defective, and those of importance too difficult to be attained.

The constitution of the State has from time to time, undergone legislative revisions, and it now presents itself an incongruous and almost unintelligible mass of alterations and amendments, but little suited to the wants of the people, devoid both of usefulness and symmetry, and wholly unbecoming the character and dignity of the sovereign State and people of Maryland.

We ask any one, even those the most intimately acquainted with the enactment of our state legislature, to turn to the statute book and point to us where all the constitutional amendments are to be found, and what are their provisions, you will receive as answer that the existing constitution of our State is spread through a long series of legislative enactments, and that it is almost out of the question with certainty to say what is constitutionally provided for, and what is not. If it is then be the case that the constitution is scarcely known to the learned, we may readily conclude that very many of its provisions are a dead letter to the unlearned in statutory enactments, who are always the majority. If this then be true, is it not evident that the constitution should be made plain that those who are governed by it, and who are most deeply interested in it, may at least know under what kind of constitution and form of government they live. And this your committee sincerely believe can only be satisfactorily attained but by a convention fresh from the people.