

There is still another consideration of grave importance, which in the pursuit of this inquiry presents itself and demands more than ordinary attention, and that is the embarrassed condition of the finances of our State. See her people writhing under the burdens and groaning under the oppressions of a too onerous system of taxation, see them as it were ground to the very dust by the exactions levied upon them, and their energies almost paralyzed by those exactions, and then say, should not these burdens be removed or, at least, in a great measure lightened from the shoulders of the people? If we can hope for the reduction of annual expenses of our government, how is so desirable an end to be attained? not so much by reducing the salaries of State officers as by a reform of her constitution, and dispensing with such supernumerary officers as are unnecessary and not required for the public service. And we are fully convinced that this end can only be attained by the action of a convention fresh from the people, elected solely in reference to the formation of a new constitution, and the establishment of an economical form of government, suited to our times and to our necessities.

The judiciary system of our State, many intelligent and patriotic citizens think requires a remodelling, and that it should undergo some very important changes, and it is scarcely to be reasonably expected that any desirable changes can be effected, unless by a convention. The expenses of our judiciary are indeed greater than our State, with her exhausted treasury, is able to bear, and these expenses your committee believe can never be reduced to an appropriate and proper standard, unless the whole system is revised and remodelled. And here allow us to say, that in speaking of the judiciary system, we have no reference to the worthy gentlemen who fill the place of judges, for those gentlemen, as far as they are known to us, we entertain the highest respect. They fill their respective stations with ability and dignity. It is only urgent necessity, and the too imperative wants of the people, that requires that their number should be reduced, and the heavy expenses connected with the whole judicial system greatly diminished: and this can scarcely be hoped for unless by a convention.

Your committee forbear longer to occupy the attention of this House by a more lengthy or elaborate report. They cannot however close without the renewed expression of their firm and unalterable conviction, that the people of Maryland have a right and, as we believe, anxiously desire to express their views on the call of a convention for a general revision, remodelling, alteration and amendment of the constitution and form of government of our State. We only ask for them that they may be permitted to express their views on this subject, and have accordingly reported a bill for taking the sense of the people on the call of a convention. If the majority should decide favorably to the call of a convention, who would not then cheerfully submit to their determination?

Your committee having in view the embarrassed condition of our State, and unwilling to add in the smallest degree to the bur-