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The Maryland Gazette. ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1836.

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LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND. HOUSE OF DELEGATES. Monday, January, 19.

REPORT. The select committee to whom was referred the order of the House to take into consideration what alterations, and amendments, if any, of the constitution may be necessary and expedient, beg leave to report—

That among every free people, there are certain principles of government which are inalienable and sacred. To secure to the people the rights which result from these principles is the first object with every government that aspires to be republican, and the means which it uses to secure to the people their rights, or in other words the adaptation of its principles to the practical operation of government, is called its constitution.

The committee will apply the foregoing observations to the constitution of Maryland, and especially to the order of the House under which they were appointed, will proceed to inquire wherein the constitution should be amended.

It is the fundamental principle of a republican government, that the people possess the sovereign power and therefore have the right to govern. This principle, so far at least as relates to the purposes of the committee, is affirmed in the second article of the declaration of rights.

The primary and in the opinion of the committee the fatal defect in the construction of the legislative power, consists not in the declaration of a republican government, but in its utter and reckless emancipation from all principles.

The declaration of rights, in which the principles of a free government, and the rights resulting from these principles to the people are asserted, declares that the people ought to have the sole and exclusive right to regulate the internal government of the State.

Do they pay taxes and bear the burdens of the State in proportion to their political power? The committee again repeat that so far from it, two thirds in number of the freemen of Maryland, paying much more than two thirds of the taxes for the support of the State government, may be ruled, taxed, and in fact completely subjugated by the remaining third.

The committee will now inquire in what manner the constitution of Maryland should be amended, or rather reformed.

The constitution of the State is the supreme law of the land, and therefore, should proceed from the supreme law giver, the people.

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wrong is indifferent, for who has the authority to judge whether it be right or wrong, but the people, by whom and for whose benefit it was made. The question now arises—do the people of Maryland wish a reform in their Constitution? To judge from the public meetings which have been held, and the petitions which have been signed in favour of reform, the committee believe that a majority of the people desire it.

The committee think it unnecessary to set forth in detail, the laws which they are preparing, unless the House by adopting this report, concur with them in opinion, that essential amendments and alterations of the Constitution are absolutely requisite, and that a convention is the best means of effecting the amendment.

The committee are aware, that the General Assembly of Maryland can refuse their sanction to any measures which have even a tendency to reform; but they respectfully state, that it is not within the power of the General Assembly, to deprive the people of the right to reform their Constitution, nor prevent its exercise.

Mr. Winton moved that five hundred copies of said report be printed. Mr. Winder moved that one thousand copies of said report be printed. Mr. Hamilton moved to lay the report and motions upon the table.

Resolved in the affirmative. On motion of Mr. Brown, the yeas and nays were ordered and appeared as follows—

1st. That the Governor be elected by the people. 2nd. That the Executive Council be abolished. 3rd. That the Senate be elected by the people, according one member to each county and the city of Baltimore.