

your committee, or a majority of them, perceive any imperious necessity for the change; but because it seems to be called for by public opinion, and is not only in accordance with the general practice of the States, but is entirely consistent with the genius of our republican institutions. No evil can result to the public from the change; and the only objection which was entertained, by any member of the committee, arose from an unwillingness to alter any part of the constitution, without an apparent necessity. Your committee recommend an election, by general ticket; but they feel, at the same time, that respect should be paid to interests, as well as to population. The city of Baltimore, from her great population and her central position, would, in such a contest, very greatly influence, if not control, the result. Her popular vote is nearly one-fourth of the aggregate vote of the whole State; and from the enterprise of her citizens, and her admirable location, she must continue to increase in population, as she will still increase in importance and in wealth. It would be doing injustice to other portions of the State, and in disregard of the rights of the farmer and the planter, to adopt a system, without some countervailing benefits, which would give this unequal power to so small a territory, and to a several interest. No restriction, however, could be tolerated, which would deprive a citizen of Baltimore, because of his locality, from his equal weight in a general election, with any other freeman of the State. All are alike subject to the action of the laws—all should equally participate in the choice of the Chief Magistrate. But one apt expedient has occurred to your committee, and this they recommend for adoption. It is to divide the State into four gubernatorial districts; and to provide, that a Governor shall be chosen, in succession, from these several districts, according to a priority, to be determined by law. The votes of the State, as taken at the recent presidential election, were upwards of forty-eight thousand. Of these, nearly one-fourth were given in the eight counties of the Eastern Shore—these would conveniently compose one gubernatorial district. The counties of Allegany, Washington, and Frederick, gave, within a fraction, one-fourth of the entire vote;—these, with the new county of Carroll, would conveniently compose a second gubernato-