

The question then recurring on the adoption of the thirteenth article of the report of the committee,

Mr. SCHLEY moved to amend the said article by striking out in the fourth line thereof, the words "actual worth in."

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. SCHLEY moved to amend the said article by inserting after the word "property," in the fifth line thereof, the following:

"And the legislature shall, at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, provide a convenient mode by which the actual worth in real and personal property of any individual in the State shall be ascertained."

After some explanations by Messrs. SCHLEY, DORSEY and MERRICK,

The question was taken, and the amendment was rejected.

The thirteenth article of the report was then adopted.

And the Convention adjourned, until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, February 11th, 1851.

The Convention met at eleven o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. GRAUFF.

The roll of the members was called.

The journal of yesterday was read, and on motion of

Mr. SCHLEY, was amended by substituting, in his amendment, the word "every," in lieu of "any," as erroneously recorded.

MR. M'CULLOUGH, OF CECIL.

On motion of Mr. MILLER, it was

"Ordered, That it be entered upon the journal, that Mr. McCullough, is detained from his seat in the Convention by the severe illness of a member of his family."

On motion of Mr. McMASTER, it was

"Ordered, That it be entered upon the journal Samuel I. Lambden, an officer of the Convention, is detained at home in consequence of the illness of his wife."

Mr. GWINN, presented a memorial of H. J. Scarff, Robert White, Peter F. Young, William H. H. Turner, and others of the Marion Total Abstinence Society, praying some constitutional protection for the cause of Temperance;

Which was read, and

On motion of Mr. GWINN,

Referred to the committee on the Legislative Department.

Mr. MORGAN presented an account of G. J. Spalding, clerk to commissioners of tax for St. Mary's county;

Which was read, and

On motion of Mr. MORGAN,

Referred to the committee on Accounts.

On motion of Mr. PHELPS, it was

"Ordered, That the committee upon apportionment and representation be, and they are hereby

directed, to enquire into the propriety and expediency of so changing the present basis of representation in the House of Delegates, as to deduct one member from each county, and the city of Baltimore.

The PRESIDENT, *pro tem.*, called for reports of committees, and also for motions, notices and resolutions, but none were presented or made.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the order of the day, being the report of the committee on the declaration of rights.

The question was on the adoption of the following preamble:

"We, the Delegates of Maryland, in Convention assembled, taking into our most serious consideration, the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State, DECLARE."

Mr. DASHIELL moved to amend the said preamble, by inserting after the word "Maryland," in the first line, these words, "representing the counties and city of Baltimore."

The preamble, as amended, would then read as follows:

"We, the Delegates of Maryland, representing the counties and the city of Baltimore, in Convention assembled, taking into our most serious consideration, the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State, DECLARE."

Mr. D. said his object in proposing this amendment, was to place upon record a fact which existed, and by so doing he relieved the preamble, as reported by the committee, of all ambiguity. The preamble, without the amendment, admits of a construction which the facts do not warrant, and he thought it expedient and wiser to place it beyond the possibility of cavil and doubt. He wished it to tell but the one tale, and that the truth. No one can deny the fact, that we are here as Delegates of Maryland, representing the counties and the city of Baltimore—that we, in the aggregate, are the result of an apportionment—that each county has upon this floor a separate and distinct delegation. Mr. D. adverted to the fact that the preamble to the Constitution of the United States had been a matter of great controversy, and from it the advocates of two great doctrines, deduced arguments in favor of each. One he believed, had the letter in its favor, the other, the facts. One favored consolidation, the other, confederation. Now the preamble as reported by the committee will admit of a like double construction. He hoped the Convention would see the propriety of adopting the amendment and thereby rid the preamble of its present ambiguity.

Mr. GWINN expressed his unwillingness that the Convention should act upon a proposition of this character without some consideration. It seemed to him that it was not only a change of phraseology, but that it involved some assertions as to the political relation which the counties bore to each other utterly at variance with the fact. The members of this Convention were not delegates of the counties, but of the State of Maryland. And if the inference was to be drawn that they were here as the representatives of distinct muni-