

This was taken possession of by my colleague. I am happy that he had the opportunity of doing so. It was also adopted.

The next provision gave power to the legislature to protect by law from forced sale, a certain portion of the property of all heads of families. This principle was adopted on the suggestion of the gentleman from Baltimore county, although I, myself, changed my mind and voted against it.

The only remaining proposition is in these words:

"No person shall be imprisoned for debt."

I should be glad if I had been saved the trouble of offering this provision also. It becomes my duty, however, (no member of the Convention having been kind enough to come to my relief,) to ask the attention of the Convention to it. As we all know, it involves a very important principle; still I do not believe that there is any necessity for a protracted discussion upon it. I am sure, that gentlemen, whether in favor of the abolition of imprisonment for debt, or opposed to it, will scarcely be influenced by any discussion here.

They have formed their opinions deliberately. It is not probable that debate will change them. I am satisfied that a majority of the members of this body, are fatigued with the long and almost uninterrupted discussion which has taken place; and that they will not desire to extend it, at all events, on a subject which is so well understood. I hope, therefore, that the proposition may be put to the vote. As the report emanates from myself, I cannot call the previous question. It would not be courteous in me to do so. I can only express the hope that the Convention will feel disposed to take the question up with as little delay as possible.

The PRESIDENT then stated the question to be on the adoption of the section, reported by Mr. PRESSTMAN, as an additional article to the report of the committee on the legislative department.

Mr. JENIFER said he had no desire to steal the thunder of his friend from Baltimore city upon this question of master and slave, and it was to prevent such proceeding by others that he, (Mr. J.,) had the proposition returned to the committee No. 14, and also, he, (Mr. J.,) as chairman of that committee, was prepared to report an article on that subject, in which the committee was unanimously agreed. Yet, to ensure a unanimous vote in the House, it was agreed to adopt the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore city, believing, that by so doing, no objection would come from that section of the State, which otherwise might be apprehended.

Mr. PRESSTMAN asked if his friend from Charles believed him to be doubtful on this subject?

Mr. J. replied that his friend from Baltimore city was too sincere and honorable to be distrusted upon any question.

Mr. BOWIE said that he disclaimed the credit which his friend from Charles, (Mr. Jenifer,) had given to him in reference to that section of the Constitution which deprives the Legislature of the power to abolish the relation of master and slave in this State. He was as perfectly willing

to accord to his friend from Baltimore city, (Mr. Presstman,) the credit of having first offered this provision of the Constitution, and coming, as it did, from that portion of the State which had been supposed to be rather unfriendly to the institution of slavery, he, (Mr. B.) hailed it, at the time, as a harbinger of peace and security to the people of this State on a subject of the deepest and most vital importance to them. When his friend, the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Jenifer,) moved to take up the report of the committee on that subject, of which he was chairman, and asked the Convention to proceed at once to a consideration of it; he, (Mr. B.,) preferring infinitely the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore city, to the report of the committee, was anxiously expecting that gentleman to move it as a substitute for the report of the committee; but the gentleman from Baltimore city did not do so, and the Convention were about to adopt the article as it was reported from the committee. At this stage of the proceedings, he, (Mr. B.,) availed himself of the opportunity of adopting the proposition of his friend from Baltimore city, (Mr. Presstman,) and moved it as a substitute for the report. It was subsequently accepted by the committee and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Convention. This, said Mr. B., was the history of the matter, and he was quite willing that the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Presstman,) should have all the credit of the movement.

Mr. SCHLEY said, that, as the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Presstman,) was appropriating to himself the credit of all these subject-matters, it was right and proper that the "honors," which were about to be dealt out, should be fairly distributed.

Mr. S. then referred to the journals to show that the first notice of a proposition relative to the codification of the laws, was submitted by Mr. FIERY.

In relation to the rights of married women—

Mr. PRESSTMAN, (interposing) There are no married women in my report, sir. [Laughter.]

Mr. SCHLEY, nodding a good-humored acquiescence, took his seat.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the section abolishing imprisonment for debt.

Mr. DENT demanded the previous question.

There was a second,

And the main question was ordered to be taken.

The yeas and nays were demanded by a dozen voices,

And were ordered.

And the main question, [on the adoption of the report,] was ordered,

And having been taken, resulted as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Lee, Wells, Randall, Sellman, Weems, Dalrymple, Bond, Jenifer, Bell, Welch, Ridgely, Lloyd, Colston, Dashiell, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Chambers, of Cecil, McCullough, Miller, Bowie, Sprigg, McCubbin, Bowling, Spencer, Grason, George, Thomas, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, McHenry, Thaw-