

timore county, [Mr. Howard,] had certainly complained of the action of certain gentlemen, whose aid he seemed to think he was entitled to claim upon the ground of pledges. Not because they had ever expressed or entertained the opinions he wishes them now to express. Not at all. It would appear plain, they never did express or ever entertain these opinions. It is avowedly on the ground, that as good men and true, they should sustain opinions directly at variance with those they entertain, because their political friends, or friends connected with them by some peculiar bond, have so decreed. By an expression of the sentiment which they entertain in fact, these gentlemen have defeated a measure. The complaint is, the measure ought to have been carried, and carried by them, contrary to their cherished convictions. Why would not this have been, to produce precisely the state of things he had denounced as objectionable—that is to say, to make a Constitution by the minority, against the opinion of a majority? He had come under no sort of responsibility to the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Fiery.) He had not, nor did he now, assert that the proposition of that gentleman was a caucus measure. He was dealing with the declaration and doctrine boldly avowed by the gentleman from Baltimore county, who had complained of the conduct of gentlemen in not supporting their friends, by the abandonment of their own fixed opinions. In reply to the inquiry of the gentleman from Baltimore, as to a caucus or meeting of gentlemen who usually acted with him, he would say he had never participated in any such meeting, nor did he know any thing of their proceedings.

Mr. GWINN. Does not the gentleman know that such a meeting has been held.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I have heard gentlemen say a meeting had been held. [A Laugh.]

Mr. GWINN. Ah!

Mr. CHAMBERS said: the gentleman, it appeared, was better informed than he was. And he might well be so, for he had no part or lot in any meeting of the kind, nor was he informed of any measure agreed upon in any such meeting. The Constitution should be made here, in open session, with the free and equal participation of each and every member of the representatives of the people, and not by a fractional portion of the body, to the exclusion of others. Whenever the practice became sanctioned, that a selected portion of the Convention,—whether they assumed the name of ‘a party of reformers,’ or by whatsoever appellation they may designate themselves—whenever a self-selected portion of this body, shall assume the privilege to hold extra sessions, and adopt articles for insertion in the Constitution, by their exclusive authority, in total disregard of the rights of the Convention as a whole, and bring into this hall such a Constitution, for the mock purpose of having their proceedings ratified—when such an occurrence should take place, he should consider the period had arrived to quit his place here. He would not pledge himself, because he could as well do

what the occasion might require, without a pledge as with it, but his present impression was, and it was so strong, he thought, it must be exactly right and incapable of change, that the moment such a thing occurred was the very moment, at which every discarded member should make his bow—‘P. P. C.’ and return to his home and to his ordinary vocations, in which he might be much more usefully employed, than in endorsing ‘paper manufactured to order.’

Mr. SPENCER addressed the Convention. His remarks will be published hereafter.

Mr. CHAMBERS must say a word in self-defense, that first law of nature. This was not the first time the charge had been made against him, of being connected with the caucus which had organized this body. The statement had been repeated, and the question again asked, though not for the purpose of information. Every member of the house knew his views upon that subject. He had never known a body composed of different and conflicting opinions, to be organized without some previous consultation as to who should be the officers. It was often absolutely necessary as a preliminary step. But this did not, in any respect, conflict with the opinions he had expressed. His objection was to a caucus in which articles for insertion in the Constitution, were agreed upon, whereby a minority of the Convention would impose an organic law upon the people, contrary to the opinion of a minority of their representatives. If gentlemen could not perceive the difference between a caucus to nominate a presiding officer, and a caucus to form a Constitution, he despaired of illuminating their minds by argument.

He would repeat, that while consultation in regard to officers necessary to the organization of the body, was of constant practice every where, he had no knowledge of one solitary instance, in which laws to be passed in a deliberative body, had been previously adopted and decided on in caucus, and he had some experience in these matters, having been fifteen years of his life in the Senate of the State or of the United States.

As to the ‘reformer’ and ‘anti-reformer,’ there seemed to be the utmost possible difficulty in ascertaining what was and what was not ‘reform.’ It seems to depend entirely upon the opinions of the individual who constructs the platform.

Different gentlemen, claiming to be ‘*au fait*’ in this matter, had very different creeds and versions of faith. According to his theory, he was a reformer, but he most certainly was not so, according to the theory of some others. He believed his own case was pretty much precisely that of all around him. Every member, then, was entitled to hold and express his opinion on this floor. Not only had every member the right to express his own opinions and have them heard by his fellow members, but he had a right to hear the opinions of others and their reasons therefor. We were here to consult and advise together for a common purpose, a common good, and every thought expressed by the humblest member was entitled, by every fair and legitimate consideration, to all the attention it might merit. But it would be a spectacle to laugh at, were gentle-