

of a bill by the General Assembly, so to alter, change or abolish the same, provided such bill shall be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly, after a new election of Delegates in the first session after such new election.

2d. That a Convention to alter, change and abolish this form of Government, and the Declaration of Rights, may be called by the passage of a bill for that purpose provided such bill be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly after a new election of Delegates in the first session after such new election.

Mr. FITZPARICK, from the majority of said committee, moved the following as a substitute for the said report :

At the session of the General Assembly, next succeeding the return of every census of the United States hereafter to be taken—it shall be the duty of the Legislature to take the sense of the people of Maryland at the next general election of Delegates to be held thereafter, for and against a Convention—and if it be ascertained that a majority of the people are in favor of a Convention, the Legislature shall take measures for the election of Delegates to and for the assembling of the Convention at the earliest convenient day.

Mr. BRENT, of Balt. city, offered as a substitute for said reports the following :

It shall be the duty of the Governor in the month of _____ in the year eighteen hundred and sixty, and in the same month every ten years thereafter, to issue his proclamation in the most public manner, giving at least thirty days notice that at the next general election of Delegates, the voters of the State may vote by ballot for or against a Convention, and the Judges of election shall count all ballots for or against a Convention, and separately return a full list of all said ballots for or against a Convention, to the Secretary of State, and the same shall be counted by the Governor and Secretary of State, and if a majority of said votes shall be cast against a Convention, the Governor shall make proclamation of such result, but if there shall be found a majority in favor of a Convention, it shall immediately be the duty of the Governor to give at least sixty days notice in the most public manner, of a special election to be held at such time and places within six months thereafter, as he may prescribe, and at such special election, each county and the city of Baltimore shall elect as many Delegates as the said county and city respectively have on joint ballot in the General Assembly, and the Judges of election shall certify full returns of the ballots cast at such special election, to the Secretary of State, and the same shall be counted by the Governor and Secretary of State, and the persons having the highest number of votes in each county and the city of Baltimore, according to the representation herein allowed, shall be declared elected, and the Governor shall immediately make proclamation thereof, and at the same time designate a day for the meeting

of said Convention within two months thereafter; and the said Convention shall meet in the Hall of the House of Delegates, or such other place as it may select, and when assembled, the said Convention shall elect such officers as it may deem necessary, and shall be the Judges of elections and qualifications of its members, and shall prepare a new Constitution to be submitted for ratification or rejection, to the qualified voters of the State, and if ratified, to be carried out, in such manner and at such times as the said Convention may provide; and the Treasurer of the State shall pay to the order of the President of said Convention, a compensation of four dollars per diem to each member during the time said Convention shall be in session, and in like manner such expenses as said Convention shall think proper to incur by its orders or resolutions, provided the said Convention shall not sit longer than six months.

Mr. SOLLERS suggested that as perhaps the propositions had not been considered by the members, their consideration had better be postponed until the substitute of the gentleman from Baltimore city could be printed.

Mr. BRENT, concurred in the suggestion. The report of the majority proposed to secure the right of the people to hold a Convention, independent of any legislative action.

He regarded this as a most sacred right, and desired a provision engrafted in the Constitution authorising the people to vote every ten years, as to the propriety of calling a Convention to revise the Constitution.

Mr. THOMAS did not know what business they would proceed with, if the consideration of this report should be postponed. If they should proceed with the judiciary report, members would move various propositions, which would have to be printed, before considered. He expressed an earnest desire to proceed with the subject now before them, that they might here the respective views of the gentlemen who had submitted propositions.

Mr. SOLLERS said that he was willing to acquiesce in the wish of the Convention.

Mr. BOWIE said that by the substitute of the gentleman from Baltimore city, the people of the State, at a period of every ten years, were to be called upon to decide the question whether there should be a Convention or not. The objection to this system were so glaring, that none but such men as his friend from Baltimore, *et id omne genus*, who belonged to a school of ultra political reformers, would go with him. He, (Mr. B.,) rather supposed that no matter what their differences might be in regard to the question of the right and power of the people to change their organic law, they all agreed that there should not be a constitutional injunction requiring the people at particular periods of time, to meet together to change their organic law, whether it required amendment or not.

If he understood the report of his friend from Calvert, (Mr. Sollers,) it was as broad and liberal as man could desire—that was, that the Legislature might amend the Constitution whenever