

thus amended, every thing would be provided for, and he was satisfied.

Mr. SPENCER remarked that a good deal had been said about the conservative features of the Constitution, in reference to the different portions of this government, and much had been said in reference to the position occupied by the smaller counties. He knew of no proposition better calculated to impair the strength of the smaller counties, than that offered by the gentleman from Calvert. Under the Constitution now being framed it was provided that no appropriations of the public money or credit should be made for works of internal improvement. This was the declaration of the people of the State, forced from their representatives by the saddest possible experience. Yet the gentleman from Calvert, coming from a small county, whose interest he wished to preserve, would be willing to give the power to the Legislature, by acts passed at two successive sessions, to change the Constitution in that vital principle.

Mr. SOLLERS said that he was opposed to any such change.

Mr. SPENCER replied that the effect of the gentleman's provision, would be to give the power to make the change. Again, the Constitution provided that the Legislature should not interfere with the rights of master and servant. Two successive legislatures could abolish that provision. He would appeal to the small counties, and especially to the counties representing this interest, which was the greater friend to their interests, he who would refuse the legislature the power over these subjects, or he who should open the door to them. It was this conservative feature of the Constitution, which he desired to see protected, and he would never consent, by his vote, to allow the Legislature the right to legislate upon the subject.

Again, the gentleman's proposition allowed the Legislature at any time to take the sense of the people, upon the subject of calling a new Convention. This would leave open the subject for agitation at all times. Let this Constitution be ratified with that feature in it, and a single day would not pass before the subject of calling a new Convention would be agitated. All sorts of appeals would be made to the Legislature, from that time forward to endeavor to call a new Convention, and the standard would be raised against this very Constitution now being framed. He could not consent, therefore, as a representative of one of the smaller counties, to surrender the guaranties and securities provided in the Constitution.

Mr. MERRICK made some remarks which will be published hereafter.

Mr. FITZPATRICK, (with the consent of the Convention,) amended the substitute offered by him, by striking out the word "people," and inserting in lieu thereof, the words "votes cast."

Mr. BROWN much preferred the proposition of the gentleman from Allegany. [Mr. Fitzpatrick.] as it would be amended by the proposition offered by himself, if it should be adopted, to either of the other propositions. He was of the opin-

ion that both of the other plans would produce the same effect. The great objection that he had to both the other plans, was that they would lead, either directly or indirectly, to amendments to the Constitution. The gentleman could talk as much as he pleased about simple deviations, the great probability was, that the very first object would be to undermine one of the most important features of the Constitution — The gentleman from Anne Arundel suggested a plan that amendments might be introduced into the other House, and when adopted, be submitted to the people for their sanction. His objection to this was, that the other House should have any thing to do with it. Would the gentleman arrest agitation in the Legislature by his plan? Under the plan of the gentleman from Calvert. (Mr. Sollers,) the great danger would be in agitation. The true republican doctrine was to let the people themselves say when they desired a change. A skilful and talented man might go among the people, and be elected to the Legislature, upon the very ground that he had discovered some defect in the Constitution, and then would come here and make an attempt to change it, by striking out one of its most important features. He might then succeed in the adoption of his amendment. Thus it would produce excitement, give rise to public feeling, distract the councils of the State, and agitate the people. He held the doctrine that the people always had this right to change or alter their government. And now they proposed a mode by which the Legislature could do that which the people, in their sovereign capacity, had a right to do. If gentlemen should leave this to the Legislature, it would cause agitation every session, as sure as there was a sun in the firmament, even by those who had obtained all their rights. Limit the session once in ten years to fifty or sixty days, and in the midst of its session, when important legislation might be required, they would leave this mass of agitation to distract their deliberations. He would ask then, if the right being in the people, and the Constitution should give them every ten years to express their wish, whether that would not be amply sufficient to protect the people? The distinguished gentleman from Kent, [Mr. Chambers,] was of the opinion that the people ought to express their opinion on this subject at every election. The same gentleman thought, some time ago, that the people should have nothing to do with it.

Mr. CHAMBERS said that if the gentleman would recollect, he, (Mr. C.,) pledged himself early in the session, that if nobody would go for elections, he would.

Mr. BROWN said that he stood corrected. He (Mr. B.,) would vote for no other proposition except the one offered by the gentleman from Allegany, as amended in reference to the basis, because it was the most republican of all the features in the Constitution.

The gentleman from Dorchester, thought that there would not be another Convention in one