

before its second session, after the 'adoption of this Constitution, to provide for the establishment of efficient common schools, adequate to the education of every white child of this State.'

Mr. McHENRY said:

It seems to me that we will not meet the expectations of the people of the State, if we do not insert in the Constitution some provision on the subject of education. I have drawn up one which will interfere with the predilections of no portion of the State, and which will jostle no system at present in operation, but merely provides that the benefits of adequate instruction shall be extended to children in those portions of the State now destitute of any well constructed plan of education. The greatness of every State depends not upon its size, not upon the number of its inhabitants, but upon the virtue, intelligence and patriotism of its people. There is no system of police comparable to that furnished by an efficient common school education, which trains up the children of a community to be good citizens, and dispense with a great portion of the cost of government, as well as with much of the penal machinery otherwise necessary; but, in its complicated operation, inconvenient, discreditable and enormously expensive. There never did exist, nor never will exist in this world, any state or country distinguished in peace or war, or illustrious in any respect, in which the education of the young was not considered a matter of primary importance and of paramount public obligation. I really think, that if the Convention will give heed to the proposition, it will be found to contain nothing objectionable to any member; nothing likely to encounter the prejudice of any portion of the community, and I ask a vote upon it; being unwilling at this period of the session to consume the precious time of this body, even in reference to a topic involving the most vital interests of our constituents, the promotion of which, to the best of my judgment, untrammelled by personal or partizan considerations, has been the polar star guiding my every vote, movement and action, so far as I have participated in the work now nearly consummated by this Convention.

Mr. BOWIE moved to lay the article on the table.

Mr. McHENRY moved that the question be taken by yeas and nays,

Which being ordered,

Appeared as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Lee, Weems, Sollers, Howard, Bell, Ridgely, Lloyd, Sherwood, of Talbot, Colston, Williams, Goldsborough, Constable, McLane, Bowie, Sprigg, McCubbin, Bowling, Spencer, Wright, Jacobs, Thomas, Shriver, Biser, Thawley, Ware, Schley, Neill, John Newcomer, Harbine, Michael Newcomer and Brown—31.

*Negative*—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Chambers, of Kent, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Kent, Bond, Brent, of Charles, Buchanan, Welch, Chandler, Dashiell, Hicks, Eccleston, Phelps, Dirickson, McMaster, Fooks, Sappington, Stephenson, McHenry, Carter, Stewart, of Caroline, Hard-

castle, Gwinn, Stewart, of Baltimore city, Brent, of Baltimore city, Sherwood, of Baltimore city, Fiery, Davis, Kilgour, Brewer, Waters, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Smith and Ege—43.

So the Convention refused to lay the article on the table.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city moved to amend said article by adding at the end thereof the following proviso:

"Provided the expense of such education be assessed on the several counties and city of Baltimore, for the schools within their limits respectively."

Mr. GWINN moved the the previous question, which was seconded.

Then question recurred on the amendment offered by Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city moved that the question be taken by yeas and nays,

Which being taken,

Appears as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Howard, Buchanan, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Ridgely, Lloyd, Sherwood, of Talbot, Colston, Dashiell, Constable, McLane, Bowie, Sprigg, Bowling, George, Thomas, Shriver, Biser, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, Magraw, Nelson, Gwinn, Stewart, of Baltimore city, Brent, of Baltimore city, Sherwood, of Baltimore city, Presstman, Ware, Schley, Fiery, John Newcomer, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Weber, Hollyday, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke, Ege, Shower, Cockey and Brown—44.

*Negative*—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Chambers, of Kent, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Weems, Dalrymple, Bond, Sollers, Brent, of Charles, John Dennis, Williams, Hicks, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, McCubbin, Wright, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Carter, Thawley, Stewart, of Caroline, Harcastle, Davis, Kilgour, Brewer, Waters and Anderson—37.

So the amendment was adopted.

The question then recurred upon the adoption of the article as amended.

Mr. BLAKISTONE moved to lay the article on the table.

Mr. EGE moved that the question be taken by yeas and nays,

Which being ordered,

Appeared as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, pres't.; Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Lee, Chambers of Kent, Dorsey, Randall, Bond, Sollers, Brent, of Charles, Howard, Bell, Lloyd, Dickinson, Sherwood of Talbot, Colston, John Dennis, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Miller, Bowie, Sprigg, McCubbin, Bowling, George, Wright, Hearn, Jacobs, Thomas, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Harcastle, Stewart, of Baltimore city, Presstman, Ware, Schley, Neill, John Newcomer, Michael Newcomer, Davis, Kilgour, Waters, Anderson, Hollyday, and Brown—53.

*Negative*—Messrs. Donaldson, Wells, Weems, Buchanan, Welch, Chandler, Ridgely, McLane, Dirickson, McMaster, Fooks, Annan, Sapping-