

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Sellman, Howard, Buchanan, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Ridgely, Lloyd, Sherwood, of Talbot, Colston, Constable, McCullough, Miller, McLane, Bowie, Grason, George, Wright, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, McHenry, Magraw, Carter, Thawley, Stewart, of Caroline, Gwinn, Stewart of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Ware, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Brewer, Anderson, Hollyday, Parke and Show-er—40.

*Negative*—Messrs. Morgan, Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Donaldson, Wells, Randall, Weems, John Dennis, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Tuck, Sprigg, Spencer, Dirickson, McMaster, Fooks, Jacobs and Waters—22.

So the motion was adopted.

Mr. JOHN DENNIS moved to reconsider the vote of the Convention just taken on said Constitution.

MR. RIDGELY moved to lay the motion on the table.

And the question having been taken, it was determined in the affirmative.

The Constitution was then signed by the President, and attested by the Secretary thereof, in the presence of the Convention.

At half past 1 o'clock at night, Mr. HOWARD moved the Convention adjourn *sine die*.

The PRESIDENT then arose and delivered the following address.

*Gentlemen of the Convention.*

In proceeding to perform the last public act imposed upon me as the presiding officer of this body, my own inclinations, sanctioned by the authority of a time-honored custom, impel me to the utterance of a few brief parting words.

Our labors are ended. The sands of our political existence are well nigh run out. Its very grains are numbered—the peaceful revolution which brought us together terminates here, and now; and we, the actors of this eventful scene, are about to separate to our distant homes, some of us to meet no more for ever.

It is meet and decorous that, in a time so solemn, the tumult of the political elements should be hushed for a moment—that we should breathe in each others ears the accents of peace—and, in the presence of God and our country, wipe out from our hearts the memory of every embittered feeling which may have found an abiding place there.

Representatives of Maryland—christians—gentlemen—I invite you to this common sacrifice on a common altar!

The emphatic testimonial which you have stamped upon my official course, has been received by me with feelings of deep emotion. The natural distrust which I felt of my own ability for this station, has been augmented in no common degree by the difficulties attending the peculiar organization of this body—difficulties, which have confronted us at every step of our progress, and the pressure of which has never for an instant ceased to be felt. But I can say, under a devout conviction of the truth of the declaration, that in administering the duties of this

chair, I have been governed by a disinterested and pure desire to secure the freedom of debate, to protect the rights of individual members, and to promote the public welfare; “my witness is in Heaven, and my record is on high.”

Gentlemen, when by your too partial suffrages, I was elevated to this honorable position, I avowed without reservation the doubts and misgivings which perplexed my judgment upon the question of Constitutional reform. The maturest reflection of which my mind was capable, had led me to the conclusion that many of the reforms which had been demanded, were not required by a sound regard for the public welfare, and that even in relation to those as to the necessity and expediency of which there might be less difference of opinion; the best and safest mode for their accomplishment was that which in a wise forethought, our ancestors had themselves provided by the fifty-ninth article of the old Constitution. I did not believe in the necessity of a resort to any of the forms of revolution to secure a remedy for any grievances under which this gallant old State of ours might be suffering. In change, for the mere sake of gratifying a vague and undefined love of change, I saw, or thought I saw, nothing but present discomfiture and future evil.

Entertaining these sentiments, I have witnessed with profound regret many of the features which have been embodied in the Constitution now about to pass from our hands. That some changes, salutary, in my judgment, and therefore commanding my voice and my vote, have been made, I freely admit. But these changes are so few and light when weighed in the balance against graver and more objectionable features, that I have no alternative but to vote at the ballot-box, as I should have voted here, against the ratification of the instrument. This I do in no factious spirit. If my own forebodings should not be realized—if this Constitution should be adopted by the people—if it should strengthen our union—cement our interests—foster our industry—promote civil and religious peace, and secure in a more eminent degree the blessings of that great republican liberty for which, in other times, the blood of our people was poured out like rain, my “right hand shall wither and my tongue shall cling to the roof of my mouth” sooner than I will raise an impious voice against it!

And now, gentlemen, we part, not, I trust, without a deeper sympathy in each others destinies, and a more devoted attachment to the common mother that gave us birth. She is worthy of all our affections and all our sacrifices. Behold her history! Preserve her honor! Strike down the sacrilegious hand that would invade it! And may that Almighty Being whose Providence has signally protected her “in the dark watches of the night,” be with her in the noon-tide of her returning prosperity, and may we, under the shadow of His wing, illustrate the career of a virtuous, united and happy people!

It remains for me, gentleman, to pronounce this Convention adjourned *without day*.

The Convention then adjourned *sine die*.