

and outrages that I want to see corrected by the proper authorities; and I want it to have all the moral weight this convention can bring to bear upon it. If the Southern counties of the State had the credit they are entitled to, for the class of men surreptitiously carried off in this way, the whole State would be nearly relieved of the burden of an excessive draft.

Mr. HEBB. I hardly think it is necessary to have a committee of nine; and I move the following amendment to the amendment:

Strike out all after the word "that," in the first line, to the word "to," in the seventh line, and insert the words "the governor be respectfully requested to communicate."

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Really I cannot see what objection any gentleman can offer to this order. The object is to get the information; and in case the governor is not possessed of the information, to desire him to write and procure the information; and he will do it with a great deal of pleasure, with more than the gentleman from Allegany (Mr. Hebb) will vote for this proposition, I am sure. This is a mere subject of inquiry, admitted on all hands on yesterday to be necessary. — It is merely with a view that we may have a consultation, that gentlemen of this body may have a consultation with the governor upon the subject, and devise some plan to meet this want, that the order is offered. I did not really expect any opposition to the order. I think it is drawn up in respectful terms, that he be respectfully requested to furnish us with the information; and I cannot imagine why gentlemen should arise in their seats and offer objections and amendments with a view of killing off a subject which they admitted yesterday was of so much importance.

I think the information desired by the convention can be more readily had in the mode pointed out by the order which I have had the honor of presenting. I said some days ago, and I shall follow out the rule, I meant this only as a suggestion to the convention; not that I expect it to pass anything coming from me or my colleagues, but I merely made the suggestion, predicated on reason and founded on justice, which I did not suppose any man through prejudice or any political bias would oppose in this convention.

Mr. HEBB. I believe I did not violate any rule of the convention by offering an amendment to the gentleman's order. If the gentleman supposes I have any prejudice upon this subject, he is very much mistaken. If there is any prejudice, it is on the other side of the house. So far as the information is concerned, if the gentleman desires information, and the governor has the information and is ready and willing to furnish it, he can as well furnish the information to the convention by a communication as to nine gentlemen sitting there and conversing with him. That is my view of the subject.

Mr. MILLER. I think it would be entirely respectful for a committee to wait upon him, rather than for the convention to pass a mere order requesting him to communicate the information to us. That is certainly in accordance with precedents, to communicate with the governor by means of committees; and I can see no objection to the appointment of a committee to bring the matter more respectfully and formally to the attention of the governor, than it would be by the mere passage of an order. This is a subject of grave importance to the people of the State, and especially to the people of my congressional district. Now I have been credibly informed this morning by those connected with the department, that in this congressional district, with two of the counties nearly exempt, Calvert and St. Mary's, the people in this district have under the present draft paid a quarter of a million dollars in the way of commutation money for the procurement of substitutes; and notwithstanding that, it is a well known fact, not legally known perhaps, that a large number of slaves of this district, and able-bodied free negroes have been taken from the district and enlisted, and credited either to the other portions of the State, or to the city of Baltimore, or to the other States in the Union. Yet in the coming September draft, the quota of this congressional district is three or four hundred more men than in any other congressional district in the State. I say that is a matter of injustice. It ought to be remedied if possible. This matter ought to be inquired into, and the facts made known, and the enrolment lists corrected, and the quotas properly assigned to the several subdivisions of the State. There cannot be anything but justice in this proposition, and if the information is possibly to be obtained, let us have it.

Mr. ASHOTT called for the previous question.

The call for the previous question was not sustained.

Mr. STOKBRIDGE. I desire to say a few words upon this question. I have always been averse to sending committees to the executive of the State for information. I think the more usual custom is to communicate in writing, sending him a respectful communication, and asking for a reply in the same form. That is better for many reasons. A committee waits upon the executive, and makes a statement of the thing that has brought them there, and asks certain questions; and they obtain replies. — Then in their own manner, they communicate what they said or designed to say, and what they understood the executive to reply. If the communication is made in writing, and a written answer is returned, we know precisely what was represented, what was inquired, what was said to the executive, and precisely what he said in reply. We have all the information to act upon which the committee would have in the other case, without any misunderstanding or possible misrepre-