

latent, backstair purpose, in giving this vote. I disclaim now and forever any such purpose. I repudiate the suggestion of any motive other than that these gentlemen think they can obtain justice by this process. I desire to say that I have taken no interest in it because I was hopeless of justice, so far as any particular part of the State was concerned. I desired to give them an opportunity, because they supposed it would be of some advantage. And I therefore vote against the postponement, "no."

Mr. DENT said: I am not in the habit of explaining any vote which I am about to give at any time; but as it has been intimated, I supported the proposition for the purpose of ascertaining facts which we considered important for our section of the State to relieve us from what might be considered an oppressive drain upon our population. As it has been said that it would be a concession upon the part of the majority towards the minority, to afford them the opportunity asked for, I must say that I repudiate it entirely as a concession. It never is a concession to accord justice and right—never. It is one of the matters which minorities have a right to demand. Majorities can enforce them; minorities have to ask for them, and we have asked for it. The opportunity will be denied us, I suppose, by the prevalence of the motion which has been made to dispose of this matter; but I shall vote "no."

Mr. HARRIS said: I offered the amendment in good faith, intending to vote for the proposition as amended; but for the reasons so well set forth by the president, I vote "aye."

Mr. JONES, of Somerset, said: The gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) has expressed my sentiments very well on this subject. I knew nothing in the world of the proposition until it was submitted, nor have I heard anything outside of the house with reference to it. All that I know of it has been said upon this floor: In fact I saw very little difference between sending a committee, and sending a letter, and should have preferred the amendment of the gentleman from Allegany, except that I did not think it was of sufficient importance to interfere with the proposition as made by the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Berry,) not varying the language, but being only another mode to effect the same purpose. I should have been very much gratified to adopt either mode, personally, although sending written communications has been most usual. The governor has certainly been in correspondence with the federal government, upon this question. What has transpired we do not know. The governor is under no obligation, and it would not perhaps be proper for him, to communicate to us the information without being asked. The idea of there being a majority and a minority of the convention upon

such a subject as this, is one which I am sorry to hear. This is a question which concerns the quota of Maryland; and is there any portion of Maryland, any county of Maryland, that has so fallen under the ban as to be unworthy of putting an inquiry, and that the remainder of the State, and the majority of this house shall be perfectly careless whether the whole population is swept away unjustly by the federal army, and the women and children left to perish with cold and hunger through the coming winter, or not? I wish the information to be given. I am not particular about the mode. I trust our friends will agree together upon the mode, and will permit a respectful note to be addressed to the governor, and that the governor will give us the information he may have from the authorities. I vote "no."

Mr. MARBURY. I repudiate the idea that in supporting this order I am influenced by any unfair motive whatever; either at first in introducing this subject, or now in voting upon it. I considered it a subject in which the whole State of Maryland, and more particularly my portion of the State, were deeply interested. I have been frequently talked to upon this subject. I have heard it talked over, and over again for the last five or six months, and have understood that private individuals had sought for the information time and time again, without any success. I thought the State convention of Maryland, men coming from all portions of the State, would carry a great deal more weight in anything they might present to the consideration of the government; and that the adoption of this course would prove much more successful.

But I have derived the consolation from the defeat of this, that perhaps there will be another exhibition to the people of Maryland of the temper of this convention called by the people to frame a new constitution. There are some most extraordinary and most offensive provisions in this constitution, and they will see in this a manifestation of the same disposition that incorporated them.

I beg gentlemen if they have any regard whatever for fairness, that they will consider this subject and see if there is anything latent. Let some gentleman here suggest an idea of anything latent in a proposition of this sort, and he can at once arouse a prejudice against it. I merely desire to get this information upon which men in this State can bring their influence to bear. It was with that object that the subject was first introduced into this convention by myself. I vote "no."

Mr. MAYHUGH. As I have expressed my willingness to vote for the proposition as it stood amended on the motion of the gentleman from Allegany, it is necessary for me to say why it is that I change my vote. I believe the order before the convention entirely