

it always to be in the power of the people to change their constitution by the assent of a majority of the existing Legislature, but was in hopes that such a constitution would now be framed as would endure beyond this generation.

Mr. Ritchie said the proposition of the gentleman from Washington county was very plausible, but if appended to article 1 it would entirely destroy what vitality there was left in it. That article had been so changed and tampered with by successive conventions, from its original meaning, that it was obscure, and any further alteration would render it almost unintelligible. The objection to the proposition of the gentleman was, that it added limitations to an inalienable right.

Mr. McKaig said this question had been settled in Maryland many years ago. In 1836, in the time of the Nineteen, a convention was called and a constitution adopted in utter violation of the existing constitution and laws, and no one had questioned it then, or, that he had heard of, up to the present time. The right of the people to alter their organic law could not be gainsayed, and he hoped the article would remain as reported by the committee.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. Seyster, when it was disagreed to.

The amendment of Mr. Alvey was then disagreed to.

Several other amendments were offered, and all negatived.

Article 1, as reported by the committee, was then adopted.

Article 2 was then proceeded with. It is as follows:

Art. 2. The constitution of the United States and the laws made or which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made or which shall be made under the authority of the United States, are and shall be the supreme law of the State; and the judges of this State and all the people of this State are and shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of this State to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. McKaig moved to strike out of the article the