

FIFTEENTH DAY.

ANNAPOLIS, MONDAY, MAY 27, 1867.

Convention met at 12 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Henderson.

The President laid before the Convention communications from the clerks of the county commissioners, showing the following amounts paid for the purposes named: Clerk of Circuit Court for Talbot county, for 1866, \$1,874.34; State's Attorney for Talbot county for 1864, \$1,515.22; State's Attorney for Talbot county for 1865, \$1,414.37; State's Attorney for Talbot county for 1866, \$1,586.20; school board, from July 1, 1865, to 1867, \$3,100; school board of Kent county for 1866, \$1,390; State's Attorney for Kent county for 1866, \$220; clerk of Circuit Court for Kent county for 1866, \$1,557.50. Aggregate amount of assessable property: Talbot county, \$7,993,080; Kent county, \$8,021,287.

The unfinished business, being the consideration of the Bill of Rights, was then proceeded with, the pending question being on striking out so much of the 15th article as relates to the prohibition of a poll-tax.

Mr. Stoddert, being entitled to the floor, concluded his remarks of Saturday, in favor of striking out all allusion to levying tax by poll. He contended that it was a matter to be considered only by the legislative branch of the government, and the whole control of the matter would be in the hands of the people. He saw no necessity for making a raw head and bloody bones out of this matter before it had been tried. Virginia, a State which had always been jealous of its liberties, had a long experience in regard to the operations of the poll-tax, and there had been no complaint made of its being grievous.

Mr. Brewer, of Baltimore city, had so little dreamed of any attempt to change a declaration of principles which had come down to us from ages, hallowed by the wisdom of our forefathers, that he was scarcely prepared to meet it. He regarded this principle, as the laws of the Decalogue, to endure for all time. This was a blow leveled at the poor of this land, and the adoption of such an amendment as was proposed would seriously endanger this con-