

[Document L.]

BY THE HOUSE DELEGATES,

February 11th, 1846.

Read and ordered to be printed.

REPORT

OF A PORTION OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE,

ON THE

CONSTITUTION,

UPON THE

MEMORIAL OF THE REFORM CONVENTION,

Held in Baltimore in August, 1845, and other propositions to alter
the Constitution and Form of Government of Maryland.

The undersigned a portion of the select Committee on the Constitution to which was referred the memorial of the committee of the Reform Convention, which assembled in Baltimore in August, 1845, and the several orders passed by the House, proposing, or suggesting alterations in the existing, or the call of a convention for the adoption of a new constitution, have given to the subject, that full and deliberate consideration which its magnitude demands. Whilst the undersigned are not prepared to say, that the constitution under which we live, is so perfect in all its parts, and so wisely adapted to the present condition of the people, that no alterations could be made with advantage; they are yet far from being satisfied, that any urgent necessity exists for such alterations; or that any positive practical good, would result from changes in that sacred instrument. They are far from being convinced, that "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," the objects for which "governments are instituted among men," are not as effectually secured to the people of Maryland, by the present constitution and form of government, as if a new one were framed, in accordance with the views of those, who are so clamorous for change.

That our people have enjoyed a reasonable degree of prosperity, under the existing government, none will deny, and therefore, unless it can be made plain and palpable, either that there are inherent vices in the instrument which time has not yet developed, or that other forms of government, will assuredly bring with them a more abundant share of happiness, there would seem to be but little wisdom, in listening to the counsels of those, who now with