

see how irresistible these combinations have been, when questions affecting the interests of those sections have arisen, it would seem altogether superfluous to confer upon them additional power.

There is one feature in the amended Constitution of 1836, which the undersigned would be most reluctant to submit to the ordeal of a convention to form a new one. They refer to the 26th section of the act of 1836, chapter 197, which places the institution of slavery beyond the reach of fanaticism. By that section, the relation of master and slave cannot be abolished, unless by a unanimous vote of both branches of the Legislature, at two consecutive sessions, and not then, without full compensation to the master. The undersigned submit, whether there is not reason to apprehend that the complete security which this provision gives, might not be endangered, by casting the whole subject of re-modeling the government in the hands of a convention.

With regard to the proposition to repeal the 59th article of the Constitution, in order to give to the Legislature the power to call a convention, when in their judgment it might be expedient to do so, much contrariety of opinion may exist. But seeing that whenever the altered circumstances of society called for a change, it has been effected in the mode prescribed, and not being aware of any present necessity of superadding a new and untried mode of changing that venerated instrument, they are not prepared to recommend it.

But to the measures of retrenchment which may be presented in any form, the members of the committee who sign this report, are prepared to give a candid consideration, and when approved by their judgment, a zealous report; and they are perfectly willing to submit to this test the disposition of the conventional reformers and themselves, to economise the public treasure.

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