

PETITION.

BALTIMORE, February 21st, 1854

To the Hon. N. WILLIAMS:

Dear Sir:—As citizens of Baltimore, we address you, her only immediate representative in the Senate of Maryland, upon a subject of vital importance to her prosperity. We allude to the Prohibitory Liquor Bill, which passed the House of Delegates on Saturday last, and which is now before the Senate for rejection or approval.

We have not the slightest doubt that such a bill, if enacted into a law and enforced, would be highly prejudicial to the commercial interests of our city and State, by driving from Baltimore hundreds of Southern and Western merchants, now her customers, and by causing hundreds and thousands of her own citizens to transfer their places of business and homes to neighbouring cities of Virginia and Pennsylvania. We know that the bill before you meets the indignant condemnation of a vast majority of your constituents. Though made dependent for its operation upon the result of a special election, it is not the less to be opposed, because it is but little less dangerous than an absolute law. The vote upon the important question, of the call of a constitutional convention, has proved the difficulty of obtaining at any special election a full vote. Indefatigable fanaticism might, by a vote of even ten or fifteen thousand in its favor, impose upon more than half a million of Maryland citizens the provisions of this unjust and odious bill.

We therefore appeal to you, as the representative of Baltimore