

a new government; the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

The committee having proceeded thus far, all the members who voted for the ratification declared, that they would engage themselves under every tie of honour to support the amendments they had agreed to, both in their public and private characters, until they should become a part of the general government; but a great majority of them insisted on this express condition, that none of the propositions rejected, or any others, should be laid before the convention for their consideration, except those the committee had agreed to.

The gentlemen of the minority, who had made the propositions which had been rejected, reduced to the necessity of accommodating their sentiments to the majority, through fear of obtaining no security whatever for the people; notwithstanding they considered all the amendments as highly important to the welfare and happiness of the citizens of the states, yet to conciliate, they agreed to confine themselves to the first three of those propositions, and solemnly declared and pledged themselves, that if these were added, and supported by the other gentlemen, they would not only cease to oppose the government, but give all their assistance to carry it into execution so amended. Finally, they only required liberty to take the sense of the convention on the three first propositions, agreeing that they would hold themselves bound by the decision of a majority of that body.

The first of these objections concerning the militia they considered as essential, for to march beyond the limits of a neighbouring state, the general militia, who consist of so many poor people that can ill be spared from their families and domestic concerns, by power of congress, who could know nothing of their circumstances, without consent of their own legislature or executive, ought to be restrained.

The second objection respecting the power of congress to alter elections, they thought indispensable. Montesquieu says, that the rights of election should be established unalterably by fundamental laws in the constitution.

The third objection concerning previous requisition, they conceived highly important; they thought if money required by direct taxation could be paid with certainty and in due time to congress, that every good consequence would be secured to the union, and the people of the state thereby relieved from the great inconvenience and expence of a double collection and a double set of tax-gatherers, as they might also get rid of those odious taxes by exit and poll, without injury to the general government.

They were, however, again proposed and rejected.

AFFIRMATIVE, Mr. Paca, Mr. Johnson, M. Mercer, Mr. J. T. Chase, Mr. S. Chase.

NEGATIVE, Mr. Lee, Mr. Potts, Mr. Goldborough, Mr. J. Tilghman, Mr. W. Tilghman, Mr. Hanson, Mr. G. Gale, Mr. M'Henry.

Previous to this, a motion was made on Monday the twenty-eighth, in the convention, while the committee were sitting, in the following words, to wit: "Resolved, that this convention will consider no propositions for amendment of the federal government, except such as shall be submitted to them by the committee of thirteen."

The committee being sent for by the convention, the gentlemen of the minority in committee then determined, that they would make no report of any amendments whatever, not even of those which they had almost unanimously agreed to, and the committee, under those circumstances, attended no house. Mr. Paca, as chairman, stated to the convention what had passed in the committee, re-

the amendments which had there been agreed to, and assigned the reason why no report had been formally made. A member then rose and proposed a vote of thanks to the president, which had been once read before the attendance of the committee, should have a second reading; and upon the second reading thereof, the previous question was called for by the members who wished to consider the amendments agreed to by the committee, and such other amendments as might be proposed. The house thereupon divided, and the yeas and nays were called for by the minority, the sense of the convention was taken thereon, and a majority determined that the yeas and nays should not be taken, nor would they permit the vote to be entered on the journal, by which the yeas and nays were prohibited; to preclude the consideration of any amendments.

A motion was then made "that the convention adjourn without day," on which the yeas and nays were taken and appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE, The honourable the President, Messrs. Barnes, Chilton, Sewell, W. Tilghman, Yates, Granger, Chesley, Smith, Brown, Turner, Stone, Goldborough, Stevens, G. Gale, Waggonman, Stewart, J. Gale, Sullivan, Snow, Gilpin, Hollingsworth, Heron, Evans, O. Sprigg, Hall, Digges, Hanson, J. Tilghman, Hollyday, Hemley, Morris, Lee, Potts, Faw, J. Richardson, Edmondson, M'Henry, Coulter, T. Sprigg, Stall, Rawlings, Shryock, Cramphin, Thomas, Deakins, Edwards. 47.

NEGATIVE, Messrs. Perkins, J. T. Chase, S. Chase, Mercer, Harrison, Wilkinson, Graname, Parham, Ridgely, Cockey, Cromwell, Lloyd, Hammond, Bowie, Carroll, Seney, Chaille, Martin, Done, Johnson, Paca, Love, Pinkney, L. Martin, W. Richardson and Driver. 27.

We consider the proposed form of national government as very defective, and that the liberty and happiness of the people will be endangered if the system be not greatly changed and altered. The amendments agreed to by the committee, and those proposed by the minority, are now laid before you for your consideration, that you may express your sense as to such alterations as you may think proper to be made in the new constitution.

We remain persuaded, that the importance of the alterations proposed, calculated to preserve public liberty, by those checks on power which the experience of ages has rendered venerable, and to promote the happiness of the people by a due attention to their ease and convenience, will justify the steps we have taken to obtain them, to our constituents, and the world.

Having no interest that can distinguish us from the rest of the community, we neither fear censure, nor wish applause. Having thus discharged the duty of citizens and trustees of the public, we shall now submit to the people those precautions and securities which, after mature reflection on this momentous subject, we deem necessary for their safety and happiness.

May that all-wise and omnipotent Being, who made us masters of a fair and fruitful empire, inspire us with wisdom and fortitude to perpetuate to posterity that freedom which we received from our fathers!

WILLIAM PACA,
SAMUEL CHASE,
JOHN F. MERCER,
JEREMIAH T. CHASE, } Members of the committee.

JOHN LOVE,
CHARLES RIDGELY,
EDWARD COCKEY,
NATHAN CROMWELL,
CHARLES RIDGELY, of Wm. } Members of convention.
LUTHER MARTIN,
BENJAMIN HARRISON,
WILLIAM PINKNEY,