

his debtor, it had respect only to the mode of public offenders, who had been found guilty by a jury of their fellow citizens, of some crime against the laws of their state. That was exclusively the import and design of the section of the bill, upon the motion to strike out which, I voted in the negative. So you perceive, that in place of voting to enlarge the power of creditors, the vote which I gave concerned alone the treatment of malefactors, convicted of crimes against the public.

I would extend this letter to an inconvenient length to go fully into the reasons which led me at the time to an opinion in favor of the proposed treatment of that class of offenders, who would have fallen within its operation, nor is such an expose called for. The measure was by no means a novelty in other parts of the country. In the state of Delaware there is an act in force, in similar words with the section of the bill before the Ohio senate, which has been made of late the pretext of such insidious invective. Laws, with somewhat similar provisions, may probably be found in many of the states. In practice the measure would have meliorated the condition of those who were under condemnation. As the law stood, they were liable under the sentence to confinement in the common jail, where offenders of various degrees of profligacy—of different ages, sex and color—were crowded together. Under such circumstances, it is obvious that the bad must become worse, whilst reformation could hardly be expected in respect to any. The youthful offender, it might be hoped, would be reclaimed, under the operation of the proposed system; but there was great reason to fear his still greater corruption amid the contagion of a common receptacle of vice. Besides, the proposed amendment of the law presupposed that the delinquent was in confinement for the non-payment of a fine and costs of prosecution, (the payment of which was a part of the sentence)—it seemed, therefore, humane, in respect to the offender, to relieve him from confinement which deprived him of the means of discharging the penalty, and to place him in a situation in which he might work out his deliverance, even at the loss, for a time, of his personal liberty.

But I forbear to go farther into the reasons which led me sixteen years ago, as a member of the Ohio senate, to entertain a favorable opinion of an alteration, which was proposed in the criminal police of the state. It is certain that neither in respect to myself, nor those who concurred with me, was the opinion at the time considered as the result of unfriendly bias towards the poor or unfortunate. Nay, the least objection which I could have anticipated, even from the eager and reckless desires to assail me, was a charge of unfriendliness to the humble and poor of the community.

I am, my dear sir, with great respect, your humble servant,  
WM. H. HARRISON.

J. H. Pleasants, esq.

**"REFORM OR REVOLUTION" IN MARYLAND.**

On Thursday evening the 29th ult. "the largest meeting of the mechanics and workingmen ever convened in the city of Baltimore" was held in Monument square, "to take into consideration the present interesting aspect of the political affairs of the state of Maryland, as they regard the conduct of the nineteen electors and a reform of the constitution of the state."

The meeting was organized by John B. Seidenstricker, who after making a few prefatory remarks stating the cause of the call and the object of the meeting nominated the following gentlemen as suitable officers to preside over its deliberations, who were unanimously elected.

Richard Marley, president; John Hays, Joseph Latty, John Soran, Richard Lilly, A. I. W. Jackson, William Claggett, James Roach, John Potter, jr. J. J. Johnson, Philip Kehoe, George Johnson, John W. Niles, John Carroll, vice presidents; Andrew Martin, George Grape, Hamlett Duvall, secretaries.

After the meeting was thus organized, it was addressed by Messrs. Gallagher and Hayman in a manner which by the applause they received, seemed to meet the entire approbation of the people, after which the following preamble and resolutions were offered by John C. Legrand, accompanied by a very suitable address upon the great and important subject of reform, and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The form of a republican government is intended to be for the equal distribution of all its burdens and benefits—and the protection of the equal rights and privileges of the people—And whereas, the existing constitution of Maryland does not answer such intention, inasmuch as the very first principles of such a government are violated by an arbitrary system of representation—by a

want of just responsibility in the executive and legislative departments—by a life tenure in certain offices—and by the various abuses necessarily growing out of these anti-republican corruptions. The governor being a mere creature of the legislature, and removed entirely from any immediate responsibility to the people whose agent he is. The legislature itself in one branch being one of the most aristocratic bodies in the union, elected as it is by agents who in no way represent the view of the people and endowed with a self-creating power to fill its own vacancies for five years and judging at the same time of the qualifications of its own members. The other branch, the house of delegates being based upon no equal ratio—a white population of 80,000 in the city of Baltimore being represented by two delegates—while a like population of 8,000 in Calvert county are represented by four delegates. And further, the executive power being fashioned by an odious political machinery under the title of a council, which is totally irresponsible to the people, and shielding all its acts by a secrecy as impenetrable as that of the inquisition. And again, in direct violation of the principles of an equal government, certain offices being made lucrative monopolies by a life possession which is as gross an infringement upon the rights of the people as it is upon the republican doctrine of rotation—

And whereas, These and many more like grievances demand to be reformed; And whereas petition after petition—and attempt upon attempt have been made at various times to remedy these evils, but with no other effect than to be treated with scorn and contempt by a legislature holding its power, not from the majority of the people of Maryland, but through the infamous system of representation above adverted to; And whereas, the reliance of these minority representatives is placed in the security of a constitution which requires a concurrent act of two successive legislatures—which concurrent act is made at the same time a means of deluding the people by promises of reform, which, if fulfilled by one legislature, are only so fulfilled upon a safe repose that the act will be rejected at the succeeding session.

And whereas, The people of this state with proverbial patience have endured for years the grievances here recited, preferring, as good citizens, rather than to suffer than at once to abolish the form of the existing constitution sanctioned by time and the authority of names entitled to the deepest veneration of every citizen of Maryland;—and whereas, the time has now arrived when the people are no longer to be cajoled by promises and professions, made only to deceive—nor are they any longer willing to sacrifice their self-respect, nor their own nor their children's rights, to the mere sentiment of veneration of a time-worn constitution, and a respect for the names of its ancient framers.

And whereas, The power to amend, change or abolish the constitution is inherent in the people, and any vested delegation of authority to a legislature is no relinquishment of the sovereignty of the people so to alter, amend or abolish the constitution in any manner and at any time, as may to them seem most fitting; and whereas, the cry of "constitutional reform" is a mere catch-word intended to delude, and meaning, even in honesty, nothing more than the concurrent acts of two legislatures above referred to, which past experience has proved carries with it not the least prospect that the demands of the people will ever be gratified, inasmuch as the act of one legislature gives no pledge, nor can it afford any security, that the next succeeding legislature will carry such act into effect; and whereas, under all these circumstances, there appears to be but one safe and certain mode of obtaining redress of these grievances: and whereas, in the words of our sacred charter of independence, it is the right of the people—"it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards to their future security:" Therefore,

Resolved, That the existing constitution of Maryland is a blot upon the principles of republicanism, and unworthy the respect of any American citizen.

Resolved, That the constitution is the act of limitation of the people upon their agents; and that the inalienable right to annul or abolish this act has never been relinquished by the people.

Resolved, That the present is a propitious time for annulling or abolishing the existing constitution, and providing a new one more consistent with the principles of republicanism, and affording a better security of the rights and privileges of the whole people.

Resolved, That a reform of the constitution is a peaceable revolution to be deprecated only by a power-loving aristocracy and grasping monopolists; that such revolution is not anarchy—nor are the friends of such revolution either jacobins or destruc-

tives; and we hurl back these epithets with indignation into the teeth of the panic makers who have so insolently applied them to the reform party of Maryland.

Resolved, That we highly approve of the course adopted by the nineteen electors, who, representing a white population of over two hundred thousand souls, refused to meet, under the circumstances detailed in their address to the people, the twenty-one electors who have an accidental majority in the college, while they only represent a lean minority of some eighty thousand souls.

Resolved, That we have that confidence in the people of Maryland as to believe that the said refusal will meet with their hearty approbation, and be unanimously supported, in spite of threats, alarms, solicitations, or any other means that may be adopted by the office-holding alarmists or the power-loving panic makers.

Resolved, That the address adopted at Monument square, on Monday, the 26th of September, and signed by Wm. McDonald as president, and others as vice presidents, and secretaries—is a gross libel upon the workingmen of Baltimore. Inasmuch as it is a covert attack upon the good sense, the independence and interest of the workingman—charging upon the friends of reform, the making of "base appeals to envy, to excite discord in the relations of employer and employed, and to make these relations of mutual benefit and protection, sources of social strife." Thus attempting to impute to the workingman, a want of right reason, in being a friend of state reform, only by the operation of appeals to his feelings of "envy"—and thereby implying, with true aristocratic presumption, that he is not capable of coming to a conclusion in the matter by the sole aid of his own judgment! That base attempt, too, which is made to rouse a proscriptive spirit on the part of the employer, is deserving of the deepest execration. By a cunningly devised insinuation, it is said that the attempt is made to excite discord in the relations of the employer and the employed; thus inviting a retaliation by which the employed workingman, it is hoped, may be driven into opposition to all effectual reform measures. We solemnly disclaim having ever been moved to make the relation of the employer and the employed, a source of social strife. We know of no connection between the question of state reform and this relation—a relation at least of as much interest to us, our wives and children, as is that between the tenure of office and the refining consequences of reform: and worthiness of as much watchfulness in keeping this relation unimpaired. This attempt, therefore, to produce alarm on the part of the employers, is as heartless as it is infamous.

Resolved, That we have too much confidence in the good sense and patriotism of the employers, to believe for one moment, that this diabolical endeavor to breed discord between the workingman and the employer, will meet with any other attention than the contempt which its baseness deserves.—Peace, order and general prosperity, are as desirable to us, as to any other class of citizens. Our demand for just political rights, is neither jacobinism nor Robespierism. The constitution of Maryland is no security for these rights;—as men, therefore—as freemen—as American citizens, we now make a claim of these right, and believing in the sovereignty of the people, and conceding nothing to a mere delegated power, when that power, as it has been unwisely exercised by faithless agents, we of right may, and do recall it into our own hands—choosing a convention, rather than a legislature, to give us a pure and republican constitution.

Resolved, That whereas the opponents of reform have, in town meeting assembled, recommended to their friends to discontinue all business on the day of the election, with the view of promoting their views—Therefore, be it recommended to the workingmen of this city, favorable to reform, to refrain from all business on Monday next, and at the polls exert themselves to promote the success of the cause of human rights and reform of the constitution.

RICHARD MARLEY, president.

JOHN HAYS,  
JOSEPH LATTY,  
JOHN SORAN,  
RICHARD LILLY,  
A. I. W. JACKSON,  
WM. CLAGETT,  
JAMES ROACH,  
JOHN POTTER, jr.  
J. J. JOHNSON,  
PHILIP KEHOE,  
GEO. JOHNSON,  
JOHN W. NILES,  
JOHN CARROLL,

vice presidents.

Andrew Martin,  
George Grape,  
Hamlett Duvall, } secretaries.