

positions of Mr. McLANE; briefly enforced the propriety and necessity of the resolution which had been adopted, and expressed his hope that the Convention would not rescind it.

Pending the question, the Convention passed to the order of the day.

#### THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

On motion of Mr. JENIFER, the Convention again resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. BLACKSTONE in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the Elective Franchise.

The pending question was on the following amendment offered yesterday by Mr. McHENRY:

To strike out all from the word "election," in the third line, to the word "and" in the fifth line, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"Shall, unless excluded by other provisions of this Constitution, be entitled to vote at every public election in the election district where his residence may be established for \_\_\_\_\_ days preceding such election, and not elsewhere."

Mr. BROWN suggested to the gentleman to withdraw the amendment. The committee by three separate votes had refused to fill the blank with any specific time, and if it was not filled, of course the whole proposition was nugatory. He trusted the amendment would be withdrawn, that the Convention might get rid of the debate.

Mr. McHENRY said he was willing to acquiesce in the suggestion, not only because the experienced member from Carroll, (Mr. BROWN,) had made it, but because upon consultation with friends he Mr. McH. found that there was not the least probability of the adoption of the amendment, therefore he would withdraw it. He desired to say, however, that he had not in the slightest degree modified his opinion. He believed that the amendment, if it had been adopted, would effect the object he designed to accomplish; but he would be the last man in this Convention to procrastinate its action by any pertinacity of his own.

So the amendment was withdrawn.

Mr. SAPPINGTON thereupon withdrew the amendment which he had heretofore offered.

Mr. PHELPS now moved the following amendment:

Insert after the words "Howard District," the following: "And thirty days in the election district or ward of the city of Baltimore."

Mr. DORSEY asked for the yeas and nays which were ordered, and were as follows:

*Affirmative*.—Messrs. Chapman, President, Morgan, Dent, Hopewell, Lee, Chambers of Kent, Mitchell, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Kent, Weems, Dalrymple, Sollers, Merrick, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Crisfield, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Sprigg, Dirickson, McMaster, Fooks, McHenry, Magraw, Davis and Waters—33.

*Negative*.—Messrs. Blackstone, Sellman, Bond, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Ridgely, Sherwood, of Talbot, Colston, Chambers, of Cecil, McCullough, Miller, Bowie, McCubbin, Spencer, Gra-

son, George Wright, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, Nelson, Carter, Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Hardcastle, Gwinn, Brent of Baltimore city, Ware, Schley, Fiery, Neill, Harbine, Kilgour, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke, Shower, Cockey, and Brown.—45.

And the amendment was rejected.

Mr. DIRICKSON stated that he had hitherto voted with the party which had evinced a disposition to abolish all distinctions in the exercise of the right of voting. He had no idea that by any act of ours we could succeed in making men more pure, and he was unwilling to impose restrictions unless where he was satisfied that they were demanded by the public interest.—He would not be desirous to restrict even foreigners in their exercise of this high privilege. He had no prejudices against such, as foreigners; and even if he had, his sense of what was due to justice would not permit him to let such prejudices influence his actions. The general government had said that after a residence of so many years, foreigners should be entitled to the privileges of other citizens. Whether it was, in every view, right or not, he would not stop to decide. Older men and sages had thought so, and he would not attempt to impugn their decision. He differed with the gentleman from Charles on this point. He had heretofore avowed a wish to see all distinctions broken down. If this was democratic doctrine, it was the doctrine in which he had been brought up. He was desirous as any one to purify the ballot box. Gentlemen all around professed an equal desire to effect this object, but all seemed to discover a great difficulty as to the proper mode to be adopted. It seemed to be generally admitted that, in every part of the State, the ballot box had been greatly corrupted. He did not believe that the evil had reached that extent which some believed, but, to some extent, he could not but allow that corruption had crept in. His objection to the course of many members was that, while they admit the existence of the evil, they reject the means for its removal, after tenaciously opposing every attempt to introduce a remedy. Will not the amendment now under consideration, work well, and produce good to the city of Baltimore?

The gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. GWINN) had said that if a man desired to commit a fraud all he had to do was to swear that he had slept the night before in one of the wards of the city or county.

Mr. GWINN. I never said so.

Mr. DIRICKSON resumed. Whether it was that gentleman who said it, or his colleague; it was an argument against the restriction which this amendment imposed. It was true that a man who would swear that he had slept one night there, might be more easily detected than if he perjured himself in reference to a longer residence. But this rendered the amendment the more necessary. There are always persons belonging to the Ward who watch for