

was prepared to offer a first section in a form which he thought would embody the various views of the Convention.

The section was read as follows :

"Every free white male person of twenty-one years of age or upwards, who shall have been for one year next preceding the election, a resident of the State, and for six months a resident of the city of Baltimore, of Howard District, or of any county in which he may offer to vote, and being at the time of the election a citizen of the United States, shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which he resides, in all elections hereafter to be held, and at all such elections the votes shall be taken by ballot."

The section having been read :

Mr. CHAMBERS withdrew his previous amendment, and offered this in lieu thereof.

Mr. WEBER's amendment thereupon fell to the ground under the operation of the Parliamentary Law; and

The question being on the adoption of the amendment last offered by Mr. CHAMBERS,

Mr. BOWIE suggested to the gentleman, so to modify it, as to insert after the words "a citizen of the United States," the words "and of the State."

Mr. CHAMBERS said, the difficulty was that there were some forty members of the Convention, who would express the same idea in different terms. Personally, he had no objection to it, except that it loaded down the section with phraseology which could have no effect upon it.

Mr. BOWIE explained, that the only difficulty he had about the matter, was that, in his judgment, it was not in fact true that every citizen of the United States was a citizen of the State of Maryland for political purposes.

Mr. GRASON said that he thought the amendment, as it now reads, was in conformity with the wishes and opinions of the Convention. He would therefore vote for it.

Mr. CHAMBERS suggested that the gentleman from Prince George's could move his amendment as a separate proposition.

Mr. STEPHENSON moved to amend the amendment by striking out the word "six" and insert "three" before the word "months," so as to make it read "three months."

Mr. CHAMBERS expressed a hope that the Convention would adopt the amendment he had offered, as a substantive proposition. He would afterwards introduce another proposition.

Mr. DORSEY rose to vindicate himself against an insinuation that he had been actuated by some sinister design in his conduct on yesterday. It seemed to have been understood by some gentlemen that the object of his amendment was to postpone the exercise of political rights by naturalized citizens, by requiring of them, after they had been naturalized here, to reside twelve months in the State, as well as six months in the county. He was informed by his colleague, after leaving the committee room last night, that such construction had been put upon his course. He was informed this morning at the breakfast table, that a sinister design was imputed to him. He

then pulled out of his pocket an amendment which he had prepared with a view to set himself right before the Convention, and showed it to the gentlemen.

He could not have desired such a construction of his amendment as was charged against him, with any sinister design, because the report would have borne the same construction after, as before his amendment. It reads, "every free, white, male citizen." Who are these citizens who have come into our State and resided among us, and been naturalized here? They are all residents of the State. The objection would apply to naturalized citizens from other States. He never conceived such an idea as postponing the rights of these citizens for twelve months. He had voted for the present proposition, which carries out that which he brought forward yesterday. And he would not now have said one word but to explain his conduct.

The question was taken on the amendment of Mr. Stephenson, to strike out six months, and insert "three;" and it was rejected.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent.

Mr. CHAMBERS would explain in few words. Originally every man voted in the county in which he resided, and every man in every part of the county voted for the same officers, whether for officers of the General Government or of the State. There was no such thing as a voter in one part of a county or city, voting for a representative of one district, and another voter in the same county or city, voting for a representative of another district. This arrangement was subsequently altered. Now by the act of 1841, the first eleven wards of the city of Baltimore, are thrown into one Congressional district, and the other wards into another. So Howard district being part of Anne Arundel county, forms a part of one Congressional district, and the residue of that county forms part of another. Congress having full jurisdiction over the subject, has declared that each State shall be divided into separate and single districts, and it is therefore most probable that this interference between the geographical lines by which the counties are divided, and the geographical lines of the Congressional districts will occur in other instances, as the increasing population of the United States may continue to require an increased ratio of representation. Now then it is apparent that if a residence of six months in the county or city, shall entitle a person to vote in any part of the county in which he has his actual residence, the voters in a divided county or city, have advantages not possessed by those in other counties. Thus, a man residing in Prince George's county for six months prior to the election, must vote for the representative in Congress for the first district, and if at any time less than six months before the election, he removes into the county of Anne Arundel, he loses his vote altogether. But his neighbor, living it may be, not one hundred yards from him, yet on the opposite side of the line which divides the two counties, and thus having a residence in the first district, may by removing into Howard dis-