

tion of the inalienable rights of all the citizens of the state.”

Certain citizens of Cecil County presented a memorial to Governor Bradford objecting to the test oath and appealing to him to instruct the Judges of Election to disregard it, and also to disregard it himself by announcing that he would not count the votes of any county in which the oath had been administered to voters. Governor Bradford, on September 21, 1864, wrote a letter to Mr. D. R. Magruder, the chairman of the committee which presented the above petition, and declined to take such action as beyond his jurisdiction, maintaining that his duties were merely ministerial. He also defended the action of the Convention on the ground that the body had plenary powers, and cited the Convention of 1850-1 as a precedent.

Mr. George Vickers, a prominent citizen of Chestertown, wrote several letters to the Governor advocating the same line of action on his part, and in reply Governor Bradford again took a like stand as to limitation of his powers.²

The Democrats, who were now becoming better organized throughout Maryland, in their State Convention which met in Baltimore on September 29, 1864, by a unanimous vote passed resolutions offered by Mr. Clarke of Prince George's in which the new Constitution was condemned, and its defeat at the polls was urged.³ Many political meetings were held throughout the state by both parties, and the various newspapers contained numerous articles for and against the Constitution, many of them contributed by the foremost men of the state. On the other hand, the following from the Centreville (Queen Anne's County) *Observer*⁴ may be taken as an instance of the atti-

² This correspondence was made public during the first week of October. See "American," October 5, 1864.

³ "Sun" and "American" of September 30, 1864.

⁴ Quoted in "American," October 6, 1864.