

what he intended to offer at some future time as covering the same ground; and that was spread upon the record. But we never took any notice whatever of it. I should therefore infer that this proposition of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) is not before the Convention at all for any action; that it is not in the possession of the Convention. He merely gave notice of his intention to move this amendment at some future period. I do not think this is a matter at all before the Convention. I think the only thing now before the Convention is the article reported by the committee.

Mr. CUSHING. Were not votes taken on amendments to the fourth article of which only notice was given? That was done under the decision of the Chair that notice of an amendment required a vote to be taken on the amendment, and under the same rule I think the vote should be taken on this amendment.

The PRESIDENT. By consent of the Convention the proposition was received and entered upon the journal. It is now the property of the Convention, and comes before the House as an amendment to this particular article, of which the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) gave notice. According to the recollection of the Chair, that gentleman expressed a desire to have the vote taken upon this amendment before it should be taken upon the original article. That was communicated to the House, and assented to by the House. By general consent the amendment can be withdrawn.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I ask leave to withdraw the amendment for the time being.

No objection being made, the amendment was accordingly withdrawn.

The question was upon agreeing to the article as reported from the committee.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, moved a call of the House, which was ordered.

The roll was then called, and the following members answered to their names:

Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Berry, of Baltimore county, Berry, of Prince George's, Billingsley, Blackstone, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Carter, Chambers, Crawford, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Charles, Davis, of Washington, Dennis, Duvall, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Farrow, Gale, Galloway, Greene, Harwood, Hebb, Henkle, Hodson, Hoffman, Hollyday, Hopkins, Hopper, Horsey, Johnson, Jones, of Cecil, Kiefer, King, Larsh, Lee, Marbury, Markey, McComas, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Purnell, Ridgely, Robinette, Russell, Sands, Schley, Schlosser, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Sykes, Thomas, Thruston, Turner, Valliant, Wickard, Wooden—78.

On motion of Mr. SANDS, further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

The question recurred upon the 23d article of the Declaration of Rights, as reported.

Mr. HENKLE. As there seems to be a reluctance upon the part of members to engage in the discussion of this question, and as I intended to say a few words upon it before the vote should be taken, I will embrace this opportunity to do so. I do not expect that any argument I may present to the Convention, after what has been so forcibly and eloquently presented by other gentlemen, holding similar views to my own, will induce any member of this Convention to change his intended vote. My experience in public life, brief as it has been, has fully convinced me that in this age of improvement, when the spirit of asserted progress is impelling us along in political matters with irresistible power, the result of the labors of deliberative bodies are, in the majority of cases, predetermined and settled upon. And the arguments upon the merits of the measures that are proposed and adopted, are brought in as an after consideration, having no effect whatever upon the final result; a sort of closing scene, introduced to give an artistic embellishment and effect to the performance, that it may appear to the outside world that the curtain has dropped upon a well contested field, where the victors have been victorious, not so much from the power of numbers, as from superior prowess in the use of the argumentative weapons they employed, and the vanquished have been overcome because of their inability to cope with so dexterous an adversary. That, I am convinced, is the general rule. And no one can be more fully convinced than I am, that no efforts of my humble abilities can affect the decision of this Convention.

But sir, there is a great future before us in the history of our State and country. When the din and smoke of battle shall have subsided; when the confusion of the conflict that is now convulsing the whole country shall have passed away, and men shall once more resume the dispassionate exercise of their reasoning faculties, then posterity will pass upon the events of to-day, in terms of approbation or censure. It is to that tribunal and that authority that we look for the vindication of the propriety of the course we now pursue. It is to that court that we appeal for a just verdict upon the merits of the case now pending before this Convention, and not to the mad passions that rule the minds of men to-day.

I have the honor, in part, to represent a large majority of the people of a county in this State, who, with the exception of one county only, are more deeply interested in the questions now agitating this State and Convention than the people of any other county in the State. I know their feelings