The Constitution and Form of Government of this State, and the Declaration of Rights, may be altered, changed, or abolished by the General Assembly; provided a bill so to alter, change, or abolish the same shall pass the said General Assembly, and be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly after a new election of Delegates, in the first session after such new election; but the General Assembly may also provide by law for the call of a Convention of Delegates, to be elected by the people. to alter, change or abolish the said Constitution and Declaration of Rights, or to amend the same; provided the said convention shall be composed of the same number of delegates as the several counties and cities of this State may, for the time being, be entitled to send to the Senate and House of Delegates, respectively, and which convention when called shall consist of an upper and lower house, each county of the State and the city of Baltimore to send to the upper house of said convention one delegate as for territory, and to the lower house of said convention the same number of delegates as they may respectively be entitled to for the time being in the House of Delegates, as for population; and no act or proceeding of said convention shall be valid or effectual, unless it shall pass both branches of the same; and provided also, that the relation of master and slave in this State shall not be abolished by the said convention, or in any manner impaired, unless by a unanimous vote of the delegates of each branch of the said convention, nor then, without full compensation to the owner for the property of which he or she shall be thereby deprived; snd provided further, that nothing in the Form of Government, which relates to the Eastern Shore particularly, shall at any time be altered by the said convention, unless by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates of each branch of said convention.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted*, That if this act shall be confirmed by the General Assembly after a new election of delegates, at the first session after such new election, agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and Form of Government, then and in such case this act and the alterations and amendments of the Constitution therein contained, shall be taken and considered, and shall constitute and be valid as a part of said Constitution and Form of Government, any thing in the said Constitution and Form of Government to the contrary notwithstanding.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Saturday, Feb. 28th.—A resolution authorizing an index of the laws for 1838 to be made out, was passed.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, a message was sent to the Senate, asking the reconsideration of a vote rejecting a bill supplementary to an act taxing collateral inheritances, distributive shares, &c.

A bill for removing the free people of color of Charles county, was rejected by a vote of 18 to 48.

A bill regulating applicants for the insolvent laws in cases of fines, was passed.

Monday.—Mr. Boone reported a bill abolishing the High Court of Chancery.

A bill extending the time of Mr. Nevitt, of Charles county, to complete his collections, was passed.

The bill providing for taking the sense of the people as to call of a Convention on the Constitution, was resumed in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Thomas addressed the committee in favor of the bill.

Mr. Johnson in opposition.

At the evening session Mr. Ware spoke in favor.

Tuesday.—Mr. Vansant presented a memorial from 900 citizens of Baltimore, remonstrating against the passage of the bill to tax free negroes for the benefit of the Colonization Society, and the bill for the removal of the free negroes of Charles county, &c.

The bill from the committee on Ways and Means, to repeal the act regulating the payment of the State's agents in joint-stock companies, was taken up and rejected.

The bill taxing policies of insurance, was taken up and passed by a vote of 40 to 27.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, and took up the special order of the day, being the bill proposing to take the sense of the people in reference to the call of a Convention.

Mr. Murray addressed the committee in favor of the bill.

Mr. Schley followed on the same side.

Wednesday.—Mr. Johnson offered a resolution authorizing the cancelling of certain coupons. Passed.

A bill regulating the fees of Clerks of County Courts and Registers of Wills of the several counties and Baltimore city, was passed.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, upon the propositions for taking the sense of the people as to the call of a Convention.

Mr. Biser withdrew his proposition.

On motion of McLane, the Committee rose, reported progress to the House, and was discharged from their further consideration.

The question coming up on Mr. McLane's bill, submitted as a substitute for the unfavorable report of the Committee on the Constitution, the vote was taken and resulted as follows: Yeas 39—nays 38.

Thursday.—Mr. Murray offered a resolution asking Congress to appropriate money to erect a beacon light on Greenbury's Point, mouth of the harbor of Annapolis.—Passed.

Mr. Fergusson, from the committee on Internal Improvement, made a report in reference to the various public works. Ordered to be printed.

Also, unfavorably upon petitions praying permission to fund certain scrip issues, or authorizing the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to receive them in payment of toll.

Mr. Thomas, from the same committee, dissented from said unfavorable report.

The report was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. McLane offered a substitute for a bill abolishing the High Court of Chancery.

A bill providing for the imprisonment of slaves convicted of the higher crimes, instead of banishment, as at present, was passed.

The order of the day, being the bill taking the sense of the people upon calling a Convention on the Constitution, which was yesterday adopted as a substitute for the unfavorable report of the majority of the committee on the Constitution, was taken up as an original proposition.

On motion, the second section, providing that if a majority of the people shall vote for a call, it shall be considered, was reconsidered by a vote of 40 to 38.

Mr. Johnson offered an amendment, proposing to take the aggregate vote of each county and Baltimore city, instead of the popular vote, a majority of counties and said city to decide.

Mr. Vansant proposed a further amendment, declaratory that it is intended to recognise the independent sovereignty of the counties. Rejected.

The vote was then taken upon Mr. Johnson's amendment. Lost by 39 to 39.

Mr. Shellman submitted a substitute for the bill, (providing for repealing the 59th article of the Constitution, to take the sense of the people upon the call of a Convention, and fixing the basis of representation in it according to that of the Legislature,) which was accepted as an original proposition.

Mr. Bowie, submitted an amendment, as previously proposed by Mr. Johnson, to submit it to a vote of the counties, instead of a popular vote. After some debate, as to its admissibility, it was negatived by a vote of 38 to 39.

The final vote was then taken upon the substitute of Mr. Shellman, which resulted in its rejection, as follows:

Yeas.—Messrs. Morris, Murray, Franklin, Carroll, Ware, Bowen, Hall, Thomas, Bowdle, Orem, Maffitt, Hollyday, Orr, Pennington, Biser, Boteler, Lowe, Zollinger, Hoover, Stephenson, Street, Hanson, Johns, Stansbury, Baughman, Vansant, Cox, McLane, Smith of W, Crampton, Cushwa, Patterson of M., Dorsey, Schley, Patterson of Al., Swann, Ege, Shellman, Holmes.—39.

Nays.—Messrs. Waters, speaker, Combs, Dunkinson, Jones, Smyth of K., Raisin, Strong, Johnson, Hance, Kent of Cal., Reeder, Carpinter, Fergusson, Parsons, Gibbons, Turner, Boone, Eccleston, Frazier, Smith of D., Bowie, Clagett, Stephen, Duckett, Kemp, Dunbracco, Landing, Dennis, Selby, Purnell, Pearson, Harrington, Tritle, Dellinger, Holland, Allnutt of M., Wampler, Cook, Hook.—39.

Mr. Bowie submitted an order, which was adopted, summoning Wm. Chase Barney before the bar of the House, for contempt. This grew out of a printed memorial laid upon the desks of members, reflecting upon the members of the committee of Divorces, and the Legislature, in their action in reference to the declaring null and void a marriage ceremony in which he was interested.

Friday.—Mr. Johnson offered an order, dispensing with further proceedings in the case of Wm. Chase Barney, rescinding the order of last evening, and authorizing a return of the offensive memorial. Adopted by a vote of 40 to 20.

A bill from the Senate in favor of certain benevolent associations of colored persons in Baltimore city was rejected, after some debate, by a vote 19 to 39.

A bill authorizing the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company to issue bonds to raise money to construct a second track from Baltimore to Harpers Ferry;

A bill creating Howard District, of Anne Arundel county, into a county; and

A bill for binding out the children of free colored persons; were passed.

A bill reported by Mr. Johnson, from the committee of Ways and Means, providing for funding the arrears of interest due by the State, upon the public debt, and resuming the payment of interest on the 1st July, 1846, was taken up.

Mr. Eccleston moved to strike out five per cent. and insert three per cent. to be paid as interest upon the debt so funded.

Mr. Johnson spoke in opposition to the motion, as defeating the bill; or if passed, as doing gross injustice to the State's creditors, and prejudicial to public credit.

Mr. J. in stating the resources of the State, estimated that under existing direct tax laws the revenue for the past year was upwards of $76,000, above the actual expenses of the State; and that by acts of the present session, there would be realized from tax on brokers, &c. $2,100; from the tax on non-resident insurance companies, $3,000; from tax on trustees' commissions, &c. $2,500; from the supplement to the stamp act, $5,000; from the increase of property in Baltimore, under the new assessment authorized to be made, $25,000; expected to be received from the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad, over the $20,000 of last year, say, $10,000; from the act taxing lottery tickets, which goes into effect after the present year, $12,000; making a total of receipts over the past year, of $64,000; exhibiting a grand total of $140,600, from direct taxes, over and above the amount necessary to meet the State's liabilities. It was not proposed to compound the interest. He gave a most glowing picture of the future prosperous aspect of State finances.

Mr. McLane favored increasing the amount of interest to six per cent. He attributed the high price of Coupons to the withholding of them by foreign holders—thereby establishing their confidence in the credit of the State. He desired to postpone till 1st of April, 1847, the provisions of the bill.

He had gone heart and hand with the chairman of the committee on Ways and Means in his financial measures, and he now appealed to him and the House to sustain the amendment he had suggested. He believed the resources of the State justified his position, and if sustained, it would go far to increase confidence abroad.

He was proud of the declaration of the chairman of the committee, as to the future prospects of the State, and felt confident that firmness, fairness, and promptness, in action, on the part of the Legislature, would soon place the State front in the rank of the proud, independent, and magnanimous States of the Union, both at home and abroad.

The motion to strike out 5 per cent. was carried.

On motion of Mr. McLane, 6 per cent. was inserted.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, the day named for resuming payment of interest was the 1st of April, 1847.

Mr. Bowie moved to strike out the provision for selling the bank stocks. Negatived.

Mr. Johnson moved an additional section, repealing the provision of a previous act, authorizing the receipt of coupons by the collectors of taxes, to take effect after the 1st of October next.

Mr. Murray offered a substitute for the whole bill, being a series of resolutions for the sale of the State's bank and similar productive stock, and the application of the proceeds to the liquidation of the arrears, and pledging the amounts due by the State's collectors, and county clerks, &c. when collected, for the payment of the balance. Also directing the Attorney General and his deputies to enforce the collection of these balances.

Mr. Clagett opposed funding the debt, as he feared it would increase the need of further direct taxation of at least $70,000, or more.

Mr. Murray expressed a desire to address the House, but yielded to a motion to adjourn.

Saturday.—Mr. McLane submitted a series of resolutions, preceded by a preamble, reciting the resolutions of the Legislature in 1787, recommending the people to meet in Convention to modify the State Constitution by the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and recommending to the people to follow the precedent thus set by the patriots of '87. With this view it is recommended to the people to elect delegates to a Convention, to meet in May next, to alter the Constitution, as may be deemed necessary. Laid over.

The bill providing for resuming payment of interest on the public debt, and for funding the arrears of interest due, was taken up as the unfinished business of yesterday.

Mr. Murray spoke against the original bill, and in favor of the substitute offered by himself.

The question was then taken upon Mr. M.'s substitute, which was negatived by a vote of 29 to 41.

The bill, as amended, was then rejected by a vote of 35 to 36.

A motion was immediately made for its reconsideration, which was carried, by a vote of 35 to 31; and by a vote of 38 to 32, it was made the order of Monday next.

SENATE.

The following bills have passed the Senate:

A bill ceding Sollers' Point Flats to the United States.

A bill ceding to the United States jurisdiction over the sites of Forts Madison and Severn.

A bill in favor of the collector of Charles county.

A bill reducing the salary of the Governor—not to effect the present incumbent—to $2000, and the salary of the Secretary of State to $1000, to take effect after the 1st of January next.

FOR SALE.

THE subscriber has several fine draught Horses for sale, which he will sell low for cash or on a short credit, with approved security. Persons desirous of purchasing would do well to call and see them at his residence. GEO. S. WILLETT,

mar 5—4t Near Bryantown.

FOR SALE.

THE subscriber will sell, at *private sale*, a *great bargain* in a small Farm of about 300 ACRES. Perhaps there is not a farm in the county more desirable, either on account of the beauty of its location, the fertility of its soil, or the facility of getting its products to either the District or Baltimore markets. It is well wooded and watered; and a good proportion of it is first rate meadow land. It is also healthy; for on the adjoining farm, the residence of the subscriber, out of upwards of fifty persons in family, whites and blacks, there was not one single case of bilious fever the last year. Those wishing to purchase such a farm are respectfully invited to view the premises and judge for themselves.

CHARLES A. PYE.

mar 5—tf.

COMMUNICATION.

Messrs. Editors: I have seen in your paper of the 5th instant the conclusion of a Report of a Legislative Committee relative to the Free People of Color of your county, and descanting of that class of community through the State at large. The first part of said Report I have not seen; and with regard to the pro-slavery argument maintained in the conclusion, I have nothing to say. I am, indeed, one of those who believe the servile institution to be injurious to any community and in all aspects; but at the same time I believe that in this country, and for years to come, it is and will be a necessary evil, and that at all events the question of its preservation or abatement rests solely with the holders of that description of property.

But there is in this Report a census table of the white and free black population of this State, in which the future is conjectured from the past in a manner so entirely extraordinary that I am desirous to make it the subject of a few remarks. These remarks, I assure you, are prompted by no desire to embarrass the action of your county or of the State on a matter already environed by so many difficulties and perils, both present and prospective. Much less am I actuated by any tincture of sympathy with the Abolitionists—whose spirit I believe to be fiendish in their leaders, and blind in their honest but ignorant adherents. Least of all am I impelled by feelings of ill-will to the respected Delegates who drew up that Report, with whom I have not even the honor of acquaintance. But whenever any erroneous statement of grave consequence is made public, I deem it the duty of every citizen to rectify such statement as publicly as it was made.

Now the present and future condition of the slaves, and still more of the free black population of Maryland, is beset with so many hazards and hardships, in all views, that there surely is no need of exaggeration to deepen our alarm. Yet in the tabular estimate, given in the aforesaid Report, of the present and future *comparative* numbers of the whites and of the free blacks, are anticipations, which, if well grounded, would be frightful and fairly overwhelming. And lest some good people of this State, unaccustomed to these conjectural calculations, should be scared out of their senses by such awful predictions, I will first *assert* and afterwards *prove* that the committee, by following out a fallacious principle, have unwittingly led themselves and their readers immeasurably astray, and that their anticipative statements are not only inconsistent with each other, but unreasonable, *prima facie*, and in themselves alone. Now for the proof.

First. They are *prima facie* and in themselves unreasonable. For instance, to Worcester county they assign for the year 1940 a probable population of 874,000 free blacks, and to Washington county 632,000. I know not the exact superficial area of these two counties; but as the State has only 14,000 square miles, I am certain that neither of these counties has 1,000, or at least Worcester has not. They are, then, to contain a population, the first of 800 to 1,000, and the last of 400 to 700 per square mile. This is obviously next to impossible. For the most fertile and populous country in the world never attained a density of 400 per square mile, not even in China, Hindostan, or Egypt. And it is probable that the most fruitful region of the earth, say Hindostan, will not support more than 600 per square mile, even when the science of social economy and the productive capacity of the soil shall have been carried to their utmost pitch. How 500 to 1,000 lazy, ignorant negroes could maintain themselves on every square mile in our ungenial climate, passes all wonder. But again: Calvert county is to have 147,000 free blacks, while Prince George's county, of equal fertility and of more than twice the size, is to have but 38,000, and your county, which is neither small nor unfruitful, will have only 3,000, the whites being reduced to zero! Poor Charles county! *who* is to live there? The committee have doomed her to utter desolation. Hardly were the prophets more severe on ancient Edom!

Yet again: Baltimore city in A. D. 1940 is to contain 3,408,000 whites, and (what think you?) 44,917,000 free blacks. O, monstrous! monstrous! More than twice the present population of all the United States! Toss in a couple of millions of slaves, just for a make-weight, (a million is nothing for the committee,) and we shall have fifty millions persons in one city! Brag no more, Babylon! Blush for shame, Rome! Hide your head, London!—you are all but villages. London, with its 2,000,000 inhabitants, would, if lying in a perfect square, be 6 or 7 miles in length by as much in breadth. Baltimore in 1940 will be 30 miles square! Wonder what will be the price of city lots! But why do the committee stop at 1940? Continue their estimate to A. D. 1990—the time of our great-grandsons' grandsons—and its population will be 20,000,000 whites and 2,166,000,000 free blacks—more than twice the entire population of the globe—while its site will cover 40,000 square miles, or 200 miles square and 800 miles in circuit! Hail to the Queen City of the world! But seriously, if the rest of this table could be swallowed, this Baltimore affair would make one rub his eyes to know if he were well awake.

Second. But furthermore, the estimates of this table, which is in every respect as hard to believe as the Table of the Ten Commandments is hard to keep, are inconsistent with themselves and essentially unfair. It will be seen that throughout the whole State, with the exception of Baltimore city, in determining the probable increase or decrease of the whites, the committee have proceeded, though somewhat inaccurately, by the laws of *arithmetical* progression; while in reference to the free blacks they have calculated, though very carelessly still, by the rules of *geometrical* progression. Now, the arithmetical law *adds* a fixed number at each successive term; the geometrical *multiplies* at each step by a fixed number, called the *ratio*. The former process swells but slowly; the latter soon rises to an inconceivable amount. Their infinite difference may be aptly illustrated as follows: Suppose a town to have numbered 100 inhabitants in A. D. 1800, and that it adds 10,000 to its first number in every period of 25 years, What will be its population A. D. 1900? The answer is 40,100. This increase is in *arithmetical* progression. But the first growth of said town may be regarded in another light—for an increase from 100 to 10,000 is an increase of one hundred fold. Carry out *this* law of increase to A. D. 1920, and what will be the population? Answer, 10,000,000,000. This is in *geometrical* progression. The difference between the two results is only the trifling amount of almost ten billions! These two processes, at first so seemingly alike, in the end are as wide asunder as the poles. Now, why have the committee subjected these two classes of our population to two scales of progress so vastly divergent? I do not for a moment suppose that gentlemen of their high and deserved standing have intentionally erred, with the wish of exciting a panic among the people, or of hurrying the Legislature into headlong action. How then can they have fallen into a mistake which a little inspection will show to be not only unfair in itself, but conducting to results perfectly preposterous? The error *so far as regards the unfairness of applying two laws to matters essentially the same*, originated, I imagine, in the following manner: In geometrical progression, and particularly in the *descending* scale, when the ratio of increase or decrease is a *small fraction*, the process at first view resembles arithmetical progression—that is, continued addition or subtraction. Now, every where throughout the State, excepting in the city of Baltimore, the ratio of increase or decrease with the whites from 1790 to 1840 was a fraction greater or less. The free blacks, on the contrary, who in 1790 were very few, have in the last 50 years (if they are to be calculated by the geometrical law) increased in high ratios, varying from 2 in Charles county to nearly 56 in Baltimore city. The apparent identity of geometrical with arithmetical progression, *when the ratio is fractional*, has caused the committee to apply the latter rule to the white population, while to the free blacks they applied the former law, though with considerable looseness. But a little examination will show the great inaccuracy of this. 1st. I will take Charles county, premising that, as I have not the State Census with me, I proceed every where upon the supposed correctness of the figures as published from the committee in your paper. Charles county, it seems, in 1790 had 10,124 whites, and in 1840 only 6,022—a diminution on the arithmetical scale of 4,102, and on the geometrical scale of 41-101; or, disregarding minute fractions, 2-5. The free negroes, on the other hand, in 1790 were 404, and in 1840, 819—an increase of 415 on the arithmetical scale, and of two-fold on the geometrical. Now surely it is fair that whichever scale is applied to one class be applicable to the other also. If the whites are to dimish every half century by successive subtractions of 4,102, let the free negroes increase by successive additions of 415. Or if the other scale is to be applied to the free blacks, so that the number of one half century is always to be doubled in the next, then let the existing number of whites in one half-century be only diminished by 2-5ths in the next. No man can dispute the propriety of this. I will exemplify this by two or three instances, to show that one rule will give far fewer free negroes, and the other rule more whites, than the committee have allowed. In Charles county the average decrease of the whites has been 4,102; the geometrical decrease 2-5ths. The arithmetical increase of the free blacks 415; geometrical increase 2.

Arithmetical Scale.

Population	Whites.	Free Negroes.
In 1790	10,124	404
1840	6,022	819
1890	1,920	1,234
1940	0	1,649

Geometrical Scale.

In 1790	10,124	404
1840	6,022	819
1890	3,613	1,660
1940	2,168	3,360

By this last scale the whites are brought low enough, but they are not quite exterminated. Let us proceed to Baltimore city. Here the arithmetical increase of the whites was 69,222; of the free negroes 17,653; the geomatrical ratio of increase of the