

position of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. BRENT,) which, however, Mr. R. withdrew.

Mr. SPENCER expressed a hope that the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county would not be adopted. To give authority to remit the penalty in a place like the city of Baltimore, where, in times of high party excitement, the offence would be the most likely to be committed, would be to open the door to its frequent repetition. It was necessary that the punishment should be severe and certain. He would be willing to abate a little from perpetual disfranchisement. But he was opposed to leaving the punishment within the reach of remission.

Mr. RICAUD moved to amend the amendment by inserting the word "for the period of five years," after the word "election," in the last line.

Mr. CRISFIELD said, that as the distinguished gentleman at the head of the committee was absent, as it was near the usual hour of rising, and as he (Mr. C.) thought that in deference to that gentleman an opportunity should be afforded to him to be heard on the several pending propositions, and in defence of his own—he (Mr. C.) would move that the committee rise.

The motion having prevailed, the committee rose and reported progress.

And the Convention adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, January 21st, 1851.

The Convention met at eleven o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. GRIFFITH.

The roll was called. A quorum was present, and the Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. ANNAN presented a petition of sundry tanners and dealers in leather, praying that no change may be made in the inspection of leather.

Which was read and referred to the Committee on Inspections.

Mr. DAVIS presented the address of the Primary School Convention, to the people of Maryland, signed by John S. Tyson, Esq., and others.

Which was read.

Mr. D. remarked that there was a large amount of important and interesting statistical information contained in the address, and that the committee had very considerably printed a large number of copies, which would be laid on the table of members to-morrow morning.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. SPENCER laid before the Convention an account of James T. Wootters, clerk to the levy court of Queen Anne's county, for information furnished the Convention under their order of December 2nd.

Which was read and referred to the Committee on Accounts.

The PRESIDENT announced the regular order of business to be the call of Committees for Reports.

There being no reports—

The Convention, on motion of Mr. McMASTER, passed to the order of the day.

THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

The Convention thereupon resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. BLAKISTONE in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the elective franchise.

The state of the question was as follows:

Mr. MERRICK had moved to amend the second section of the report, by inserting in the third line after the word "thing," the following, "to induce any voter to refrain from casting his vote, or forcibly to prevent him in any way from voting, or," &c.

Mr. BRENT of Baltimore city, had moved to amend the section by striking out from the last line thereof, these words, "or to vote at any election thereafter."

And Mr. RICAUD had moved to amend said section by inserting, after the word "election," in the last line, the words "for the period of five years."

Mr. BRENT of Baltimore city, expressed his willingness to adopt the proposition of Mr. RICAUD limiting the operation of the clause to the period of five years. But he, (Mr. B.) gave notice of an amendment which he intended to offer as a substitute for the whole section, as it was amended.

Mr. MERRICK said he hoped the amendment to his amendment would not prevail. In our sympathies for the victims of crime, we were prone to forget the great object of punishment. It was a fault in our nature, though a fault which "leans to virtue's side." Men exercising the high functions for which this Convention had assembled, should not yield to such impressions. The great object of punishment was its example upon society—its effect in purifying and elevating the moral tone of that society. All punishments should be so framed as to have the greatest effect upon that moral tone; to preserve it pure, if it could be so, and to punish with a heavy hand all those who would attempt to pollute it. Individual sympathies should not be listened to, when the public good required that punishments should be inflicted. Vengeance, it was true, did not belong to man—but in the spirit of justice, and not of vengeance, he would act. He referred to the many cases in which every appeal which human sympathy could make had addressed itself to the hearts of some of the best and purest men that had ever lived, and yet where justice had been sternly executed. And he instanced particularly the case of Major Andre. Mr. M. called upon the Convention to imitate the example of the Father of his Country in that case.

Here was a crime which struck at the vital principle of all republican governments; and although gentlemen of good hearts might feel reluctant to inflict exemplary punishment upon those who committed it, yet, if the public good required it, that punishment should not only be severe, but should be inexorably meted out.

He referred to the condition of public opinion as evidence of the light estimate in which this crime of fraud upon the ballot box had heretofore been held, and the necessity of infusing a new