

for the support of any religious sect or denominate."

THE PUBLIC CREDIT, ETC.

The twenty-first section was then read as follows:

"Section 21, (of the Report.) No loans shall be made upon the credit of this State, which are not redeemable at the pleasure of the State; except such as may be authorized by an act of Assembly passed at one session and ratified and confirmed at the next succeeding regular session of the General Assembly."

Mr. RIDGELY, in pursuance of the notice he had yesterday given, moved the following as a substitute for the said section:

"The credit of the State shall never be given or loaned in aid of any person, association, municipality or corporation, nor shall the Legislature contract any debt, which shall singly, or in the aggregate exceed a half million of dollars, for which purpose a vote of three-fourths of all the members elected to both branches of the General Assembly shall be necessary, provided that the State may contract debts, not exceeding that amount, to repel invasion, suppress insurrection and if threatened, to provide for the public defence."

Mr. George, in pursuance of the notice he had yesterday given, offered the following articles as a substitute for the said twenty-first section, and for the substitute of Mr. RIDGELY:

"Article 1. The amount of debts, hereafter contracted by the Legislature, shall never exceed one hundred thousand dollars, except for the defence of the State, unless such debt shall be authorized by a law providing for the collection of an annual tax or taxes sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal of such debt within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same. And the taxes laid for this purpose shall never be repealed, or applied to any other object, until the said debt and the interest thereon shall be fully discharged.

"Art 2. The assent of two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the Legislature, shall be requisite to every bill appropriating the public money, or pledging the public faith, for local or private purposes; and the Legislature shall not have the power to make appropriations, loans or subscriptions, to any work of internal improvement."

And the question was first on the amendment of Mr. GEORGE.

Mr. DORSEY moved to amend the original section of the bill, by striking out the following words:

"Which are not redeemable at the pleasure of the State."

Mr. D. said, he was not pertinacious about the adoption of this amendment; but it seemed to him that if he we ever contemplated borrowing money, it ought to be borrowed upon the best possible terms; and if we made the loans redeemable at the pleasure of the State, we should have

to pay more than if we made them payable after a certain time.

The PRESIDENT stated that the proposition of the gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) being a proposition to perfect the original section, would have precedence over the substitutes proposed.

The question was then taken and the amendment of Mr. DORSEY was agreed to.

The question then recurred on the substitute of Mr. GEORGE.

Mr. McHENRY called for a division, so that the question should first be taken on the motion to strike out.

Mr. RIDGELY accepted the substitute of Mr. GEORGE as a modification of his own proposition.

Mr. JOHN DENNIS moved to amend said amendment by striking out these words, "the amount of debts, hereafter contracted by the Legislature, shall never exceed one hundred thousand dollars," and insert in lieu thereof, "the Legislature hereafter shall contract no debt."

Mr. GEORGE accepted this amendment.

Mr. RIDGELY asked the yeas and nays on the substitute.

Mr. SPENCER remarked that a suggestion had been made to him, that the words of the substitute "for the defence of the State," were too latitudinous. To obviate this objection he would move an amendment. He did so to meet the wishes of other gentlemen who desired to support the proposition, if the amendment he offered was agreed to.

Mr. SPENCER then moved further to amend said amendment, by striking out these words, in second line, "except for the defence of the State," and inserting in lieu thereof "except in case of war, to repel invasion, and to suppress insurrection."

Mr. SCHLEY said, he should vote against the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne, (Mr. Spencer,) not because he, (Mr. Schley,) differed as to the object to be attained by it, but because he thought it was already attained by the words "defence of the State." He was opposed to the multiplication of words in the Constitution. He desired that they should be as pithy, concise, and brief as possible.

The question was then put on the amendment of Mr. SPENCER,

But no quorum voted.

Mr. MITCHELL stated that he could not vote, because he had paired off with Mr. HOLLYDAY.

The question was then again taken, and, having been decided in the negative,

The amendment of Mr. SPENCER was rejected.

Mr. DONALDSON offered the following as a substitute for the substitute:

"The aggregate amount of debt or liability hereafter contracted by the Legislature shall never exceed the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, except in case of war, to repel invasions, or suppress insurrections, unless the same shall be authorized by a law for some single object, distinctly specified therein, passed by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each