EASTERN-SHORE WHIG AND PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

NEW SERIES. "THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS PERPETUAL VIGILANCE." VOL. II.---No. 31.

EASTON, MARYLAND, SEMI-WEEKLY. SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1836.

THE WHIG AND PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE,
Printed and published by
SPENCER & SHERWOOD,
(PUBLISHERS OF THE LAWS OF THE UNION,)
EVERY TUESDAY & SATURDAY MORNING.

TERMS:—Semi-Weekly at FOUR DOLLARS per annum;—if paid in advance, Three dollars will discharge the debt, and

The Weekly, on Tuesday morning, at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents;—if paid in advance, Two dollars will discharge the debt.

All payments for the half year, made during the first three months, will be deemed payments in advance, and all payments for the year, made during the first six months, will be deemed payments in advance

No subscription will be received for less than six months, nor discontinued until all arrearages are settled, without the approbation of the publisher.

Advertisements not exceeding a square, inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent insertion—larger advertisements in proportion.

☞ All communications to insure attention should be *post paid*.

ALEXANDER'S
MODERN
ACTING DRAMA.
NEW SERIES,
Embelished with Splendid Engravings.

The publisher has been induced, from the extensive patronage bestowed on his work, materially to change its typographical appearance and to improve and enlarge its pages—it is all ready known to be the most popular edition of Plays which has ever been attempted in this country, and the prospect of its further success is ample and satisfactory. In future the MODERN ACTING DRAMA will be published in monthly numbers of 48 pages each—12 of which will constitute a volume, or one year's subscription—embracing in all FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX PAGES. Every PLAY or FARCE is to be accompanied by a beautiful and appropriate Engraving—making in the course of the year nearly FIFTY-TWO EMBELISHMENTS—to which will be added as a Frontispiece to the work, a full sized STEEL ENGRAVING, containing the likenesses of SIX DISTINGUISHED ACTORS AND ACTRESSES. Every person who desires to preserve an invaluble collection of the best Dramatic Authors should forward his name forthwith, as the edition will be limited to the number which is absolutely subscribed for ☞ *The publiser pledges himself to make this work equal in interest and superiority of execution to the prospectus, or he will refund the price of subscription, free of all charges.*

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Feb. 13 tf

NOTICE.

THE subscriber having been re-appointed Standard keeper will attend at Easton, from the 1st to 22d of September; at Wye Mill on the 23d; at Trapp, the 24th; at St. Michaels, the 25th; and at Loockerman's mill the 28th, to inspect weights and measures.

I have always on hand a complete assortment of Tin Ware, and will execute all orders on reasonable terms for cash or country produce.

Persons indebted are requested to call and pay their old accounts.

ARTHUR J LOVEDAY.

aug 29

Notice.

The annual Meeting of the Female Bible Society of Talbot County, will take place on Monday the 11th inst., in the Church at Easton at 11 o'clock. The members are respectfully invited to attend and the Managers will be gratified by the presence of any who may feel an interest in their object.

April 9

Tan Bark.

THE Subscribers wish to purchase one hundred and fifty cords of TAN BARK, delivered either at their Tan Yard or at Easton Point wharf.

They also have on hand and constantly keep a general assortment of

BOOTS, SHOES,

and LEATHER, which they will sell on the most favorable terms for cash, or in exchange for Bark, Hides, Sheep Skins, or country produce generally.

H. E. BATEMAN, & Co.

who wish to employ 4 Journeymen Shoe makers, and 2 Apprentices from 12 to 15 years of age, of good moral character.

The Cambridge Aurora will please copy 4 times and charge this office.

March 15 tf (G) 4t

POETRY.

The following magnificent poem will bear repetition—for, it is in the finest vein of poetic inspiration.

THE SONG OF THE FORGE.

Clang, clang—the massive anvils ring;
Clang, clang—a hundred hammers swing;
Like the thunder rattle of a tropic sky,
The mighty blows still multiply,
Clang, clang.
Say, brothers of the dusky brow,
What are your strong arms forging now?
Clang, clang—we forge the coulter now,
The coulter of the kindly plough:
Sweet Mary Mother, bless our toil,
May its broad furrow still unbind
To genial rains, to sun and wind
The most benignant soil.
Clang, clang, our coulter's course shall be
On many a sweet and sheltered lea,
By many a streamlet's silver tide,
Amidst the song of morning birds,
Amidst the low of sauntering herds,
Amidst soft breezes which do stray
Through woodbine hedges and sweet May,
Along the green hill's side
When regal Autumn's bounteous hand
With wide spread glory clothes the land,
When to the valleys from the brow
Of each resplendent slope is roused
A ruddy sea of living gold,
We bless, we bless, the PLOUGH.
Clang, clang—again, my mates, what glows
Beneath the hammer's potent blows?
Clang, clang—we forge the giant chain
Which bears the gallant vessel's strain
Midst stormy winds and adverse tides:
Secured by this the good ship braves
The rocky roadstead, and the waves
Which thunder on her sides.
Anxious no more, the merchant sees
The mist drive dark before the breeze,
The storm cloud on the hill;
Calmly he rests, though far away,
In boisterous climes his vessels lay,
Reliant on our skill.
Say, on what strands these links shall sleep,
Fathoms beneath the solemn deep:
By Afric's pestilential shore,
By many an iceberg, lone and hoar,
By many a palmy Western Isle,
Basking in Spring's perpetual smile,
By stormy Labrador
Say, shall they feel the vessels reel,
When to the battery's dreadful peal
The crashing broadside makes reply,
Or else, as at the glorious Nile,
Hold grappling ships, and strive the while
For death or victory!
Hurrah—clang, clang—once more, what glows,
[illegible]
The iron tempest of your blows,
The furnace's red breath?
Clang, clang—a burning shower clean
And brilliant of bright sparks is poured
Around and up in the dusky air.
As our hammers forge the SWORD.
The sword! a name of dread, yet when
Upon the freeman's thigh 'tis bound,
While for the altar and his hearth,
While for the land that gave him birth,
The war drums roll, the trumpets sound,
How sacred it is then!
Whenever for truth and right,
It flashes in the van of fight;
Whether in some wild mountain pass,
As that where fell Leonidas,
Or on some sterile plain and stern,
A Marston or a Bannockburn;
Or amidst crags or bursting rills.
The Switzer's Alps, gray Tyrol's hills:
Or, as when sunk the Armada's pride,
It gleams above the stormy tide;
Still, still, where'er the battle-word
Is Liberty, where men do stand
For justice and their native land,
Then Heaven bless the SWORD.

For the Whig.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.

——We have all our vices, and the best
Is he, who with the fewest is oppresst!

There are but few incidents in life that may not be turned to some account. The whole is frequently benefited by the bad and good actions of a part, and the simplest circumstances sometimes lead to the mightiest results. Pool, the author of one of the most laughable comedies now *stageable*, founded his plot upon the prying curiosity of an old lady who knew the sound of her neighbors' doors, and could tell every ones business better than her own. The author of Paul Pry has in the production immortalized her ladyship in his own happy style, and at her expense set many a soul a laughing. How many unknownigly furnish themes for the satirist, the novelist, the poet, the dramatiser, and the desultory writer, is a calculable; but one thing is certain, that many who would not live an hour, a day, a year beyond their existence, are destined to figure anoymously for ages to come as the mock hero of newspapers or novels—tragico-comico, or in any position that the writer's caprecious brain may decide.

It is a difficult task to write sufficiently well to enlist attention or amuse the mind, unless the author first possess himself of material; but in this instance the axiom must suffer, as the readers humble servant has such a mass from which to select he apprehends much difficulty amidst such a labyrauth of themes and incidents. Let this apology therefore ward off censure or scandal, or the gentle reader will forthwith become an actor in what he's reading and to his astonishment, no doubt find himself guilty of the worst and most detestable of human vices—self conceit!

Upon what the plot of the following scene may be founded is only known to the author, with whom it will forever remain; and to evade the keen and caustic venom that it may engender, he hopes no one so blameful as to assume any part or portion of it. Call it fiction if you please, or any thing else, so a moral may be permitted to glimmer from its lines.

Scene the 1st.

A young lady of 16—an old maid of 30, and an *old* lady of 60, discovered conversing.

The old lady with a shrill, squeeling voice, and uncomfortably loud, is heard saying:

La! Jehosophat my dear, you should beware of Zerobabel; for Mrs. Ollapod, with whom he boards, told Mrs. Lump her neighbor, poor dear old blind *critter*, who told Miss Bluestocking, and awful to relate she did not trouble herself to tell it for the space of half an hour, and when she did tell it, it was to Mrs. Slocum, who even finished darning a hole in her husbands coat as big as a fip,* before her ladyship could deign to tell it me, that Zerobabel loved his *licker* better than his business, and so he did!

Has Mrs. Ollapod dared to scandalize Zerobabel so, shrieked Miss Patience, he's better than she, poor nasty thing She had better live whithout his board, and take care of her worthless son, before she talks of other people, so she had.

Thus it went for ten minutes; after the lapse of which time the frantic Patience, yes Paitience frantic, sprang from her seat, and with the extravagance of a maniac, upset the chairs, repeating emphatically the accusing—licker—licker—lick-her! And away she went to lick her still repeating, but not until she had cut all sorts of pranks and filled her witnesses with holy horror; of course she was drunk, not with *lick her* reader but only its quondam passion. Into the street the savage Patience flew; still licker, lick'r was on *her* tongue. Lick who cried more voices than one. The devil, the devil! and away she went, sans ceremonie, to Mrs. Slocum's domicil. Away flew the younger to give the news to Mrs. Bluestocking, and the old lady hobbled after to bear the dreadful tidings to Mrs. Ollapod. All was mystery and confusion. Now for the sequel, or more properly, the effect.

Scene the 2nd.

Smash, smash, smash, went the wind[illegible] Clang, clang, clang, went the chairs. Scream after scream, reverberated through the house. The neighbors rallied. Mrs. Heeltap renowned for great physical strength, stripped her ruben's dexters, giving notes of preparation, in an effort to rally at the back entrance the lookers on! Up they came. Crack went the door, and Mrs. Heeltap fell back on the reserve stationed a yard or two from it, she having met a warm reception from within. Blood oozed from her probocis—rage glared from her ogles. Her mouth was more *catfishish* than ever. She rallied again, however, nothing daunted. The rocontre became general. The strife was deadly. Mrs. Stubbs was at her back, contending for the honors of the day—bravely, and like a heroine.—The crowd applauded. Huzza for Mrs. Heeltap. Now Mrs. Stubbs leads on the contest. Crash after crash saluted the by-standers ears. Fire and smoke issued from the door. Another shout arose from the multitude. Murder, murder, was the cry. The lungs of Mrs. Slocum sent forth a squeel that would have done honor to a dying pig. Out rushed the combatants.—Mrs. Heeltap worsted, now withdrew from the contest. Mrs. Stubbs came dashing forth like Hector from the flames of Troy, enveloped with a cloud—not of glory—but of blood and ashes. She was evidently used up Now came forth the conquering Mrs. Slocum.—Reader fancy a termigant filled with rage and fury—paint her in the extremest position—eaten up with passion—and then you have the picture faintly presented to your mind. After much persuasion she became a little docile. Several thereby, entered to review the field of battle. Shade of Pharsalia, what a scene was there. There was bloodshed and havoc. Crockery ware, tables and chairs; in fact every thing was topsy-turvy. Search was made for the killed and wounded. When it appears the first marks of violence were discovered on the crushed cage of a poor poll parrott Mrs. Slocum, with the full force of a corpulent frame voluntarily had fallen in the fracas plump backwards on the cage, and in self defense destroyed her "pretty poll." This announcement was received by the congregated dames with a buzz of approbation. "Thank the Lord," cried one, and only one, "she did not obtain it fairly; she got it by ———." More scandal! Lynch her! hang her! beat her! became the general cry. She saved herself by fleeing from their wrath, and learned a lesson in the bargain. *She* will hold her tongue in future!

The next discovery was a cat and thirteen kittens literally crushed to death. This fact was announced by throwing them from the window among the spectators below. "Ah! said an old woman of fifty, "the tarnal devil has stolen many a pound of meat from me to feed her hungry self--fattened at others expense, she's met her fate at last, and so she has." More scandal! turn her out! throw water on her! were the new epithets applied to her case She eloped instanter, and stuck to truth thereafter. But!! the vanquished! in an old cupboard snugly in a huge tin pan of custard pudding, was roasting the defunct Miss Patience. How great the fall. A pudding pan her monument and in it she sat grinning through her grief. Oh! Patience, Patience, thy name is frail! There was a show when they eased her up—bunged and bedaubed from head to foot! They led her home an object of pity and a theme for eternal scandal.

A Council to enquire into the matter was held shortly after, composed of the more orderly and less slanderous dames of the town. There was assembled all parties interested Some plaistered, salved and poulticed, and some bandaged. Poor Mrs. Heeltap was actually sightless, and Miss Patience was bald on one side of her head by means of a new mode of scalping introduced by the tiger-paws of the redoubtable Mrs. Slocum.

After a long examination of all concerned a solemn verdict was returned to this effect: That it is better to hold one's tongue than say too much, and the Dame presiding declared in asseveration of the verdict that it is better to say nothing than say harm!

Reader your humble writer stands reproved. Help done. S.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

FREE NEGRO VOTE.

The Whigs appear to be laying particular stress "*on Mr. Van Buren's opinions and vote on free negro suffrage.*" Such is said to be the case in King William, Orange, and in this county,—and if we may judge from a sort of authoritative article which has appeared in last Saturday's Whig, they mean to attach great importance to the objection. The Extract in question consists of certain extracts from the "*Proceedings and Debates of the New York Convention of* 1821,—and which are duly attested, by the following certificate:—

"We, the undersigned, have compared the foregoing extracts with the published proceedings of the Delegates of the New York Convention, and find them truly and accurately copied.

WM. R. JOHNSON,	DANL. F. SLAUGHTER,
ROBT. CAMPBELL,	JOS. MAYO,
JOHN M. BOTTS,	R. KIDDER MEADE,
J. W. PEGMAN,	WYND. ROBERTSON,
J. PAGE,	ALLEN WILSON,
J. RHODES,	DANL. A. WILSON."
[illegible] H. SMITH,	

[illegible] a most unusual step. But it only serves to show how anxious the Whigs are to call the public attention to it, as well as to impress upon the public, the correctness of the statement. Unfortunately, we think, there are some important omissions into which these gentlemen have fallen,—and a colour is given to the whole, of which the facts are not susceptible. We offer the following synopsis, which appears to us more correspondent with the character of the case:

The *first constitution of New York* was made in April, 1777. The qualifications which it required from the Electors are detailed in the following clause:

"VII. That *every male inhabitant* of full age, who shall have personally resided within one of the counties of this State, for six months immediately preceeding the day of election, shall at such election, be entitled to vote for representatives of the said county in Assembly if during the time aforesaid, he shall have been a freeholder, possessing, a freehold of the value of twenty pounds, within the said county, or have rented a tenement therein, of the yearly value of forty shillings, and been rated and actually paid taxes to this State: *Provided always*, That every person who is now a freeman of the city of Albany, or who was made a freeman of the city of New York, on or before the fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and shall be actually and usually resident in the said cities respectively, shall be entitled to vote for representatives in assembly within his said place of residence."

Thus it appears, that under the former Constitution the *free Negro* had precisely the *same right* of suffrage as the *white man*. It was "EVERY MAAL INHABITANT," without any distinction of color, or difference of qualification.

The Convention to revise and amend this Constitution assembled on the 28th of August, 1821. Mr. Van Buren was a member. The Committee on the *Right of Suffrage* consisted of seven members, viz: Messrs. Sanford, Van Rensselaer, P. R. Livingston, Fairlie, Young, Cramer, and Ross—(Mr. Van Buren not one of them.)

On the 12th of September, they reported the following amendment to the Constitution, viz: "Every white male citizen of the age of 21 years, who shall have resided in this State six months next preceeding any election," &c. extending considerably the right of suffrage for the whites and doing away entirely the *restriction* of the freehold right—"shall be entitled to a vote at such election in the town or ward in which he shall reside, for Governor, Lieut. Governor, Senator, Members of the Assembly." &c.

On the 19th Sept., this proposition came under debate. Mr. Ross said "it will probably be asked, are blacks to be excluded? I answer, because they are seldom if ever, required to share in the common burthens or defence of the State. There are also additional reasons; they are peculiar people, incapable, in my judgment, of exercising that privilege with any sort of discretion, prudence, or independence."—After other reasons, he added, "and, sir, I fear that an extension to the blacks would serve to invite that kind of population to this State, an occurrence which I should most sincerely deplore."

Gen. Van Rensselaer submitted a substitute, extending the right to "every male citizen," on certain qualifications. Col. Young moved to insert "*white*."

Mr. Peter A. Jay (always a Fanatic!) opposed Col. Young's amendment, and went to the other extreme.—He said, it had "been clearly stated why they were desirous of extending the right of suffrage to some who did not at present enjoy it, but he has wholly omitted to explain why they deny it to others who actually possess it."—"When this Convention was first assembled, it was generally understood that provisions would be made to extend the right of suffrage, and some were apprehensive that it might be extended to a degree which they could not approve. But, sir, it was not expected that this right was in any instance to be restricted, much less was it anticipated, or desired, that a single person was to be disfranchised. Why, sir, are these men to be excluded from the rights which they possessed in common with their countrymen? What crime have they committed for which they are to be punished? Why are they, who were born free as ourselves; natives of the same country, and deriving from nature and her political institutions, the same rights and privileges which we have, now to be deprived of all these rights, and doomed to remain for ever as aliens among us?" "I would submit to the consideration of the committee whether the proposition of the gentleman from Saratoga is consistent with the constitution of the United States. That instrument provides that 'citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.'" Now, sir, is not the right of suffrage a privilege? And can you deny it to a citizen of Pennsylvania who comes here and complies with your laws, merely because he is not five feet high, or because he is of a dark complexion?" "But where is the necessity in the present instance? The whole number of colored people in the State, whether free or in bondage, amount to less than a fourteenth part of the whole population.—When your numbers are to theirs as forty to one, do you still fear them."

Gen. Root answered Mr. Jay's arguments. He said among other things. "We have been told by the honorable gentleman from Westchester, (Mr. Jay) and shall be again told, that we are about to deprive these people of a franchise, with which they are now vested. Sir, it is impossible to remodel your constitution without changing the relative rights of your citizens. It is said that those people are now entitled to vote under our constitution, and that it is proposed to deprive them of this privilege.—Are there not others who are in a measure disfranchised by the report of this committee, which requires nothing but a residence, and to have paid taxes to qualify a man to vote for Governor and Senators?"

Mr. Clarke was against the word "white" "I am unwilling said he to retain the word "white," because its detention is repugnant to all the principles and the notions of liberty, to which we have heretofore professed to adhere and to our Declaration of Independence, which is a concise and just expose of those principles." "The people of color are capable of giving their consent, and ever since the formation of your Government, they have constituted a portion of the people, from whence your legislators have derived "their just powers;" and by retaining that word, you deprive a large and respectable number of the people of this State of privileges and rights which they have enjoyed in common with us, ever since the existence of our Government and to which they are justly entitled.—Sir, to this declaration we all profess to be willing to subscribe, yet by retaining this word you violate one of the most important maxims it contains."—"We are usurping to ourselves, a power which we do not possess, and by so doing, deprive them of a privilege to which they are, and always have been, justly entitled—an inalienable right—a right in which we have prided ourselves as constituting our superiority over every other people on earth—a right which they have enjoyed ever since the formation of our Government—the right of suffrage."

Gen. Van Rensselaer withdrew his amendment, and the question recured on the original report of the committee. Mr. Jay moved to strike out the word "white."

Mr. Kent supported the motion of Mr. Jay. "He was disposed, however, to annex such qualifications and conditions as should prevent them from coming in bodies from other states to vote at elections. We did not come to this Convention to disfranchise any portion of the community, or to take away their rights. Suppose a negro owning a freehold and entitled to vote in Vermont, removes to this State. Can we constitutionally exclude him from enjoying that privilege? The Constitution of the United States provides that the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states;" and it deserved consideration whether such exclusion would not be opposed to the Constitution of the United States!"

Col. Young said, "The minds of the blacks are not competent to vote. They are too much degraded to estimate the value, or exercise with fidelity and discretion that important right. It would be unsafe in their hands. Their vote would be at the call of the richest purchaser. If this class of people should hereafter arrive at such a degree of intelligence and virtue, as to inspire confidence, then it will be proper to confer this privilege upon them. At present emancipate and protect them; but withhold that privilege which they will inevitably abuse. Look to your jail and penitentiaries. By whom are they filled? By the very race whom it is now proposed to clothe with the power of deciding upon your political rights"

Mr. Van Vechten—"The amendment reported by the select committee contemplated to deprive electors of color of a right which they have enjoyed since the adoption of the Constitution. He asked why this should be done? Those electors are freemen, and have been recognized as citizens of the State nearly half a century; have under the sanction of our constitution and laws duly acquired the legal qualifications of electors. Have they done any thing to forfeit their right of suffrage?—Are they not taxable, and do not many of them pay their proportion of taxes in common with white citizens? This cannot be denied. How then can we in framing a permanent form of government, justly deny them the rights of free citizens, on account of their present exemption by law from militia duty, and their practical exemption from serving as jurors? Do our prejudices against their colour destroy their rights as citizens? He should therefore vote for striking out the word "white" in the amendment before the committee, in order to preserve inviolate the present constitutional rights of all the electors."

Mr. Livingston—"What are these vested rights? Sir, we are standing upon the foundation of society. The elements of government are scattered around us. All rights are buried, and from the shoots that spring from their grave, we are to weave a tower that shall overshadow and protect our liberties. Our proceedings will pass in review before that power that elected us; and it will be for the people to decide whether the blacks are elevated upon a ground which we cannot reach. Sir, we all of us, entered into the government subject to the implied condition that our constitution was liable to revision and alterations and that the blacks, in this particular, have vested rights exempt from the power of abridgement or alteration, which the whites have not, I have yet to learn."

Mr. Jay—(The Whig gives a copious dose from his fanatical speech)—He goes for the blacks on every ground.

Mr. Van Buren made no speech—and on taking the vote to strike out the word "*white*" immediately after Mr. Jay's speech, it was carried by 63 to 50—Mr. Van Buren voting in the affirmative.

The discussion of the other part of the Report next came up—and a great deal of debate took place on the various qualifications of serving in the militia or working on the highway; a proposition of Judge Spencer to distinguish between the qualification to vote for Senators, and the other House, &c. &c. Finally, after a great deal of contention, and diversity of views, Mr Edwards proposed, on the 29th September, to send the whole subject back to a Select Committee of 13, with all the amendments which had been made in committee of the whole, and that the committee also report their opinion upon the expediency of excluding people of colour from the right of suffrage. Mr. Edwards remarked, that the object of this Convention, was to form such a constitution as could meet the approbation of the whole community—a constitution that would be deeply rooted in the affections of the people. All were in favor of granting to every man who was qualified to vote the elective privileges, but there were certain limits, beyond which we ought not to go. A select committee might embody the sentiments of all the members, and harmonize their different views." This motion prevailed, and a Committee appointed. (Mr. Van Buren not one of them.)

On the 4th of October, the Committee reported an amendment, virtually the same as the clause in the present Constitution, doing away the equality which prevailed in the old Constitution between the free negro and the white—requiring no freehold qualification from the white, but denying the right of suffrage, to the free negro, unless he was seized and possessed, in his own right of a freehold estate of the value of $250, clear of all incumbrances. When the report came up for consideration, Mr. Briggs moved to amend in the same place, by inserting the word white. He said that it had been substantially decided by the Convention, that property was not the standard of qualification for a vote. Of course it ought not to be so, with respect to the blacks, any more than to the whites He was therefore opposed to the proviso, and wished to insert this provision in its stead.

"Chancellor Kent was opposed to the motion of the gentleman from Schoharie, and in favor of the proviso reported by the committee. He had already expressed his sentiments on this subject and he should not trouble the committee with a repetition of them. It was true, that the blacks were in some respects a degraded portion of the community; but he was unwilling to see them disfranchised, and the door eternally barred against them.—The proviso would not cut them off from all hope, and might in some degree, alleviate the wrongs we had done them. It would have a tendency to make them industrious and frugal, with the prospect of participating in the right of suffrage."

"Mr. Van Buren was in favor of the plan proposed by the select committee, and opposed to the amendment."

"Gen. Tallmadge was opposed to the motion. He was prepared to vote for the proviso which the committee had reported, because he considered it as a compromise of conflicting opinions. He also thought it held out inducements to that unfortunate class of our population to become industrious and valuable members of the community."

Mr. Briggs' motion failed—and then the 1st clause of the report embracing "every male citizen," was carried, 114 to 2.

The proviso (about the blacks, requiring of them $250 freehold,) came up.—Mr. Bacon "said that he objected to this mode of excluding the black population from voting, because, in the first place, it was an attempt to do a thing indirectly, which we appeared either to be ashamed of doing, or for some reason choose not to do directly, a course which he thought very unworthy of us. The freehold qualification is, as it applies to nearly all the blacks, a practical exclusion, and if this is right, it ought to be done directly."

Mr. Eastwood "said he was not in favor of letting in black vagabonds to vote, but felt more liberal than the select committee; he therefore moved to strike out $250 and insert $100. Lost, and then the Proviso agreed to 72 to 31, (Mr. Van Buren, voting in the affirmative)

This restriction on the free negro was still objected to—Mr. Platt moved to expunge it. He said, "I am not disposed, sir, to turn knight-errant in favor of the men of color.—But the obligations of justice are eternal and indispensable; and this proviso involves a principle, which, upon reflection, I cannot concede, or compromise as a matter of expediency" "Let us attain this object of exclusion, by fixing such a uniform standard of qualification, as would not only exclude the great body of free men of color, but also a large portion of ignorant and depraved white men, who are as unfit to exercise the power of voting as the men of color." "We know that, with rare exceptions, they have not the means of purchasing a freehold: and it would be unworthy of this grave Convention to do, *indirectly*, an act of injustice, which we are unwilling openly to avow. The real object is, to exclude the oppressed and degraded sons of Africa," &c.

"Mr. Van Buren said he had voted against a total and unqualified exclusion, for he would not draw a revenue from them, and yet deny to them the right of suffrage. But this proviso met his approbation. They were exempted from taxation until they had qualified themselves to vote. The right was not denied, to exclude any portion of the community who will exercise the right of suffrage in its purity. This held out inducements to industry, and would receive his support."

"Mr. Young considered, the proviso as the result of compromise.

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