He did not believe it right that he should be liable to a penalty of one hundred dollars for giving to his neighbour's servant a dram on a rainy day, after he had rode to his house with a letter from the master of such negro. Or if a gentleman employed a negro to run an errand and thought proper to give him a glass of grog, he thought it a perfect absurdity to recommend legislation against it.

Mr. W. W. W. Bowie, of Prince George's—he thought that his friend was wrong in regard to the dealers; he thought that they could give liquor to great advantage; they could give, give, give, for a year, and then be better off than at the commencement. He did not know how it was, unless it was like the bread cast upon the waters, which we were told of in the Scriptures, that returned after a while; thrown out a single leaf, it returned a double one. He had been surprised how this magnanimous race of beings (the retail dealers) managed to grow so rich, whilst they were giving away with the right hand, unless the left hand was pointed with, in an ominous manner, at a little sign of *give*. Give what? why, give me tobacco, corn, wool, or any thing else you can get hold of honestly, or—dishonestly, from their masters or any one else they could steal from. And he wished to know how they could prevent the negroes from getting liquor; he knew, and he expected that every person on this floor knew, gentlemen who would as willingly give an order to their hired servant to go to a country store to get liquor as to pay them in hard silver; ay, and he guessed much rather, when they would have to pay a premium for the specie. And how could the farmer get their wheat cut without the whiskey; gentlemen had tried molasses and coffee—hot coffee and cold coffee—but it would not cut the wheat. Even as a gentleman this morning had said, they had given them vinegar with their cabbage; but even that would not cut the wheat—it must be the real whiskey itself—the tinkling of the gill cup was sweet music to the ear, and whilst the wheat-fields of the disseminator of hot coffee and molasses continued to groan under the weight of wheat already too ripe, his neighbor, who administered the grog, could have his wheat cut and thrashed, whilst the first person could not get any other assistance than his own hands. As for himself, he would not give a copper for a man that would not give a fellow a glass of grog if he wanted it.

He moved to strike out the whole of the second clause. Decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Duckett moved to strike out the word 'free.' He was in favour of granting to the free negro the privilege of purchasing liquor whilst he remained here.

Mr. Tilghman, of Talbot, hoped that the amendment would not be carried, as by that means the very object which was wished to be attained, namely, 'the keeping of the slaves from the use of intoxicating drinks,' would be defeated, as the free negroes would become their agents and purchase for them. The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Tilghman moved to insert the words, 'or the agent of any negro, slave, or free.' Adopted.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the resolution as amended, and it was carried in the affirmative.

It was then moved by W. W. W. Bowie, to re-consider the 8th proposition which had been adopted, and which recommended the re-enactment of the law of 1825, chap. 90, when a substitute was offered by Mr. Pitts, of Baltimore city, providing that 'all free negroes convicted of offences punishable with confinement in the penitentiary should be sold out of the State as slaves for life,' &c.; also some of the smaller offences or misdemeanors.

Mr. Pitts advocated this measure as an excellent mode of getting clear of

the free negro population, and that so far from being a loss to the State, it would send money into the coffers of the State. He also advocated it, as whilst the most effectual mode of getting clear of them, it also afforded the convicted negro a more comfortable home than he had here. The convicted negroes commanded a more ready sale in Baltimore than any other commodity which could be placed in the market.

Mr. Thos. F. Bowie was under the impression that the laws of all the States south of Maryland precluded the importation of convicted negroes, at least he had conversed with gentlemen from the southern States, from whom he had derived such information; and he thought that to pass a law such as that recommended in the substitute offered by the gentleman from Baltimore, was legislating in the very face of the laws of the southern States.

Judge Chambers was aware that free negroes had been frequently sold out of the State, and was not aware of any laws prohibiting their being taken to the extreme southern States.

Mr. Pitts knew that negroes had been sold at the Court-house door, and had brought good prices; where negroes were sold from the State for life, they would average a nett sum of $400 or $500; whereas, if confined in the penitentiary, their labour would not more than pay for the expense of keeping them. There were always men ready to buy them, such as Purvis, Slatter, and others, and these men would not buy them unless they could profit by it; and if they had the profit, and there was any penalty imposed by other States for the bringing of convicted negroes to those States, why, upon them would fall the risk, as it should, for with them would be the profit.

Mr. Richardson had hoped to have been throughout the Convention, a silent listener; he had not troubled the Convention in any point which had arisen, but he felt himself bound to raise his voice against the substitute offered by the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr. Pitts.) It was unjust and illiberal. Would gentlemen consent merely because they have the power to do so, to consign a fellow-being, who was born free, to slavery, through all time, for an offence such as his learned friend had suggested; for a petty crime, for a riot, that most undefinable of all crimes, to constitute which, three persons walking together in the street with bludgeons in their hands, is sufficient? What, sir, would my friend for such an act as that, for walking the streets with a bludgeon, condemn a fellow-being to lasting slavery? If such was his view of the matter, he hoped that no one there would coincide in his views. For the keeping of a disorderly house, the punishment of which, if it exceeds the fine of ten dollars and imprisonment of a month, the gentleman considers it quite a hard sentence on his client, and yet, for this same offence, we are called on to recommend the penalty of slavery for life—dooming a fellow-creature to slavery from which there is no redemption; no matter what change may take place in his morals; no matter how much reformed; for one little offence the clanging of his fetters are to be heard forever. And the gentleman would wish to make the State of Maryland a dealer in negroes; a barterer of human flesh—away with the idea.

Mr. Pitts did not think that there could any change be wrought in such persons as would be likely to come under the operations of the law, he would wish suggested. Those who would be affected by a law of this kind, had generally passed their life in vice, and could not, therefore, be weaned from vice to virtue. There was not the remotest prospect of their reformation. His learned friend had appealed in his usual, able, and eloquent style, to their sympathies. He doubted not that their sympathies were strongly aroused for the unfortunate race of beings who were then under consideration. But he called on gentlemen to lay aside their sympathies and listen to the dictates of reason. It was true, that the negro would

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