

HOUSE.....No. 14.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Brooks of Bernardston proposes to amend the Article of Amendment to the Constitution, by striking out therefrom all the words beginning "*Every town or district,*" on the 5th page, being the commencement of the 4th paragraph, to the end of the last paragraph on the 7th page, inclusive, and to insert instead thereof the following :

"Every two adjacent towns or districts, which, separately would not be entitled to send a representative, shall be united together, and form a district for that purpose ; and when so united, the first representative voted for in such district shall be selected from the town or district having the greatest number of inhabitants ; the second representative shall be selected

“ from the town or district having the smallest number
 “ of inhabitants, and so on alternately. Provided, how-
 “ ever, that the representative of any such district may,
 “ at any time, be selected from either of the corpora-
 “ tions composing such district, if the inhabitants of the
 “ same shall so decide by a majority of their votes in
 “ each in town meeting legally called for that purpose.
 “ Provided, also, that where any such town or district
 “ is so situated that it cannot be united to an adjacent
 “ town or district of the same class, it may be united to
 “ an adjacent town which is entitled by itself to send a
 “ representative, to form a representative district ; in
 “ which case, such district shall be entitled to send one
 “ additional representative every other year, who shall
 “ be selected from the town or district having the small-
 “ est number of inhabitants. The legislature shall by
 “ law, as soon as may be after the adoption of this
 “ amendment of the constitution by the people, and
 “ from time to time thereafter, as circumstances may
 “ require, form the representative districts as herein
 “ above specified, and prescribe the mode in which they
 “ shall hold their elections.”

Also, on the 8th page, beginning at the 10th line,
 strike out the words “ Excepting those years when the
 “ apportionment on the valuation of estates within this
 “ Commonwealth shall be settled.”

Mr. BARTON moves to amend said article of amendment by striking out the last paragraph but one, and inserting as follows—

“ And to prevent the House of Representatives from becoming too numerous, the mean increasing number of inhabitants which shall entitle any city, town or district to elect more than one representative, shall be proportionally increased, if found necessary, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty two, and every tenth year there afterwards, so that the House of Representatives at the time of fixing said increasing ratio, shall not consist of more than three hundred and fifty members, and the members of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be paid for their travel and attendance out of the public treasury.”

