

any precedent for the adoption of such a resolution?

Mr. MAGRAW. It is customary, I believe, to deposit a copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the House of Delegates. This is the only precedent that I know of. We have had no Convention in the State of Maryland since '76. There can, therefore, be no precedent, so far as Conventions are concerned.

The question was then taken on the adoption of the order, and was decided in the affirmative.

So the order was adopted.

The PRESIDENT announced the following gentlemen as composing the said committee: Messrs. Magraw, Buchanan and Crisfield.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I pray that I may be excused. It is impossible for me to serve.

The PRESIDENT designated Mr. Schley, in place of Mr. Buchanan.

Mr. SCHLEY. I ask to be excused. I have a great many duties to perform besides those which appertain to the business of the Convention—duties which occupy all the leisure time I have at my disposal.

Mr. Schley was therefore excused from service.

Mr. CRISFIELD. I think I heard my name announced as a member of the committee.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair did designate the gentleman from Somerset, (Mr. Crisfield.)

Mr. CRISFIELD. I must pray to be excused. My engagements are such that it will be impossible for me to attend to the duties of the appointment. I respectfully ask to be excused.

Mr. Crisfield was therefore excused from service, and the President designated Messrs. Morgan and McCubbin in the place of Messrs. Schley and Crisfield.

#### IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Mr. CRISFIELD, (to the President.) Is it in order for me to move a re-consideration of any vote incorporated in a provision of the legislative report? I gave notice on Friday last of my intention to move a reconsideration of the vote. I am not sure whether the motion is in order or not.

The PRESIDENT. Does the gentleman propose to reverse any decision which has been made by the Convention?

Mr. CRISFIELD. Yes; I propose to re-consider section 42, of the legislative report, which provides for the abolition of imprisonment for debt. I desire that the vote should be reconsidered, in order that I may propose, in lieu of the article as it now stands, a substitute, which I will read.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair understands the gentleman from Somerset (Mr. Crisfield) to say that he had given notice of the motion to reconsider.

Mr. CRISFIELD. I gave the notice on Friday last. The article, as adopted by the Convention, simply declares that "no person shall be imprisoned for debt." If the vote by which that section was adopted should be reconsidered, I intend to move the following as a substitute;

"As soon as practicable after the adoption of this constitution, laws shall be passed to abolish

imprisonment for debt, punish fraud, and enforce the just application of the property of insolvent persons to the payment of their debts."

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thinks that the proposition will be in order, if the motion to reconsider should prevail.

Mr. CRISFIELD. Then I move a re-consideration of the vote, in order that I may offer the substitute which I have read.

The question was then stated to be on the motion to reconsider.

Mr. CRISFIELD said that on Friday he had given notice that he would to-day move a reconsideration of the clause in the article on the Legislative Department abolishing imprisonment for debt. He now rose to make that motion. He said he took it for granted that the Convention, and perhaps the people of the State, had a serious design that, hereafter, imprisonment for debt should not be allowed in this State. He acquiesced in that determination; indeed had voted for the clause, and he was now disposed to carry it out; but he really thought some provision ought at the same time to be made to prevent fraud, and to secure the just appropriation of the debtor's property to the payment of his debts. To digest a proper system to accomplish these objects would be a work of great labor; and when accomplished, would be inappropriate to be inserted in the Constitution. It was, in his judgment, a proper subject of legislation. All that he thought ought to be done by this body was to declare that imprisonment for debt should be abolished by law. The Legislature could adjust the whole subject and prescribe all the necessary restrictions and guards. He hoped the Legislature would be directed to abolish imprisonment for debt, and at the same time to adopt suitable means to enforce the application of the debtor's property to the payment of his debts and to prevent frauds. He moved the reconsideration, and gave notice that if it was carried he should move the following as a substitute for the clause as it now stood:

"As soon as practicable after adoption of this Constitution, laws shall be passed to abolish imprisonment for debt, punish fraud, and enforce the just application of the property of insolvent persons to the payment of their debts."

Mr. SPENCER. How can the gentleman reach that question?

Mr. CRISFIELD. I ask the Chair whether it is in order to enter upon the discussion of the subject at this time?

The PRESIDENT said the Chair did not think the motion of the gentleman from Somerset (Mr. Crisfield) necessarily brought up the whole bill before the Convention.

Mr. SPENCER hoped that the gentleman from Somerset would let his motion lie on the table for the present, as it would lead to debate. The Convention could then proceed to the consideration of the subject which was under discussion on Saturday last.

Mr. CRISFIELD had no objection to that, provided a vote was taken on his motion to reconsider. Then the subject might lie over.