

Mr. TUCK said he had no information on the subject. He only knew from experience that, without indexes, it was a matter of great difficulty to find any thing that might be wanted either in the journal or the laws. The same difficulty would be found to exist in regard to the debates. He had offered the resolution, because he understood that the committee on Printing did not think that they had the power, under previous orders, to carry out the design of the resolution.

Mr. PHELPS, replying to the enquiry of Mr. McHENRY, said that one hundred dollars was about the sum paid for indexing the laws. From this standard, the gentleman could form some idea of the cost of the work.

Some desultory remarks and explanations were made by Messrs. WEBER, BUCHANAN, SPENCER and RANDALL, in favor of the resolution, and by Mr. McHENRY in opposition to it.

Mr. THAWLEY moved an amendment, which was decided, by the President, to be out of order, (and which will be found in the proceedings of to-morrow.)

Pending the question on the resolution of Mr. TUCK,

The PRESIDENT announced that the hour had arrived for taking up the Order of the Day.

Mr. SPENCER moved to postpone its consideration, until the pending question should have been disposed of.

The question having been taken, the Convention refused to postpone.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

The Convention, thereupon, resumed the consideration of the following resolutions, submitted by Mr. MERRICK, on the 11th of January, from the committee on Representation:

1. *Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to regard federal numbers in fixing the estimates and basis of representation, in the House of Delegates.

2. *Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to adopt a principle of representation based exclusively upon popular numbers, in organizing the House of Delegates, or the Senate.

The pending question was upon the motion made yesterday by Mr. GWINN, (as a substitute for the motion of Mr. SPENCER,) to recommit the resolutions, with certain instructions.

Mr. GWINN now withdrew his instructions, and said he desired that the question might be taken on the simple motion to recommit, and he hoped that that motion would prevail.

So the question was on the motion of Mr. SPENCER, to recommit the report to the committee on Representation.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, asked the yeas and nays on that motion, which were ordered.

Some conversation followed between Mr. PRESTMAN and the PRESIDENT, on a question of order, after which

Mr. CHAMBER, of Kent, said he merely desired that the Convention should adopt such a course of proceedings, as would afford every gentleman an opportunity of expressing a distinct opinion upon the highly important question of representation. He wanted to avoid all side-blows—

every thing like throwing a veil over it—though he imputed no such motive to any gentleman. He referred to the fact that gentlemen had taken the stump, and that the public mind had become excited on this question of representation, simply according to numerical force, and submitted that it ought to be settled. What the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. PRESTMAN,) had said about the slave question, he, (Mr. C.) applied to this. Let it be fixed now, and fixed forever, beyond the hope of resurrection. The battle was to be fought. We were told by gentlemen, who were known never to back out from their position, that the ground would not be yielded without a severe and a stern struggle. The sooner, therefore, that the cloud passed over, (to use the language of his friend from Carroll, (Mr. BROWN,) who said many good things,) the sooner we shall see the sunshine. And he, (Mr. C.) hoped that every proposition would be voted down until the Convention came to a direct question on the adoption of the resolutions.

Mr. THOMAS said, that he had yesterday signified his preference for the mode of disposing of this question. Reflection had but confirmed his opinion. There were peculiarities connected with this question, which belonged to no other on which it would become the duty of the Convention to act; because, in the apportionment of representatives, would come the struggle for the distribution of political power. In his judgment, the Convention would be in a better frame of mind for calm and mature action on all other questions, if this struggle were postponed until other matters had been disposed of. In this judgment perhaps he might err. But, independent of these general considerations, there were reasons which he signified the other day, and which he need not now repeat, why the Convention should recommit this resolution. He still pronounced it an abstraction. It was aside from the main question, and whatever might be the decision of the Convention, no result would be produced. It did not require the Convention to declare any thing affirmatively; it only declared what the Convention would *not* do. It laid down no rule; it prescribed no plan; and the Convention might go on, week after week, and month after month, and yet not obtain a single tangible proposition on which it could act. He earnestly hoped it would be recommitted, and that the committee would be permitted to take charge of the subject. If they could not agree, let them come into the Convention, say so, and be discharged; and then, he hoped, that some gentleman would in his place here submit a *projet*.

Mr. TUCK said, he could not perceive how any thing was to be gained by sending the resolutions back to the committee, unless the Convention should first express some opinion on the subject. They had been told yesterday that the committee could not agree on any plan. Suppose then the resolutions were recommitted. To what end? What was the committee to do? They had declared that they could not agree—they had all said so. In his opinion the Convention should either refuse to recommit, or should recommit with some positive instructions.