

the House discussing another matter. This last being ended, he again gave way to allow the chairman to submit another amendment which he had been despatched to submit. The very instant the floor was clear, he had asked attention to his article, and it was passed. He was then about leaving the Hall to give the information to the committee, when behold, he met them coming into it to announce the fact that the engrossed copy was prepared for the President's signature, and this announcement was most assuredly the very first intimation he had of any purpose on the part of the committee to make such a report. He still adhered to the opinion that it would be highly irregular and unbecoming to have the original Constitution, the standard copy to which reference was to be had, as the authentic and reliable authority, made on the authority and responsibility of one of the committee clerks. Under the order creating the committee of revision, they had not the slightest authority to examine or correct it after the adjournment, even if such authority could be communicated to them. It was simply their duty when the paper or budget of papers should be certified by the President and Secretary, to take it from this hall into another chamber in this building, and there deposit it with the clerk of the Court of Appeals. However blurred and blotted portions of it might be, as in fact they were, the committee could not touch it to improve it.

Mr. SPENCER made a few remarks.

Mr. JENIFER said that it was with great reluctance, unable as he was at this hour of the night, to say a single word, but he confessed he had been surprised at the hot haste evinced by some gentlemen in the engrossment and final passage of the constitution, without its being read or copied from the gross material, of which it was composed.

Was it possible, that after six months session, when there was laid upon the President's desk, a constitution for signature, which was admitted to be imperfect, for it was so, so far as regarded its engrossment, because it was a fact known to them all, that even the committee of revision themselves were not aware of what was contained in the mass of paper called a constitution? Was it possible that gentlemen desired the President and Clerk to sign an instrument which they were unwilling to do themselves, or even to vote upon which was of their own making?

There was an amendment passed within the last half hour, which the Committee of Revision had not seen since its adoption, and was different from that which they had recommended, and yet we are called on to direct the President and Clerk to sign that paper as the Constitution, which he ventured nothing in saying, the contents of which was not known by twenty, if ten, members of the Convention. And why? because amendments had been made yesterday, last night, to-day and to-night, to various articles proposed in the Constitution, which had never been copied, printed or read since they were adopted; therefore, who knows what the Constitution contains? Mr. J. said, postpone the final action until to-

morrow at as early an hour as you please, say nine o'clock, by which time the whole may be readily copied, revised by the committee, printed, read and approved or rejected. The Convention may then act understandingly—which cannot be the case in its present state. Again, a large portion was in print, part of which was erased and interlined, and a portion was in manuscript, also erased and interlined, so that it was difficult for the most experienced and acute readers of manuscripts to decypher what was the real amendments adopted, many of which were made in the hurry of the moment in writing, as eligible as that of my friend from Queen Anne's or the city of Baltimore, or perhaps my own, which is the best of the three. Now Mr. J. asked was such a paper thus put together to be considered the deliberate act of this Convention, as a fit Constitution to be submitted to the people of Maryland? Why this haste, after six months delay in forming a Constitution, when twelve hours will be ample time to have it copied, revised, read to the Convention, and acted on? Why so important that it should be passed on to-night? The Convention has ordered the accounts for per diem and other expenses to be made up including to-morrow; therefore, the members are bound to remain here at least to-morrow, if any thing is required to be done. What more important than to see that the Constitution is a true and correct copy of the various articles passed on by sections and bills?

It is proposed that after the Constitution is signed by the President and Clerk, it shall then be copied, so that it may be forthwith printed, to be circulated throughout the State, and also deposited in the clerk's office for safe-keeping. There should be some person to supervise the copying of it, and to compare it with the original.

If the original was imperfect, the copy must be so. Was the correction to be left to the clerk alone? Was it not a remarkable fact, that even to night gentlemen had differed amongst themselves as to what was the construction of a particular article. Yet all are called on to decide that it be signed by the President.

Suppose that a mistake should be made by the clerk, who was to correct it? His friend from Baltimore and others said that there was a great anxiety to adjourn to-night. Mr. J. said duty should overrule anxiety. They had voted themselves per diem for to-morrow, and they had no right to leave the Convention as long as there was one particle to be done toward perfecting the Constitution.

Mr. J. said for himself, his health forbid him remaining longer to-night, but he would cheerfully meet any hour in the morning and unite with gentlemen in perfecting as far as might be, the admitted defects in the instrument under consideration, which he believed, might be done in a few hours. He felt desirous that such a Constitution as ought to be confirmed, should be presented to the people. But he apprehended from recent acts, the extremes of the reform and anti-reform parties did not desire the present instrument to be complete.