

WEDNESDAY, February 12th, 1851.

The Convention met,

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Graff.

On motion of Mr. Magraw,

The reading of the Journal of Proceedings was dispensed with.

Mr. Dorsey presented a petition of sundry citizens of Howard District in Anne Arundel county, praying that said Howard District, be erected into a new county to be called "Howard county;"

Which was read, and

On motion of Mr. Dorsey,

Laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Dorsey,

The Convention took up the consideration the order of the day, being the report submitted by him on the 8th inst., as chairman of the select committee, respecting the formation of New Counties.

Mr. Merrick, moved to postpone said order of the day, and take up for consideration the report on the Legislative Department.

Determined in the affirmative.

The Convention then proceeded to the consideration of the report submitted by Mr. Johnson, chairman of the committee on the Legislative Department, on the 25th ult.;

Mr. Dorsey, moved to amend said report by striking out the 1st section, and inserting in lieu thereof the following :

"The Legislature shall consist of two distinct branches, a Senate, and a House of Delegates, which shall be styled the General Assembly of Maryland;"

Determined in the affirmative.

The 2nd section in said report having been read;

Mr. Phelps, moved to strike out said section, and substitute in lieu of it the following :

Section 2nd. "The Senators shall be elected by the qualified voters of this State for the term of four years, and the Delegates in like manner, for the term of two years; from the day of the general election, and the regular session of the General Assembly shall be Biennial;"

Mr. Merrick, moved to amend the 2nd section of the report, by filling the blank in the 2nd line, with the words "one year;"

Pending the question on this amendment, and

After debate thereon,

At half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.;

On motion of Mr. Spencer,

The Convention adjourned until to-morrow morning 11 o'clock.