

med, whether or not they desire to hold a Convention for the purpose of altering the Constitution. And in case a majority of those who vote, shall desire that a Convention according to the new basis of Representation, the Governor shall take the same steps to organize the Convention, which were followed as to the present.

All the said reports were ordered to be printed.

There was now no question before the Convention.

Mr. PRESSTMAN put an inquiry to Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, as to the rule upon which Mr. C. had made his report—and some long explanations, partly personal, followed, under the leave of the Convention. [These remarks will be given hereafter.]

After which,

On motion of Mr. MERRICK, The Convention proceeded to the orders of the day.

THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the legislative department.

BIENNIAL SESSIONS.

The pending question was on the adoption of the second section of the report as amended.

Mr. SPENCER said, that very few members were in the Hall, but that there were more in the city, and he moved a call of the Convention.

A call was ordered; and

The roll of the members was called.

The doorkeeper was then sent to request the attendance of absent members.

Whilst the doorkeeper was absent on his exploring expedition, (the Convention not being in a condition, *ad interim*, to proceed with the business before it,) a long and desultory debate took place on several points of order. They did not result in any formal decision made, or appeal taken—but in reply to an inquiry by

Mr. DIRCKSON, as to the construction to be given to that portion of the twenty-first rule, which provides that a motion to reconsider, being once put and lost, "shall not be renewed, nor shall any subject be a second time reconsidered, without the consent of the Convention."

The PRESIDENT intimated his opinion to be, that the words "without the consent of the Convention," implied, without the consent of a majority of the Convention."

Mr. THOMAS also desired the opinion of the chair upon this point, whether, if the second section, as amended, should be rejected, any member might move to insert the second section as it would stand *without* the amendment of Mr. SPENCER.

The PRESIDENT replied, that, if the section, as amended, should be rejected, it would be competent for the Convention to entertain another amendment, but that the chair could not decide whether the amendment would be in order, until its precise character was known.

All these proceedings had reference to the motion of which Mr. DIRCKSON had given notice, to move a reconsideration of the vote on the amendment of Mr. SPENCER yesterday, by which the question of annual or biennial sessions was to be submitted to the people.

The doorkeeper was still out on his cruise—when

Mr. SPENCER moved, that all further proceedings on the call be dispensed with.

Ordered accordingly.

The Convention then got steerage-way on, once more;

And the PRESIDENT announced the recurring question, to be on the adoption of the second section, as amended.

Mr. THOMAS said:

He desired to ascertain the sense of the House, whether it will sanction this section as it has now been amended. If the House should be disposed to do that, a motion to reconsider the vote by which it had been amended would be useless. That was his view. He had but few words to say in opposition to the section.

He wished to call attention to the conflicting statements of the state of the public sentiment on this subject. If it was true that public opinion would now sanction annual sessions, he had not that conclusive evidence of the fact, which would induce him to vote against their already expressed opinion.

No man had a higher respect for public sentiment than he had; but he could not shape his course here, exclusively with a view to it. If he was made sensible that public sentiment required him to pursue a course against the dictates of his judgment, that might drive him from public life, and send him into retirement for the residue of his days, but it could never induce him to give a vote against the dictates of his conscience. Such would always be his course. When before the people for election, he had always stated his opinions with all candor and freedom, and had then left it to the people to say whether they would elect him or not. But when the election was over, and he had taken his seat in the legislature, he would then have information to influence his course, which the people at the polls have not, and which he had not, previous to his election, and by that information he had heretofore been, and would now be governed. With these views, he desired to frame a Constitution himself, and not to transfer that work to others.

In this Convention, we are divided into two parties—not whig and democratic, but into reformers and anti-reformers. There are men in this body who were always opposed to the idea of a Convention, and who in the legislature, voted against the law by authority of which this Convention was called. He would ask of them whether there must not be a compromise of views that we may stand together here, to make a Constitution. And when it comes to be submitted to the people, our friends must be induced to march up to the polls in an unbroken phalanx for the purpose of sustaining us in our action in