

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, (with a view, he said, to avoid the multiplication of oaths,) offered a substitute oath.

Mr. SPENCER moved an amendment.

Some explanation followed between Messrs. CHAMBERS and SPENCER, and STEWART, of Caroline.

Mr. STEWART, of Caroline, moved to strike out the section.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, acquiescing in a suggestion of Mr. STEWART to that effect, withdrew his amendment.

The question was then taken on the motion of Mr. STEWART,

And the section was stricken out.

The eleventh section of the report was read, as follows:

*Sec. 11th.* The Senate, upon assembling, shall choose a President and its other officers, and the House of Delegates when assembled shall choose a Speaker and its other officers—each House shall be judge of the qualifications, elections and returns of its members, but a contested election shall be determined in such manner as shall be directed by law.

Mr. DORSEY, (to meet a suggestion of Mr. Chambers, of Kent,) moved to amend the said section by inserting after the word "determined," in the fifth line, the following:

"By the House in which such contests may arise."

The amendment was agreed to.

And the section, as amended, was adopted.

The twelfth section was read and adopted as follows:

*Sec. 12th.* A majority of each House shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each House may prescribe.

The thirteenth section was read and adopted, as follows:

*Sec. 13th.* The doors of each House and of committees of the whole shall be open, except when the business is such as ought to be kept secret.

The fourteenth section was read, as follows:

*Sec. 14th.* Each House shall keep a Journal of its proceedings and cause the same to be published—the yeas and nays of the members on any question shall, at the desire of any five of them, be entered on the journal.

Mr. STEPHENSON moved to amend by striking out "five," and inserting in lieu thereof "two."

The motion was rejected.

Mr. RICAUD moved to amend by striking out the last clause of the section, (in regard to the yeas and nays,

Mr. THOMAS stated that this amendment presupposes the case where a majority of members present may not wish their votes to go out to the world, and therefore do not desire to have the yeas and nays recorded. The number of five is specified, because it is believed that the House

could never be in such a condition but that five members could be found ready to second a call for the yeas and nays. He thought the clause a novel one to be engrafted in a written Constitution.

Mr. RICAUD withdrew his amendment.

Mr. CHAMBERS moved to amend the section by providing that the yeas and nays should be ordered on the call of three, (instead of five) members of the Senate.

Mr. RICAUD suggested one.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, accepted the modification.

The amendment, as modified, was adopted.

And the section, as amended, was adopted.

The fifteenth section was read and adopted, as follows:

*Sec. 15th.* Neither House shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the Houses shall be sitting, without the concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members present of both Houses.

The sixteenth section was then read, as follows:

*Sec. 16th.* The enacting clause of every bill shall be, "Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland," and no law shall be enacted except by Bill.

Mr. DORSEY said, that if change, for the sake of change, was not the order of the day, he should prefer the language of the old Constitution. But if we were to have change, he would move to amend the said section by inserting after the word "the," in the first line, the words "commencement of the first."

Mr. CHAMBERS hoped, he said, that the Convention would stand by the language of the old Constitution so far as practicable.

The amendment of Mr. Dorsey was rejected.

Mr. STEWART, of Caroline, moved to amend the section by adding, at the end thereof, the words,

"And that all laws be passed by original Bill and not as supplement."

Mr. STEWART, of Caroline, pointed out the confusion and embarrassment, which were produced in the laws, by the practice of passing supplementary acts. The original law, embracing every variety of subjects, has been permitted to stand, and supplements have passed, until a very few lines of the original law remain in force. And it is impossible for the people to tell what is in force as law, or what has been repealed. Laws are enacted for all classes of the community, and should be plain and intelligible. All laws should be passed by original bill, and in the language of his amendment should embrace but one subject, and that subject should be described in the title of the law.

Mr. SPENCER said the amendment was one which would produce much difficulty. It would lead to great delay in legislation, and would furnish a crib from which to feed the printers.

Mr. STEWART replied, that the cost of printing, if the benefit and good that would result