

eral Assembly were incompetent to the discharge of such a duty. If it was required that the Legislature should go back to the commencement of our legal system, and codify all the laws, the qualifications for such a task would rarely, if ever, be found in any House of Delegates. He referred also to the price of printing the work, as imposing a great expense on the State, and the work, when completed, would be worse than valueless. Every member of the Legislature would be required to familiarize himself with all its enactments before he would be competent to discharge the duties proposed to be assigned him.

Mr. SCHLEY suggested that the gentleman from Caroline, might better obtain his object by the mode adopted in the Constitution of the State of Missouri, which he read. That he considered to be the only feasible mode by which it could be done. A colleague of his had early in the session, suggested the appointment of a committee to revise the laws, but he could not find it in his file of journals. If a commissioner were appointed, and the clause from the Missouri Constitution were added, the amendment might be simplified and made effective.

Mr. SPENCER notified the House that, at a proper time, he, if no other member of the Convention did so, would bring forward a proposition relative to arranging the laws in a system. In this way, he thought, the object of the gentleman from Caroline, might be accomplished. The great labor and expense to which the amendment of the gentleman would lead, was his great objection to it in its present shape.

Mr. STEWART said this was a subject which had not occurred to his mind, at a very recent period. It was one which had given him much reflection. He had no objection to pass over his proposition for the present.

And then, pending the question,
The Convention adjourned until to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

WEDNESDAY February 19, 1851.

The Convention, pursuant to the order yesterday adopted, met at 10 o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRAUF F.

The roll was called.

Mr. GWINN, (to the PRESIDENT.) I understand there is not a quorum present.

The PRESIDENT. No quorum, sir.

Mr. GWINN. I move that the doorkeeper be sent to notify the absent members to attend.

Ordered accordingly.

Mr. DAVIS moved that the Convention proceed to the orders of the day.

The PRESIDENT stated, that the Convention was not in a condition to proceed to business, no quorum being present.

Mr. DAVIS said, he hoped that fact would be noted on the journal.

After the lapse of a few minutes—a quorum being present,

The journal of yesterday was read, and having been amended as to an error in the statement of Mr. THOMAS' amendment, was approved.

LOTTERIES.

The PRESIDENT laid before the Convention a petition of sundry citizens of the city of New York, praying the Convention to incorporate in the organic law of this State, a provision entirely, and forever prohibiting the drawing of lotteries within the State of Maryland.

The petition having been read,

Mr. DONALDSON moved that it be printed on the journal, (omitting the names, with the exception of the first two or three.)

Mr. SHRIVER moved that the petition be referred to the committee on the legislative department;

Mr. DORSEY expressed himself in favor of the reference, but opposed to the printing of the petition.

It was an innovation upon the practice of the Convention, and would, he thought, open the door to an expense which could not readily be calculated.

Mr. DONALDSON said, his motion to print, embraced only the petition, not the names. The petition was very short, and as to the precedent, he thought it could lead to no difficulty. But few petitions were presented here. This came from a sister State, and as a matter of comity, he thought it well that it should be printed.

Mr. BROWN thought it was a doubtful question whether the petition ought even to be received. If it was, the Convention might be called upon to receive petitions upon every other subject which the people of other States might think proper to intrude upon them. The Convention had not honored its own citizens by printing their petitions, and he saw no reason why they should treat petitions from other States with more respect than the petitions of our own people.

Mr. SMITH suggested that the petition was very short, and that the printing could not be a matter worth speaking of.

Whilst on the floor, he desired to present a petition.

The PRESIDENT said, the petition before the Convention must first be disposed of. The gentleman, (Mr. Smith,) could present his petition, after the pending proposition should have been disposed of.

Mr. DORSEY said, he very much misunderstood the question, if the courtesy due from one State to another, had any thing to do with this matter. The petition did not come from the State of New York, but from some persons, lottery dealers or others, in New York. He did not think that the Convention should show greater respect to them, than to their own citizens.

Mr. DONALDSON said, that in making the motion to print, he had not the slightest idea that it would lead to a discussion. It seemed to him that the minds of gentlemen were filled with chimeras. The petition showed one of the great