

eyes and noses on the motion to lay the motion to reconsider on the table, and

They were ordered.

The question was then taken,

And decided as follows:

*Affirmative.*—Messrs. Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Donaldson, Dorsey, Randall, Sellman, Buchanan, Welch, McLane, Fooks, Shriver, Biser, McHenry, Nelson, Schley, Fiery, Neill, John Newcomer, Harbine, Brewer, Weber, Slicer, Smith, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown—27.

*Negative.*—Messrs. Blakistone, President, *pro tem.*, Dent, Hopewell, Wells, Dalrymple, Jenifer, Ridgely, Dickinson, Sherwood, of Talbot, Crisfield, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Eccleston Phelps, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, Bowling, Grason, Wright, Dirickson, McMaster Gwinn, Brent, of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Presstman, Ware, Davis and Waters—31.

So the Convention refused to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

The question then recurring on the motion to reconsider,

Mr. Tuck said he had yesterday moved to lay this subject on the table. He thought there was an impropriety in discharging officers without notice. He would not go so far as to call it injustice; but he thought that when, out of the six gentlemen who have been employed by us, a portion is about to be dispensed with, the whole of them ought to have an opportunity of being heard. He could not be supposed to know what had passed in the committee on this subject; but he presumed that it was because they happened just now to be absent from the city, that the three whose names had been reputed as those to be discharged, had been selected. If the other three clerks had happened to be absent, they perhaps would have been the three selected for removal.

So far as he knew, these clerks had been generally here, and ready to do whatever gentlemen asked of them. They have only been absent when leave has been given them by the President. He did not see how the selection of three out of the six clerks to be discharged, could be made, without leaving something like an imputation on them. Every one would naturally come to the conclusion that we have retained the three clerks who are the most competent. And, as the fact had doubtless been published this morning in the Baltimore Sun, the injurious impression will spread over the State, and the action of this Convention will be every where understood to be a reflection on the gentlemen who are discharged. He thought it would have been the most proper mode to let these six gentlemen have arranged between themselves, by lot, or in any other way, which of them should go out, and which should remain.

If any charge were substantiated against the three selected, he would go for their instant removal. We employed them for the whole session, and it has been our fault, not theirs, that they have not had much to do. We have done very little ourselves.

Mr. JENIFER had listened to the gentleman from Prince George's, but he could not agree with that gentleman, that all clerks had been always attentive to their duties. He had voted against the resolution yesterday, and he had also voted against laying the motion to reconsider on the table to-day, because he did not think it right to discharge officers without some notice. He was astonished, however, to hear the gentleman from Prince George's say, that all the clerks had discharged their duties with entire satisfaction—for he, (Mr. J.) had heard frequent complaints, yet he had none to make himself, although he had to perform much of the duties of the committee of which he was chairman, nor had he expressed any dissatisfaction as regards that committee clerk. He thought the proper course would be to notify the absent ones that hereafter, that they should not leave without permission.

Mr. BROWN stated that he had voted for the resolution yesterday, and he should vote for it again to-day; for these reasons, first, that there is nothing for these clerks to do. When the Constitution comes to be engrossed, it ought to be done in the very best style, because it will have to be deposited among the public archives; and he believed there could not be found in Annapolis, a dozen persons who were capable of doing it as it should be done. It will most probably be the case, that we shall have to get a person specially for the work and pay the extra charge out of the treasury. We do not want these committee clerks; and the question is, shall we pay away two or three thousand dollars for services which are of no use to us. He had thought, when these clerks were appointed, that the Convention would terminate its sitting in the month of February, and all these officers he knew must have expected to terminate their labors long before this time. There was no reflection intended on any of these clerks. If they had been the best clerks in the world, we could have had no further use for them. He would vote for the resolution. He would even go further, and dispense with the services of some of those who were retained.

Mr. BRENT reminded gentlemen that the expense of discussing this matter, would eat up more than the amount which would be saved by dismissing these clerks. Strict economists should not prolong this discussion. Why did not the gentleman from Carroll, take the same stand when the previous order was under consideration, another remark: In the month of November, an order which was introduced authorizing the appointment of clerks, was voted down. Then on the 14th of the same month, an order was passed appointing the present six clerks by name. How then can gentlemen who voted on that platform, now turn about and vote for a partial removal of some of these clerks? He agreed with the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Jenifer,) that some of these clerks had absented themselves from their duties. As the House had refused to the committees leave to report their reasons on any subject referred to them, these clerks may have supposed that there was no occasion for their regular attendance here. But they ought to be