

Mr. DIRICKSON enquired whether any motion had been made as to the mode by which the election should take place—by ballot or *viva voce*?

The CHAIRMAN said no motion had been made. Does the gentleman submit any?

Mr. DIRICKSON. I have none to make.

Mr. BOWIE. I move that the election take place *viva voce*.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SHRIVER moved that the Secretary announce the names of the nominees, (which being done,)

Mr. SMITH moved that tellers be appointed to count the votes.

Ordered accordingly.

Mr. PHELPS moved that the tellers be appointed by the Chair.

Ordered accordingly.

The CHAIRMAN appointed the following gentlemen tellers to count the votes:

Mr. MAGRAW, of Harford.

Mr. PHELPS, of Dorchester.

The tellers took their seats and the Secretary proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JENIFER, when his name was called, remarked that it would give him pleasure to vote for Doctor WILLIAMS, but as the Presidents, *pro tem*. had hitherto been taken from the smaller counties, he preferred to vote on the present occasion for a gentleman from one of the upper counties, and should therefore vote for the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. BUCHANAN.)

The roll having been called through,

The result of the vote was announced as follows:

Whole number of votes, fifty-three.

Of which number—

Mr. BUCHANAN received thirty-four, and Mr. WILLIAMS, nineteen.

So Mr. BUCHANAN, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected PRESIDENT, *pro tem*.

Whereupon, the PRESIDENT, *pro tem*., took the Chair, and, after a brief pause, rose and addressed the Convention as follows:

*Gentlemen of the Convention:*

I acknowledge with deep sensibility the honor you have conferred upon me, in calling me to administer the duties of this Chair during the regretted absence of the presiding officer of your choice. I speak with unaffected sincerity when I say, that this signal mark of your confidence and respect was not less merited, than unexpected by me. Yielding, however, to no man in a stern patriotic purpose to accomplish the great objects which have brought us together, I shall endeavor to discharge the duties of this station in such a manner as may best promote these objects and secure their final consummation. In this earnest and honest effort, I shall rely confidently, gentlemen, on your forbearance and support.

It is not inappropriate to the occasion to say, that since I have had the honor of a seat in this Convention, it has been my good fortune to move on harmoniously, and in the kindest interchange of fraternal regard with all its members. I have

had but one aim—one end—one hope. I have known no party. I have cast from me, as unworthy and polluted things in such an assembly as this, all party considerations. I have looked with a single eye to the honor and the welfare of proud old Maryland—the Shibboleth of our policy—the glorious centre of all our hopes and all our affections! I have endeavored solely and simply to secure to her the adoption of such a Constitution, as her enlightened and patriotic children have a right to expect at our hands. Nor has my confidence in the ultimate realization of that result, been in any degree shaken. I do conscientiously believe, that notwithstanding the portentous clouds which have at times darkened our horizon, there exists an inflexible determination here to give a triumphant issue to our labors, by the formation of a Constitution which will be acceptable to the people, and under whose benignant provisions the State may rapidly advance towards the fulfilment of the high destiny that awaits her.

The work is before us. Gentlemen, let us accomplish it.

The journal of Saturday last and of yesterday, were then severally read and approved.

#### MOTIONS TO RE-CONSIDER.

Mr. CHAMBERS, in pursuance of the notice he had heretofore given, moved to reconsider the twenty-second rule of the Convention, for the purpose of introducing the following amendment:

“Whenever a question shall have been decided by yeas and nays, no motion to re-consider shall prevail, unless there shall be cast in favor of a re-consideration a larger number of votes than those of the majority on the original vote.”

Mr. C. said, he took it for granted, that it was not necessary for him to say any thing in favor of this change of the rule. Its object simply was to prevent a thin Convention from over-ruling the decision of a Convention more full. Common honesty, it seemed to him, required the change.

Mr. McLANE said, he was sorry he could not vote in favor of the proposition of the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers.) It might lead to a vast deal of embarrassment, and was not exactly in place, he thought, in such a body as this. Of all bodies, that which had assembled for the purpose of forming a Constitution should, as regarded votes and re-consideration of votes upon propositions which might from time to time come before it, be as free as possible.

On going back to the Convention which formed the Constitution of the United States, and probably there could be no better model, either as regarded the instrument itself, or the character of the body which framed it, it would be found that the constant practice was to take up a subject to-day, vote upon it, lay it aside, take up another, and, after considering that, go back by a motion to reconsider to that subject which they had in the first instance partially disposed of. Such was the practice of that body, not only as regarded cardinal principles, but the details of measures. And it was