

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't., Morgan, Lee, Chambers of Kent, Donaldson, Wells, Randall, Sellman, Weems, Buchanan, Bell, John Dennis, Dashiell, Williams Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Sprigg, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Shriver, Biser, Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Brent of Baltimore city and Waters—30.

*Negative*—Messrs. Howard, Chandler, Ridgely, Lloyd, Sherwood of Talbot, Colston, Constable, McCullough, Miller, McLane, Bowie, Tuck, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Jacobs, Gaither, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, Magraw, Carter, Gwinn, Ware, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Fitzpatrick, Parke and Shower—34.

So the Convention refused to adjourn.

The question was then stated to be on agreeing to the last branch of the order.

Mr. GRASON said, that he had been appointed by this House on a committee to carry into effect a particular order. He wished to state to the Convention that he would not consent to be instrumental in carrying out an order which was opposed by nearly one-half of the body.

Mr. MORGAN moved to lay the order on the table, which motion was agreed to.

Mr. SPENCER moved that the report which had been laid on the President's desk, as the engrossed copy of the Constitution, be recommitted, which motion was agreed to.

Mr. GRASON said:

That it had been generally understood, that the Convention would adjourn to-night, and authorise the committee of Revision to sit to-morrow, for the purpose of seeing that a copy of the Constitution was properly engrossed and deposited in the office of the clerk of the court of Appeals. With that understanding, the committee had reported a copy in its present form, that is, the first and last parts engrossed, and the middle portion of it in print, but all of it accurate, so that the President might sign it at once, or wait till to-morrow when the engrossment would be completed. He might sign it then, if the Convention before their adjournment would authorise him to do so, or he might sign it at once, and ascertain to-morrow whether that portion of it which is now in print is accurately engrossed.

If the Convention remain in session, the members will be compelled to trust the committee of Revision for the correctness of the copy deposited with the clerk of the court of Appeals. Then would it not be better to adjourn finally to-night, and avoid the needless expense of attending to-morrow? It was with this understanding, that the committee of Revision had reported a copy of the Constitution in its present form, and had prepared an order, by which the Convention was to authorise them to act as a committee of engrossment till their work was completed. That order was drawn up by the gentleman from Kent, and placed in the hands of a member of the Convention.

It was afterwards thought, however, that as the committee of Revision had finished their labors, their services might be dispensed with,

and that the duty of examining the engrossed copy of the Constitution might be performed by two members of that committee. The order was modified accordingly, and that appeared to be the cause of its meeting with considerable opposition. As for himself, he should prefer that the Convention should remain in session till the Constitution had passed through all the usual forms, and adopted as a whole. But there was no necessity for these formalities. Many members are now absent, and others have made their arrangements for leaving Annapolis in the morning cars, and it would be an idle form to take a vote upon such a question when there would be hardly a quorum present. Each article had been adopted and confirmed after frequent reconsiderations; and after all it was nothing but a form of government to be submitted to the people, whose approval alone could give it validity. It was not like an act of the Legislature which must be authenticated in a particular form to give it effect, and which might otherwise give rise to doubts of its being in force. Even Acts of Assembly were frequently passed without going through the exact form prescribed by the present Constitution. It was required that every law should be signed by the Governor, in the presence of both Houses; yet it was known that his signature was generally attached when there was neither a quorum of the Senate or House of Delegates to witness it. It had been remarked by his colleague, Mr. SPENCER, that it would be incurring some risk to adjourn now, and leave it to the President and Secretary to sign the Constitution to-morrow, because it might happen that both of these officers might die in course of the night. There was very little chance of such a mortality among the members; but even in that case, the people could adopt the Constitution without the signature or certificate of either. We ought to come to some decision that will enable us to close our labors without further delay. This can be done by authorising the committee of Revision to sit to-morrow as proposed in the order prepared by the gentleman from Kent. The President and Secretary would also be here, and all would see that the Constitution as engrossed, would be the same as it is now in the hands of the Convention. He wished this course could be adopted by general consent. Mr. GRASON would here offer an order, which, if not in the precise words of the gentleman from Kent, gave the same powers to the committee.

*Ordered*, That the committee on Revision be authorised to sit to-morrow for the purpose of examining the engrossed Constitution, and seeing it deposited in the office of the clerk of the court of Appeals.

Mr. CHAMBERS said:

That the order authorised expressly the power of Revision. That was the point he had made, the ground he went upon. There was to be authority by this body to revise.

Mr. GRASON said:

That he was satisfied, when he heard the objections to the order as presented by the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard,) that