

the gentleman from Kent understood it as not conveying sufficient authority. He hoped that the order now submitted, would remove every difficulty.

Mr. DONALDSON wished to say a few words, because his votes in regard to the mode of concluding the business of this Convention might, if unexplained, seem inconsistent with the action of the committee of Revision, of which he was a member.

He had always thought that in matters so important as that before us, every thing should be done "with decency and in order," with the strictest formality, indeed; and that members of this Convention, in closing their labors, should not permit any longing to return to their families or their business, to hurry them into a neglect of the slightest portion even of the ceremony that was usual on such occasions. He did not, however, mean to be understood, that he considered such formality necessary to secure the validity of any article of the Constitution, which had really been adopted by the body. Any form of alteration, for instance, which might be prescribed, was not absolutely essential to the validity of the instrument, but was one mode of ascertaining what had been adopted by the Convention, and that the easiest and most certain mode. He could not think that the Constitution would be all lost, even if so dreadful a casualty were to happen as that suggested, by which the attestation by the President and Secretary would become impossible. The fact as to what provisions had been adopted by us could then be ascertained, though with difficulty, in some other manner. It seemed to him, however, to be very improper to dispense with any of the usual formalities.

The committee, in making their report, had acted under *duress*. There was an overwhelming determination in the Convention—so the committee were given to understand—that the adjournment should take place to-night, whatever was the condition of the work before them; and the committee were told by first one and then another of the prominent members here, that they must make some arrangement by which the session should be closed at once. The committee, under such *duress*, agreed to come in and report the Constitution, provided an order should be adopted that the committee should remain in session after the adjournment, until the whole instrument was fairly engrossed, and until they had ascertained that the copy was in every respect true and accurate. They had had no idea of leaving this place until that duty was faithfully performed. If, under such an order as that drawn up by the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) and put into the hands of the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard,) the Convention adjourned, he did not doubt that the copy engrossed under such revision would be faithful in all particulars. Therefore, as a member of the committee, under heavy pressure from all sides, he had been forced to acquiesce in this method; but the order proposed is different in its character from the one the committee agreed to;

and, at any rate, when the question came up before this body, whether any formalities should be dispensed with, whether they should adjourn before their work was really completed, and properly certified to them, he could not himself consent, as an individual member, to vote in favor of adopting such a course. He had too great a reverence for form, which often held together the substance of things, to give such a vote; nor did he think such a course would have about it those marks of propriety, which the people of the State would expect to characterise the closing scene of a body as dignified as this was presumed to be. For these reasons, he should vote to continue the sessions of the Convention until the Constitution was complete, until it was engrossed, and the fair copy, properly certified, ready to be recorded in the Clerk's office of the Court of Appeals.

Mr. STEWART, of Caroline, desired to say a word to the gentleman from Queen Anne's, in relation to the vote he gave on the first part of the proposition offered by the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard.) The gentleman from Baltimore county offered a proposition containing two distinct subject matters. One was that the engrossed Constitution, after it had been signed by the President and Secretary, should be taken to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals by the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Tuck,) and the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Grason.) For that part he voted; but he did not believe that we were ready to adopt the last part of the proposition.

He had no objection to the two gentlemen named taking into custody the Constitution, after it had been completed, and depositing it in the office of the Court of Appeals. He had perfect confidence in these gentlemen. He would trust every thing he held dear, to their hands. He had no objection, then, to the first part of the proposition. He saw no reason why the members of the Convention should be in such a hurry to hasten from this place? They were paid for to-morrow. The President was authorised to draw per diem for to-morrow. Why should they be in such a hurry to bring matters to a close? Was it to give the Constitution sooner to the people? Not at all. If that were the object, he would not be anxious, at this late hour in the night, to adjourn. But they did not hasten the Constitution before the people by adjourning at this time, for this committee could no sooner get the Constitution ready for the printer than the Convention could. He wished to see the Constitution completed, and the Convention proceed in order. He would repeat, that this committee would not send the Constitution any sooner before the people than if this body should remain here in session and discharge that duty themselves.

By to-morrow morning they could come here calmly, as a deliberative body should meet, and adopt the Constitution as it should be adopted. He feared what he had witnessed to-night was a bad omen for the success of this dearly beloved Constitution. For this Constitution he expected to vote. Aye, he expected that his reputation