

was now to stand or fall with it. And yet forsooth that which we had struggled so hard to get at twelve o'clock at night, the representatives of the people of Maryland had to desert, and hasten to their homes!

Was this conduct to be tolerated by the people of Maryland? Would the people receive this Constitution? Let us remain here the few hours that may yet be required to perfect it. How could they expect the freemen of Maryland to turn out *en masse*, and give it their support? What they had done was nothing until it was ratified by the people. He entreated all friends of reform not thus to desert the Constitution; he for one, would not do it. He thought the best course to pursue was to adjourn to an early hour in the morning, and then come together and have the Constitution put in form, and signed in a proper manner.

Mr. GRASON wished to adhere to forms, though he deemed them of less importance than was attached to them by the gentleman from Anne Arundel. By attending to one form we might be compelled to dispense with another. If we wait till to-morrow for the engrossment of the Constitution, we may then be without a quorum; in which case, the irregularity of signing the Constitution would be greater than would be committed at present. The engrossment is of no importance, if the copy now reported to the Convention is accurate. That copy is in print, with the corrections made by the committee of Revision and approved by the Convention. Nothing more is necessary now, but to see that the engrossed copy is completed, and placed in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals. This duty can be performed by the committee of Revision. If the Convention remained in session, the members would be obliged to depend on that committee, as they could not examine the copies themselves. There appears, therefore, to be no necessity for adding another day to the session, merely to attend to the engrossment of the Constitution, a correct copy of which was now ready for the signature of the President.

Mr. SPENCER made some further remarks.

Mr. McLANE was not going to trouble the Convention with any detailed remarks. He wished to make a suggestion or two to the gentleman over the way, who had offered this resolution, and to ask him, if it comported with his views, to alter it in one particular. If he understood the order as proposed, it continued the committee on revision in the discharge of their duties, as a committee of revision. He admitted that after all, there was but a single point of difference between this proposition and the one submitted by the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard.) The gentleman from Baltimore county proposed to refer this constitution to a committee of two, for the purpose of engrossing it, and that he took to be a perfectly proper order, involving no departure from form. It was a perfectly proper order, because they had a constitution, and it was not proposed, if he understood the subject, to make any other constitution than the one which they had formed.

They had a constitution now, made as good as it would be after it should be engrossed, and engrossed upon parchment, and testified by any formality which they might chose to prescribe. The constitution which they had formed, stood in the possession of this revisory committee, with the exception of two articles adopted to night, and if there was any gentleman here who supposed for one moment that he (Mr. McL.) would be capable of excluding either of these articles, he begged him to be undeceived. It would seem that there was a design to exclude from the constitution that which they had done to-night, and he was willing to adopt any means by which they might form a part of the constitution. They had made them a part of the instrument, and if it should be sent out without them, it would be committing a fraud upon the public, and certainly no member here was disposed to do any such thing.

If these two articles should go to the committee and it should report them as revised, and the Convention should adopt the report, he would ask every gentleman if that constitution, as they had formed it would not be completed—completed in every particular? The evidence of its adoption would be the journal of the Convention, and if the President and Secretary were to die, the Constitution would be good, so far as the action of this body was concerned. It would go out to the people under the law under which they were assembled, and if they approved it, it would be the constitution and law of the land. If they should send it back to-night to the committee, and they should bring it in supervised, and the convention should adopt their report, then the constitution would be completed. What more had that committee to do? The gentleman from Anne Arundel had proposed, after that should be done, to send it back to the committee on revision, to do what? Why, if he understood it, to do with it as they had done with the articles heretofore in the discharge of their duty, to change the phraseology when, in the opinion of the committee, it could be perfected. He, however, was not willing to send it back to that committee, or any other committee, with authority to change it from what they had established it to be, and he hoped the convention would not suppose that he was speaking in disparagement of the committee. He had entire confidence in them, and he had not the least doubt they would take any improper liberty with it. All knew that in sending the constitution to the committee, heretofore, they had sent it with instructions that after revising it, they should bring it back to them for their action, that they might ascertain whether they had conformed it to the spirit of the Convention. Could that duty be discharged after they had separated and gone away? Certainly not.

They ought to form the Constitution for themselves—form it through the agency of the revisory committee, and when they had so formed it, and it was agreeable to them, they should appoint a committee to engross it. That was all they