

had to do. Let them send this to the committee to engross it, and then he would ask the Convention if there was any other question now presented to it than a choice between the committee proposed by the gentleman from Baltimore county, and the one proposed, as he understood from what had been said to-night from one of the committee's own members, by the committee on Revision?

It had had been said to-night, and not contradicted, that one of the members of the committee did himself propose that that Constitution should be sent back to the committee for the purpose of being engrossed. Might they not send it back to any two members who were equally entitled to the confidence of this House and of the State at large? As between a choice of the whole committee, in whom he had perfect confidence, he had no particular preference; but he would not take the responsibility of leaving this instrument in the hands of the committee, who were to revise, with authority to transpose or change its phraseology in any way. He was for adopting the Constitution here to-night, and for sending it to the committee to engross it, but he would give them no authority to dot an i or cross a t.

He wished to say another word, for a good deal had been said to-night that implied more than was intended. He was not going to make any profession of duty; for it was a very easy matter to make high sounding expressions about the discharge of public duty—or what men deemed to be public duty. It was a very easy matter to say that here was a line of duty and they would stand upon it. He had no professions of duty to make. They had been here long enough to be well known to all those with whom they had been dealing, and he had been long enough here, so far as he had taken any part in the deliberations of this body, to be pretty well understood, and he was perfectly willing to abide judgment here and elsewhere, so far as he had performed his duty. He would say that if it was the pleasure of this Convention that it would not adjourn until the Constitution should be engrossed, read here, and signed by the President, be the personal sacrifice what it might, he would be at his post. He did not suppose that any one would be less sensible of his duty than himself, but when he said that he was not going to undertake to say that a man neglected his duty to his constituents if he after having done all he could to make the Constitution, should chose to entrust two or five members of the Convention to engross that Constitution and put it upon record. They had no authority to do it. He denied that any man thwarted his duty or was insensible to it when he chose to take such a course. What was engrossment? Who ever heard of the engrossment of a Constitution being necessary to its validity? He certainly never had heard such a thing. The validity of the Constitution arose from its adoption, and the best evidence of that was the Journal of this Convention. The attestations, &c., were matters for the Convention itself to prescribe.

When he said this was his line of duty, he con-

sulted the convenience of this body, and would allow them to go to their families and relieve themselves from the burden of public duty in which they had been so long engaged, and in a moment they could do it, without any sacrifice of public duty. In a moment they could go; there would be no necessity for them to remain here; they had a right to go, and it would be wrong to detain them.

He admitted that the regular mode of doing this thing would be to wait here quietly for some days more, and perform every formality which the greatest ingenuity could devise. But they were not in a situation to take such a course. The law under which they were acting made it necessary that the Constitution should be submitted to the people in about three weeks, and they should give it to the people in time to afford them an opportunity to examine it, and this was the reason why they were not at liberty to go through these details. If there was no irregularity, the sooner they presented the Constitution to the people the better, and in diverting from these forms, they were consulting the interests of the people.

He would be perfectly willing to adopt the order if the gentleman would so modify it as to refer the matter for engrossment, and not for revision. He did not stand on the matter of three or five gentlemen. It was his opinion, that they should refer the Constitution to this committee, without any other authority than to see that it was properly engrossed.

Mr. SPENCER said:

He knew the gentleman had no allusion to him. The gentleman referred only to the gentleman from Queen Anne's, and proposed to refer it to the committee for engrossment. His whole argument was on what he, (Mr. S.,) had submitted, namely, to send the Constitution back to the committee to be engrossed.

Now, he had said, if his proposition was carried, there would be no danger of the committee disturbing it in any shape. So he also would now repeat, and declare that there had been threats made in that hall to-night, that members would not remain here till to-morrow—that they would leave the city. Those threats, however, did not intimidate him in the discharge of what he regarded as his duty. If gentlemen chose to take their departure without finishing this important work, let them take the responsibility. He had no doubt that they would be able to reconcile their conduct to themselves. He would not attack them, but so help him God, he would not leave the Convention until the work was completed.

Mr. CHAMBERS observed that some things had been said which required correction, to make them conform to the correct history of the matter. If it was intended to intimate that he (Mr. C.,) was the author of the idea to delegate the authority of the Convention to any one committee, clerk, or any body else, nothing was more untrue. The idea did not originate with him, most certainly, and he had at last come into it reluctantly. Some days ago, when we had a full