

Schlosser, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Thomas, Todd, Valliant, Wickard, Wilmer, Wooden—66.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. McComas,

*Ordered*, That the folders and postmasters, and whoever shall have the authority to attend to their duties, after the adjournment of the convention, be instructed not to fold or frank any other printed matter than such as has been published by authority of the convention.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I rise to a matter of personal explanation. I have been intrusted by a gentleman from Talbot county, of high respectability, to state to this convention the facts in regard to a circumstance which a member now in his seat from Talbot (Mr. Valliant) has brought to the notice of this body. It seems that on a former occasion the member from Talbot was pleased to allude by name to this gentleman, Mr. Thomas P. Williams, amongst those whom I understand from the context that he charges with being secessionists, or unfaithful members of the community, disloyal men. He mentions the name of Mr. Thomas P. Williams, who, he asserts, had given money to a brother of the member, to induce him to go South and take up arms against the government. Mr. Williams considers himself as deeply injured by this, which he says is a misrepresentation. He has had strong southern sympathies. That he makes no concealment of. But he has always avoided any act by which any law of the United States or of the State of Maryland could in any shape be violated. He has avoided any act in conflict with those laws. His statement is that he did not furnish him money. This gentleman, Mr. George E. Valliant, has since returned from the South, and I hold in my hand his certificate, in these words :

STATE OF MARYLAND, }

St. Michael's, Aug. 29, 1864. }

I, George Enos Valliant, of St. Michael's, do solemnly aver and declare that what my brother said in convention as regards Thomas P. Williams persuading "me, or any other person, so far as I know, to go down to Virginia, and there defend his native South from the inroads of northern Goths and Vandals, and offered to pay the expenses of ten young men to go and do as he urged my brother to do, and other things," is positively untrue.

[Signed] GEO. E. VALLIANT.

Signed in presence of }  
O. R. SPARKS. }

These are gentlemen known to you, and I suppose their signatures will not be contested. I rise here in the name of an injured individual, injured in a material way, but I hope undesignedly and by mistake; with a view of

giving the member from Talbot an opportunity to retract this assertion in the presence in which it was made. I make no comments upon the subject. I have done this as an act of justice to a gentleman whom I have known and you have known to be one of the most respectable citizens of Talbot county, and a man whose conduct, so far as I know, is above impeachment.

Mr. VALLIANT. Mr. President—

Mr. CUSHING. I wish to ask if these remarks will go upon the journal of debates. It is a personal matter entirely, concerning a gentleman in Maryland; and I wish to know whether the journal of debates of this convention is open for every gentleman in Maryland, who may consider himself aggrieved by remarks in this house to come here and defend himself upon that journal of debates?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I ask for information, whether there is one individual man in this house so unkind—I use no strong expression now—as to desire that an imputation shall be made against an individual of a high crime and placed upon the journal, and to deny to that individual the privilege of placing there his contradiction of it? Is there a man in this house whose feelings will allow him to take this position?

Mr. CUSHING. I am not objecting to it. I simply asked the question. I have never known that in Congress a man supposing himself to be injured by the debates there could so defend himself. I asked for information.

The PRESIDENT. I understand the gentleman from Baltimore city to make an inquiry of the chair whether an individual not connected with this body has a right to have his defence, of whatever character it may be, spread upon the journal of the debates and proceedings of this body. That is not a matter exclusively within the power or control of the president. The gentleman from Baltimore city has the right to call the attention of the convention to it; and the convention has the power to decide whether this matter shall be spread upon the journal or not. It would be a matter of assumption upon the part of the president to arrogate to himself the right to permit this to be placed upon the journal or to exclude it. The people are represented in this body. Every man in Maryland is represented here by some person or other. Of course if any one is aggrieved, it is for this body to judge whether it comes within the constitutional provision to permit their grievance to be laid before them, subject to any investigation they may choose to make. That is a matter exclusively within the province of the convention. The president is to decide points of order and other matters which may come before him for the regulation of this convention; but any matter outside of that is a matter for the deliberation and the judgment of the convention. If the gentleman from Baltimore city desires to make a motion, it will