

if any such rules should be adopted prior to the adjournment, I simply desire, for the protection of the minority, that there may be some such provision adopted, similar to that adopted by the last Convention to secure the privilege of fair and free discussion. I have no desire to press the amendment. I am perfectly willing to leave it entirely to the majority of the Convention to say whether it shall be adopted or not. But I think it just and right, and due to the minority for its protection, when various important matters may be before the Convention. After the statement of the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands) I should perhaps have had no desire to offer the amendment, but for the remark of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Kennard) that the matter had been carefully considered, showing that the resolution had been offered in this way to exclude this very privilege by retaining the rule with reference to calling the previous question.

Mr. SANDS. I think that the origin of the rule for the previous question was, not to embarrass minorities, but to protect majorities who might be embarrassed in legislation by factious opposition of ever so small a minority. It was a rule for the furtherance of the business of the body. The rule was devised to protect legislative bodies from the delay of merely factious opposition. While I say that in any fair debate I will never call the previous question, I should certainly claim the right and power to call it as against factious debate merely, if I believed it so to be. I think the whole spirit of the rule is simply to protect legislative and deliberative bodies against factious opposition. The minority will not be injured by it; but without it a small minority may seriously hinder the action of the body.

The amendment to the resolution was rejected.

The resolution, as offered by Mr. Kennard, was adopted.

#### COMMITTEES.

Mr. EARLE offered the following resolution :  
*Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed by the President to consider and report the most expedient method of presenting to this Convention the forms and provisions of a new Constitution.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE offered the following as a substitute for the resolution submitted by Mr. Earle :

*Order'd*, That Standing Committees, to consist of seven members each, be appointed by the Chair, to take into consideration the propriety and expediency of making any, and if any, what alterations and amendments in the several distinct subjects embraced in the Constitution, and confined to them respectively, with the power of conference between any and all of said committees, and to report the result of their deliberations to the Convention at the earliest practicable day, viz :

1. A Committee to consider and report upon the Declaration of Rights.

2. Upon the Executive Department.

3. Upon a proper basis of Representation in the two Houses of the General Assembly, and a proper apportionment of Representation in the same.

4. Upon the Legislative Department.

5. Upon the Judiciary System of the State.

6. Upon the State's Attorneys.

7. Upon the Treasury Department.

8. Upon the Elective Franchise and the Qualifications of Voters.

9. Respecting the Militia and Military Affairs.

10. Respecting Education and the Encouragement of Literature.

11. Respecting the Rights, Duties, Divisions and Sub-Divisions of counties.

12. Upon a schedule of such provisions or ordinances as it may be desirable for the Convention to adopt in order to carry into effect any amendments of the Constitution upon which it may decide.

13. Respecting future amendments and revisions of the Constitution.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE said : I offer this as a substitute for the order of the gentleman from Cecil, simply as a means of expediting the business before this body. If the order submitted by the gentleman be adopted, and such a committee be appointed by the Chair, they necessarily cannot report until to-morrow, or probably until next week. The committees necessary to refer these several matters to, must then, after proper deliberation be appointed by the Chair. Although I may not, in this order which I have framed, have embraced all the committees which it will be necessary for the Convention to raise, to have charge of this business, yet I certainly have included the leading topics which it will be necessary to refer to committees, and I have included all those committees upon which will rest the great burden of the work. Those committees may be appointed by the Chair at once, and any other committees which it may be found necessary hereafter to appoint, may be appointed when the occasion for them becomes manifest.

Mr. EARLE accepted the substitute offered by Mr. STOCKBRIDGE.

Mr. BELT. I would suggest that some of these Committees ought to contain more members than seven, I should suppose. The Committee on the Judicial System, and that on the Representative Basis it seems to me ought to have at least nine; nine or eleven or some odd number.

The PRESIDENT I think the last Convention had one from each county.

Mr. BELT. I will move that there be added to the provision for the third committee, upon the Basis of Representation, the words :

—“ and said committee shall consist of one