

possession of members of this House; and my friend from Baltimore city has referred also to some informal proceedings that have taken place. It is proper under these circumstances that I should not remain silent, in view of the part which I had the honor to take by authority of that informal meeting touching this subject. I regret that it has been introduced this morning, for the reason so well put by my friend from Frederick, (Mr. Schley) that as yet the invitation has not reached us in official form. The committee who have the subject in charge on the part of the City Council will reach here to-night. That invitation will be made in official form to-morrow morning. It seems to me therefore to be fitting that the subject should be postponed until to-morrow.

The motion to lay upon the table was seconded.

The yeas and nays were demanded, and being ordered were taken, and resulted—yeas 39, nays 41—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Miller, Bond, Henkle, Stockbridge, Stirling, Cushing, Berry of Baltimore county, Ridgely, Hoffman, Parker, King, Ecker, Wooden, Earle, Pugh, Briscoe, Turner, Parran, Dail, Johnson, Smith of Dorchester, Hodson, Galloway, McComas, Hopper, Russell, Hopkins, Sykes, Blackiston, Hollyday, Clarke, Berry of Prince George's, Belt, Marbury, Lee, Brown, Billingsley, Morgan, Davis—39.

*Nays*—Messrs. Hebb, Thruston, Wickard, Robinette, Hatch, Kennard, Brooks, Barron, Daniel, Abbott, Thomas, Audoun, Larsh, Swope, Jones of Cecil, Scott, Todd, Garter, Noble, Keefer, Schley, Annan, Baker, Cunningham, Schlosser, Crawford, Gale, Dennis, Horsey, Valliant, Mulliken, Dellinger, Nyman, Negley, Mayhugh, Sneary, Smith of Worcester, Purnell, Farrow, Murray—41.

So the motion to lay upon the table did not prevail.

Mr. SCHLEY moved that the subject be postponed until an official communication should be made to the Convention.

Mr. HEBB. I do not like the form of this motion, because, if no official communication should be made, it would be impossible for this body to move to the city of Baltimore. I would suggest that it should be postponed until to-morrow at one o'clock.

Mr. SCHLEY modified his motion accordingly. The motion was agreed to.

#### AN IRON SAFE.

Mr. BARRON submitted the following order: *Ordered*, That the Secretary of this Convention procure an iron safe in which to deposit all documents and papers relating to the business of this Convention in order the better to secure their safety.

Mr. B. said: My reason for offering that order is that at the last session of the House of Delegates a bill was lost; and I think it is

desirable that we should have some place for the safe-keeping of papers belonging to this Convention.

Mr. SMITH, of Carroll. This order seems to be an intimation of a want of honesty or integrity on the part of members of this body, which I trust is totally unfounded. The loss of the bill in the House of Delegates may have arisen from a class of gentlemen who will not trouble us very much, for the lobby seems to be entirely deserted, and I trust it will remain so. I do not see the slightest necessity for such an expense, and, although not so intended, the order is an imputation of a want of integrity upon the part of members of this body and its officials, which I trust we shall by our vote entirely repudiate.

Mr. BARRON. It is right that I should say in explanation that I did not intend anything of the kind. I do not believe that the lost bill was taken by any member of the House of Delegates; and I do not believe a member of this Convention would stoop so low as to take any paper belonging to the Convention without proper authority. I will withdraw the order, if any gentleman present thinks that is the intention of it.

The order was rejected.

#### "AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONS."

Mr. HOFFMAN submitted the following order.

*Ordered*, That the Librarian be directed to furnish each member of the Convention with a copy of the "American Constitutions" published by Lippincott of Philadelphia.

Mr. STIRLING. I think that is a very good order, but I should like to add an amendment to it. It has been a custom, and I suppose a custom sanctioned by law, for members of the Assembly to take home with them books thus voted to them, although the Library may be very deficient in these books. This is a book which is valuable for the Library, and I wish to amend by adding that the books shall be returned to the Librarian after the adjournment of the Convention. Otherwise the books will become the property of the members.

Mr. HOFFMAN accordingly modified his order by adding:

"These books, however, to be returned to the Librarian at the close of the session of the Convention."

Mr. VALLIANT. I desire to know of what advantage this book will be to us, before voting for the order.

Mr. DANIEL. I ask for a division of the question. I think the books will be useful to us, but I do not see the use of returning them to the Library afterwards. I do not see why they will not be as useful in the hands of members, as to have 96 copies in the Library. Perhaps we shall have more to do with this subject, after the Convention adjourns, than anybody else, and the books will be oftener used than if lying in the Library for the next ten or twelve years. I think if we are to have