

he votes the right ticket," and the man voted without objection?

Mr. HICKS explained, stating that it was too late to stop the voter, when he was about to attempt it.

Mr. BRENT expressed his gratification that the gentleman could acquit himself from the implication which others had understood him to admit. But were the honest voters of Dochester county to be disfranchised because some of its citizens winked at such frauds? He hoped not, and he would never consent to such a principle.

Mr. RICAUD moved that the Committee rise.

Mr. STEWART, of Caroline, asked the yeas and nays.

Mr. BOWIE. Does the gentleman ask the yeas and nays on the motion that the Committee rise?

Mr. STEWART. I will explain my reasons.

The CHAIRMAN interposing. In the opinion of the Chair, a motion that the Committee rise, is in the nature of a motion to adjourn, and is not therefore debateable.

Mr. RICAUD. I hope that the Committee will rise.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair cannot entertain any debate.

The yeas and nays were refused.

The Committee then rose and reported progress,

And the Convention adjourned.

THURSDAY, Jan. 16, 1851.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. GRAUFF.

The roll having been called, and a quorum being present, the journal of yesterday was read and approved.

DEBATE ON THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

Mr. JENIFER offered a resolution, remarking that he thought its adoption could not fail to be attended with beneficial results.

The resolution was read as follows:

Resolved, That a'l debate in committee of the whole upon the first section of the report of the committee on Elective Franchise, shall cease this day at one o'clock, and the committee of the whole shall then proceed to vote upon the amendments then pending, or which may be offered,—and five minutes may be allowed to any member to explain any amendment which he may offer.

Mr. PHELPS inquired whether the terms of the resolution did not preclude debate on all the sections of the report of the committee? The committee of the whole was now engaged in the consideration of the *first* section. The whole debate for some days past had been confined to that section; and if this order should be adopted, debate would be cut off on such amendments as might be offered to the other sections. He had no disposition to delay the action of the Convention, but he thought that the greatest latitude ought to be afforded for amendments to the other sections and for enforcing by explanation the

propriety of their adoption. The Convention should bear in mind that it was not engaged in the mere ordinary business of legislation, but in the formation of an organic law which might endure for ages.

Mr. JENIFER. I modify my resolution so as to make it applicable exclusively to the *first* section.

Mr. PHELPS. Then I have no objection to its adoption.

Mr. DORSEY said, he confessed he did not expect that any such proposition as this would be adopted, although the gentleman from Charles (Mr. JENIFER) had yesterday intimated his intention to offer it. It would certainly operate unfairly upon those members of the body who desired to express their sentiments, but who, not possessing the agility and activity of some others, were not always able to obtain the recognition of the Chair. He thought it due to the very important nature of the subject under discussion, that the amplest opportunity should be given to gentlemen on all sides of the Convention to express their views. Especially important was it that gentlemen should have the opportunity to answer some of the new views and arguments which had recently been thrown out, so that the discussion might not be confined altogether to one side of the question. The proposition reminded him of a story he had heard of a German living somewhere in the upper counties, who offered up a prayer something in this form:

God bless me and my wife,
My son and his wife;
Them four—
And no more! (Laughter.)

Mr. JENIFER (Mr. DORSEY yielding the floor) said, he would further amend the resolution by confining its operation to those gentlemen who had already spoken.

Mr. DORSEY, (continuing.) Subjects have been discussed in the speeches of several gentlemen, to which no opportunity for reply has been given.

The President interposed, and indicated his judgment that the amendment last proposed by the gentleman from Charles, conflicted with one of the standing rules of the body, and it was not, therefore, in order.

Mr. WEBER (to Mr. JENIFER.) Did the gentleman so modify his resolution as to make it applicable to the first section only?

Mr. JENIFER. I did.

Mr. WEBER. I then move to amend the resolution by restoring it to its original form. The object of going into committee of the whole was to take into consideration, at one and the same time, the whole subject matter of the report. The gentlemen who have taken part in the discussion have traveled over the entire ground. They have not confined themselves to any proposed amendment—but have discussed, generally, and freely, the various abuses and corruptions which are said to prevail in connection with the elective franchise, and the remedies which they deemed most appropriate to them.

We have been in committee on this report,