

THURSDAY, March 6, 1851.

The Convention met at ten o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRAUFF.

The roll of the members was called; and

A quorum being present,

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. BISER presented a petition signed by five hundred and fifty-three citizens of South Western portion of Frederick and South Eastern part of Washington counties, asking for the formation of a new county, embraced within the following boundary, to wit: beginning at the mouth of Catoctin Creek, and running thence up said creek to Magruder's Bridge, crossing said creek, thence with the old Middletown and Sharpsburg road to Getting's Store, on the Red Hill, then North West with the road to the Turnpike at Keedysville, then with the middle of said road to Antietam creek at Mumma's Mill, then with the middle of said stream to the bridge near Sherrick's, then with a straight line to the Potomac river, at or opposite Reynold's Mill Dam, then with the Potomac to the beginning, including an estimated population of ten thousand inhabitants and twelve hundred voters.

Which was read, and

Referred to the committee on New Counties.

#### LICENSE LAWS.

Mr. KENT, presented a petition of sundry citizens of Anne Arundel county, praying that a provision may be made in the new Constitution, that the privilege to sell intoxicating liquor shall not be granted to any person in any part of the State, except the same shall first be sanctioned or approved of by a majority of the votes in the election district where the same is to be sold.

Mr. HOLLYDAY, presented a petition of sundry citizens of Allegany county of similar import.

Mr. DONALDSON, presented a petition of sundry citizens of Howard District in Anne Arundel county, of similar import;

Which were severally read, and

Referred to the select committee already appointed on that subject.

[Mr. D. remarked, that the petition presented by him, came from a number of respectable persons, many of whom were not what was generally called temperance men—that was to say, they were not members of any temperance society.]

#### BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

Mr. LLOYD rose and said, it would be remembered by the Convention, that, about three weeks ago, several reports had been made from the committee on representation. No question had been taken on these reports. He moved, therefore, that they be made the special order of the day, for Tuesday next.

Mr. MERRICK, (chairman of the committee on representations,) said, he would be very glad to accommodate his friend from Talbot, [Mr. Lloyd] but his, [Mr. M.'s,] private business would ren-

der it indispensably necessary, that he should be absent next week. If the Convention preferred to proceed with the consideration of that question in his absence, he must acquiesce. But as he had had charge of the subject, and as it was one in which he had taken much interest, he would be glad to be present when it was acted upon.

Mr. LLOYD expressed his desire to meet the views of the gentleman from Charles, [Mr. Merrick.] His, [Mr. L.'s,] only object was, that an early day should be fixed for the consideration of the question.

Mr. MERRICK suggested Monday week. By that time, he said, he should be in his place.

Mr. BOWIE, (to the Chair.) Will this question, if it should be made the special order, supersede the consideration of the report of the committee on the executive department of the government?

The PRESIDENT said, that would depend on the order of business on the calendar.

Having referred to the calendar, the President stated that the report of the committee on the executive department, had been made the special order of the day, for the second Tuesday in January, and its consideration had from time to time been postponed, by the general consent of the Convention. In the judgment of the Chair, therefore, the report on the executive department, would, as the next special order, have precedence over other business.

Mr. MERRICK thought it necessary and proper, that some day not too near, should be fixed upon for the consideration of this question, in order that all the members of the Convention might be notified to attend. It was important that any decision which might be made, should be the deliberate judgment of a majority of the Convention. He hoped, therefore, that the Convention would give notice of the day on which the question would be taken up, and that that day would be adhered to.

The PRESIDENT stated that the motion of the gentleman from Talbot, (Mr. Lloyd,) being simply a motion relating to the priority of business, was not debateable.

Mr. BOWIE said, he had supposed it was the intention of the Convention, deliberately expressed, to take up the report of the executive committee, immediately after the report of the Legislative committee should have been disposed of. His friend from Queen Anne, (Mr. Grason,) chairman of the committee on the executive department, was ready to proceed with the consideration of that report. We did not know how long it might occupy—perhaps four or five days. He would suggest to the gentleman from Talbot, (Mr. Lloyd,) to wait until that report should have been disposed of.

Mr. LLOYD, expressing his desire to accommodate gentlemen, withdrew his first motion, and substituted for it a motion to make the report of the committee on representation, the special order of the day for Monday week.