

all required to attend. He believed they were all deserving men, and he had no doubt would do whatever duties were required of them or assigned to them.

Mr. BROWN explained that on looking back to the platform, he found that the gentleman from Baltimore voted for these clerks, and he, (Mr. Brown,) against them. The gentleman from Baltimore says, we are wasting time. He agreed with him that we are wasting time, but he thought these unnecessary clerks ought to be cut off.

Mr. BUCHANAN moved the previous question, and the motion being seconded,

Mr. BUCHANAN asked for the ayes and noes on the motion to reconsider, and they were ordered.

The question was then taken, and decided as follows:

*Affirmative.*—Messrs. Blakistone, President *pro tem.*, Dent, Hopewell, Wells, Dalrymple, Jenifer, Dickinson, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Eccleston, Phelps, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, Bowling, Dirickson, McMaster, Gwinn, Brent of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Presstman, Ware, Davis, Kilgour and Waters—33.

*Negative.*—Messrs. Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Donaldson, Dorsey, Sellman, Buchanan, Welch, Ridgely, Sherwood, of Talbot, Grason, Wright, Fooks, Shriver, Biser, McHenry, Nelson, Carter, Schley, Fiery, Neill, John Newcomer, Harbine, Brewer, Weber, Slicer, Smith, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown—30.

So the Convention refused to reconsider.

Mr. BISER present a petition signed by 392 citizens of Frederick county, praying for a new county to include all the districts of Middletown Valley, in Frederick county, and such parts of Washington county, as lie contiguous to said districts, and their counter petition for a new county to be composed of Jefferson, Petersville, Middletown and Cacoctin districts of Frederick county, and Pleasant Valley, part of Boonsboro' and Sharpsburg in Washington county.

Which was read, and

Referred to the select committee on new counties.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY.

On motion of Mr. GRASON the Convention resumed the consideration of the order of the day, being the Report on the Executive Department.

The 23d section having been read,

Mr. GRASON moved to amend said section by striking out in the 2nd and 3rd lines of said sections, these words "and shall lay the same before either branch of the Legislature whenever required."

Mr. G. confessed that in inserting the words which he now moved to strike out, he committed the error of borrowing from some of the modern Constitutions. He had generally been very cautious how he borrow from any of them, but he unfortunately did so on this occasion. He had now submitted the motion to strike out the words

because the Secretary of State was not the proper officer to answer the demands of the Legislature.

On reflection, he was opposed to making the Secretary of State the medium of communication between the Governor and the Legislature.

Some conversation here took place between Messrs. CHAMBERS and GRASON on the subject of the duties which the Secretary of State is required to perform by the act of Assembly, and those, the performance of which custom has imposed on him.

Mr. BOWIE asked if there was any provision making it the duty of the Governor to allow the records to be open to the inspection of persons.

Mr. GRASON replied in the negative.

Mr. BOWIE thought it necessary that the records of the Executive department should be open to general inspection. But his friend from Queen Anne's seemed to think that copies of the records ought to be furnished without cost. He [Mr. B.] thought it the duty of the Secretary of State to furnish the General Assembly with copies whenever they might be called for, but in reference to private applications, a compliance could only be considered as a matter of courtesy. He did not know that it was the duty of the keeper of the records to supply the Legislature with copies of the records, unless there was an official call for them. He would suggest the propriety of amending the section by inserting the words "and shall be laid before each branch of the Legislature when required." He was against striking out that part of the section, and hoped the Convention would not agree to the motion of the gentleman from Queen Anne's.

The question was then put on the motion of Mr. GRASON, but a quorum did not vote.

Mr. GRASON objected to the amendment of the gentleman from Prince George's, because its meaning was doubtful and obscure. The gentleman from Prince George's seemed to suppose that unless the Governors were required by the Constitution to submit the executive records to the inspection of the Legislature, he might refuse to communicate information respecting his official acts and proceedings. It was true that the President sometimes declined complying with the calls of Congress, on the ground that a communication of the intelligence required, was inconsistent with the public interest. But the executive proceedings of Maryland were always open to the inspection to either branch of the Legislature, and to every member who desired information. But he had no objection to the amendment, if properly modified.

After a few words from Messrs. BOWIE, CHAMBERS and GRASON, in explanation,

Mr. DORSEY suggested an amendment by striking out the word "and" in line 2, and inserting in lieu thereof, the words "the Governor."

Mr. GRASON withdrew his amendment.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. McLANE, and it was agreed to.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the section as amended, and,

It was adopted.