

standing committees constitute a committee of revision, to whom shall be referred all articles of the constitution after they shall have been passed upon by the Convention, to be examined and printed for the use of the Convention prior to their final adoption.

Mr. PHELPS said, he hoped the proposition of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Tuck) would not prevail, but that a select committee of revision would be appointed by the President. It was needless for him to say that no member of this body appreciated more highly than himself the ability and qualifications of the distinguished gentlemen who were at the head of the standing committees of this House; but to constitute those gentlemen the committee of revision upon the constitution would, in his estimation, be doing injustice to other portions of the State. A very cursory glance at the organizations of the committees of this House will show, that perhaps one-half the chairmen of committees are selected from the first Congressional district, whilst the sixth Congressional district, from whence he came, with the contiguous county of Caroline besides, was passed over totally unnoticed.

Mr. P. said that it might be urged by some that this apparent neglect was because the people of that section of the State refused to send gentlemen to represent them here, qualified to discharge the high and responsible duties which attach to such positions. If this should be said, he would remark we have a gentleman on this floor from that district, whose position in Maryland was such as to induce one of the great parties of the State, but a few years since, to run him for the chief magistracy of this Commonwealth. There is one other gentleman here, Mr. President, of sufficient distinction, as to induce, but a short time since, his selection to preside over the Senate of Maryland; and yet two others, from this same neglected sixth Congressional district, who have done good service in the Congress of the United States. In conclusion, he would remark, that should a select committee be raised, as now proposed, he deemed it almost needless to say that he could not serve upon such committee. After feeling himself called upon to say what he had said, in vindication of his section of country, delicacy, if no higher considerations, would prevent his doing so.

Mr. DORSEY rose, he said, for information. He desired to be informed by the Chair, whether the committee on Howard county was to be considered as one of the standing committees? If so, he desired to be excused from further service, or to resign in favor of his friend from Dorchester, (Mr. Phelps.)

Mr. HOWARD, (to the Chair.) Will the Chair be so good as to state how many standing committees there are. It seems to me that a committee so constituted will be altogether too numerous a body.

The PRESIDENT said that the Chair did not recollect, on the moment, the number of the standing committees.

Mr. BUCHANAN said there were, he believed, some fourteen or fifteen.

Mr. HOWARD. Does the order mean that all the chairmen must come together and constitute one committee, or that each chairman of the revisory committee is to have charge of the article reported by that committee? In the latter case, the rule was, he thought, a good one. But if they were all to meet together, and could not act except when a quorum was present, it was a bad rule.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, said he presumed that the intention of the order was merely that the chairmen of the several standing committees should, in the first instance, constitute the committee; and they would, of course, subdivide.

Mr. HOWARD. Then I have no objection to it.

Mr. THOMAS said, it was not his desire, in any event, to be placed upon the committee, as his engagements would not admit of his being so. But he would take the liberty to suggest to the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) that great inconvenience would result from the adoption of such a rule.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, interposed, and suggested that the proposition was not his, but that it had been introduced by the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Tuck.)

Mr. THOMAS moved to amend the said order, by striking out the words "chairmen of the several standing committees," and inserting in lieu thereof, "President appoint a committee of five to."

Mr. T. said that the constitution ought to be one entire proposition, and ought to be all put together at one and the same time; and a committee of three was much better calculated, in his opinion, to answer the object, than a committee of fourteen or fifteen.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, said he had not the slightest knowledge of the existence of the order until it had this morning been read in his hearing. The gentleman who had moved it (Mr. Tuck) was not now in his seat. In the absence of that gentleman, he (Mr. C.) would say, as a mere matter of suggestion, that he thought that if the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Thomas) would review his opinion, he would see that there were some difficulties in his *projet* which did not attach to that of the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Tuck.) It was impossible for any three gentlemen who participated in the labors of this body, and who at the same time had duties to attend to in their rooms, to discharge the duties of a committee of revision composed of three members only. It would be unreasonable to expect them to do so. For his own part, he would refuse to take any part in the duties of such a committee.

Now, here were some fourteen or fifteen chairmen of committees. Let it be understood among themselves that there should be a general distribution of the work that was to be done—and then each sub-division of the committee had performed its particular duty, let the whole committee come together and see how the aggregate work would consort. His own personal con-