

absent for some eight or ten days. For these reasons it would not be possible for him to serve on any committee that might be appointed.

Mr. SPRIGG, (to the Chair.) Is it in order to move that the further consideration of this question be postponed until the gentleman who had introduced it should be in his seat?

The PRESIDENT said such a motion would be in order.

Mr. SPRIGG then moved that the further consideration of the order be postponed for the present.

The question was taken, and the consideration of the order was postponed.

Mr. TUCK, at this stage of the proceedings, entered the Hall.

On motion of Mr. TUCK, the Convention resumed the consideration of the said order.

Mr. TUCK said, we have passed upon several articles of the Constitution, nearly all of which are in an unfinished state. Our labors should now be drawing to a close, and we should finish as we progress. The order provides that when the Convention disposes of an article, it shall go to a committee to be revised and arranged in order with the others, and printed for the final action of the body. There are fourteen committees. It is presumed that the chairmen who have made reports, have attended to the progress of discussion and proceedings on these several subjects, and are, therefore, better prepared than others to serve on this committee. He was aware that the size of the committee would be an objection; but he thought the weight of argument was against this objection. Some of the most prominent and distinguished of the Convention would be on the committee. He might refer to the chairmen of the committees on the Bill of Rights, the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments, the Treasury, the Representative, the Elective Franchise and others.

Any arrangement of the parts of the Constitution that these gentlemen might make, he presumed would be concurred in by the Convention. At any rate, eight would be a quorum, and we should calculate, at this late day of the session, on the attendance of that number on so important a duty.

Mr. GRASON said that the gentleman from Prince George's was always so careful in preparing every proposition which he submitted, that he felt some reluctance in opposing his views. But he was really of the opinion that three members would perform the work much more effectually and expeditiously than by having a committee composed of so many members. He believed that it would be better to select the committee from members who had not prepared the articles to be submitted for revision. The chairman of each committee would adhere to the style and arrangement of his own report, and would reluctantly yield opinions to the suggestions of others.

Mr. TUCK suggested to the gentleman from Frederick, that if the committee he had proposed was too large, three would be too small. The three members, of which the gentleman had

proposed to compose the committee, according to the gentleman's argument, would be required to be there all the time; but they might desire to go away, and then there would be no one then to attend to their duty. Mr. Tuck would suggest five, if fourteen be deemed too many.

Mr. THOMAS expressed a regret at having made his proposition, for he thought it would go through without discussion. He took it for granted, that the President could ascertain what five members would be here until the end of the session, and place these five qualified and respectable gentlemen on the committee. He would modify his motion by making the number of the committee five.

Mr. GRASON suggested that the President be allowed till to-morrow to consider who would be the proper persons to compose the committee. He hoped, at the same time, that he would not think of appointing him as one of the committee. He had been very unwell, and would be obliged to pair off soon.

Mr. BUCHANAN said that it seemed to him very important that the President of the Convention should be one of the members of the committee. They would find that they would have constant occasion to refer to his journal, as also to the journal of the clerks; and without this aid, they would not be able to get along satisfactorily.

The President begged leave to say that he certainly would be very willing to discharge any duty which the Convention might think proper to impose upon him. Without being named for that service, he would with pleasure attend the meetings of the committee at any time, and give such aid as would be in his power.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. THOMAS, that the committee consist of five members, and it was agreed to.

The order, as amended, was then agreed to.

DIVISION OF ALLEGANY COUNTY.

Mr. SMITH moved to take up the report of the Special Committee on New Counties, in relation to Allegany county; which motion was agreed to.

The Convention accordingly proceeded to the consideration of the said report, which was read as follows:

When that part of Allegany county, lying south and west of a line beginning at the summit of Big Back Bone or Savage mountain, where that mountain is crossed by Mason and Dixon's line, and running thence by a straight line to the middle of Savage river, where it empties into the Potomac river; thence by a straight line to the nearest point or boundary of the State of Virginia; then with said boundary to the Fairfax stone, shall contain a population of ten thousand, and the majority of electors thereof shall desire to separate and form a new county, and make known their desire by petition to the Legislature, the Legislature shall direct at the next succeeding election, that the Judges shall open a book at each election district in said part of Allegany county, and have recorded therein the vote of each elector "For or Against" a new county; in case the majority are in favor, then said part of Allegany county to be declared an independent