way. They not only had the right to prescribe who should vote, but he distinctly affirmed they had exercised that right in the most emphatic terms. They had done so by reference to the qualifications required by the laws of this State for voters of members of the House of delegates. Why can the same persons, who vote for delegates, vote for members of Congress? For the sole reason that the Constitution of the United States has so declared, when the State authority defines the qualification of a voter for the House of Delegates, forthwith the article in the Constitution of the United States takes up the definition, and by reference to its terms, adopts it as completely as if it repeated those terms without a reference to the definition given by the State. The State most certainly defines the qualification, but it does so, exactly because the United States delegates to the State the authority to do it. This delegated authority gives ample power to the State, and having no limitation, we assuredly cannot violate it by acting in exact pursuance to it. What, he asked, has South Carolina or her proceedings to do with the matter? We are not proposing secession—nor are we opposing, resisting, or even complaining of any enactment of the United States, in the Constitution or in the laws of Congress. We were on the contrary, exercising a power in acknowledged obedience to its authority. The great leading distinction, he would repeat is this, that while the Constitution of the United States has in the broadest terms, delegated to the States, the authority to define the qualification of those who are to vote, it has no where given any authority to prescribe qualifications to those who were to be voted for. This was reserved to itself and the States could not add to or take from such qualifications.

He had before had occasion to advert to this doctrine, and desired to be perfectly understood in regard to it. He insisted, that prescribing the age of a voter, was defining a qualification; prescribing a residence of six months in a particular portion of the State was a qualification. If this theory is to be adopted, that the State has no delegated power to define *in every respect*, the qualification of a voter, let us not exercise it in any respect. Blot out, you must, every restriction; consistency will necessarily require you to dispense with age, residence, and every thing else. He repeated, therefore, that there was no ground for exception to the plan proposed, and he deemed it essential to secure, what he had heard so much talked of, "equality of rights."

Mr. Brown wanted to present a practical view of this question. The Constitution said "every free white male citizen, who had resided in this State twelve months, and in a county six months preceding an election, should have a right to vote for delegates." That was what nobody would controvert. The constitution of the United States gave every man, who was entitled to a vote, a right to vote for delegates to the general Assembly, as well as for members of Congress. No man could deny that. Well, in laying off Congressional districts, you run through Carroll county, and also his farm, and thus; that county was made a portion of two Congressional districts. Then, he (Mr. B.) moved on to another farm on the other side of the line, and no sooner had he done that, than up sprung the gentleman's plan, which compelled him to live there within the district line, a certain period of time, or he could not vote.—Now, he (Mr. Brown,) had never gone out of his county, where he possessed all the requisite qualifications to vote for members of the House of Delegates. But, then, in came the gentleman with a constitutional provision, which was to deprive him of that right, which was guarantied to him by the Constitution of the United States. He could not comprehend how it was that the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) could not see the distinction between the two cases. He (Mr. B.) was opposed to the adoption of any such unjust proposition.

Mr. Spencer moved to amend the section by striking out in the 10th line these words, "senator, delegate, or other officer or officers."

Mr. Phelps moved the previous question, and being seconded,

On motion of Mr. Spencer,

The convention was called and the doorkeeper sent for the absent members.

On motion of Mr. Spencer,

The convention resolved to proceed with the ordinary business of the session during the absence of the doorkeeper.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

On motion of Mr. Spencer,

The convention took up for consideration the report submitted by him from the committee on printing, on the 10th instant.

Mr. Spencer with the consent of the convention withdrew the report and substituted in lieu of it, the following:

Whereas, there will necessarily be sundry accounts against this convention, growing out of the printing and binding of the Register of Debates, and the Journal of the Convention, and the printing and circulating of the constitution and for other matters.

And whereas, it would be attended with great expense for this convention to remain in session until these matters are closed,

Resolved, That the committee on printing be discharged; that Messrs. Randall, Ware and Magraw, be appointed on the printing committee, with all the powers of the present committee, and of the powers vested in the committee on accounts, and which powers shall continue in full force after the adjournment of this convention, and as long as they find it necessary, and that Samuel Peacock, one of the committee clerks of this body, be continued as said clerk, as long as it may be required for the public service, in the opinion of the said committee, and that the President be authorised to draw on the treasury on the certificates of the said committee as of the 12th of May, 1851, such sums as may become