

with whose concurrence this course of proceeding had been adopted. Mr. T. thought there should be more patience than was exhibited—and in suggesting the course he had proposed in the afternoon, he was only yielding to what seemed to be the fixed purpose of a majority not to adjourn over to another day.

Mr. CHAMBERS of Kent, desired to know if there ever was an engrossed bill before the bill was engrossed? Was there ever a report made from an engrossing committee, (which reports, as the gentleman had said, were never read,) when there was no engrossment? There was a part of the constitution which he knew had not been engrossed. The chairman, not knowing that this amendment had been adopted, had said that this was an engrossed and perfect copy of the constitution, and the gentleman from Baltimore county had introduced an order that the President should sign it, and a committee of two deposit it in the court of appeals.

Mr. HOWARD would be pleased to know what the gentleman proposed to do? He did not like this order, and what course he wished to take he had not indicated. He, (Mr. H.,) would say that perhaps he was misled in supposing that this was a perfect copy, and if he was, it was from an innocent mistake. What was the committee he proposed to raise to do? They were to deposit the engrossed copy. Now the gentleman had said that this committee would receive whatever the clerk chose to give them, without knowing whether it was an engrossed copy or not, and then deposit it in the Court of Appeals. Was not this stultifying the committee?

Mr. CHAMBERS said, that he stated that the paper which the committee had presented as an engrossed copy he had never seen; that paper this House had never seen, and that paper was now admitted not to be a copy of the Constitution, and they had not given any committee the authority to compare the copy which it was now said must be made, to ascertain whether it was a true copy.

Mr. HOWARD desired to have the Constitution engrossed, and this committee he proposed were to see that it was a correct engrossed copy.

Mr. CHAMBERS asked the gentleman to refer to the order, and see whether that was a part of the duty of the committee.

Mr. HOWARD contended that it would be the duty of the Committee to see whether the copy they deposited, was an engrossed copy of the Constitution. If a committee were appointed to deposit a twenty dollar note, it was their duty to see that they deposited a note of that value. After the President had signed it, the committee were bound to see that it was an engrossed copy, which they deposited. This committee would be nothing more than equivalent to the committee on enrolled bills in Congress. The bills reported from that committee were never read to either house after the committee had examined them. They were simply handed to the presiding officer, who signed them in the presence of the House. But there was no anal-

ogy between this case, and between that of the officer of the House of Representatives. The President of the Convention might sign it in his chamber.

He was desirous of adjourning to-night, for he did not think that they would have a quorum in the morning. For himself, he could certainly trust two gentlemen with the supervision of the engrossment.

Mr. CHAMBERS said:

The House must really permit him to state the facts precisely as they occurred. He did not mean to express the slightest censure on the committee. He was not present, nor had he ever heard one word of the consultation to which the chairman referred as to the proposed course of the committee, or that two gentlemen were to be designated to deposit a copy of the Constitution amongst the archives. It was all news to him until it was this moment announced on this floor. He must be permitted to say he had been continually on duty, first in the House, then in the committee room. He had been passing to and fro, charged with duty in one place and the other alternately, and when he left the committee room a short time since, it was by their direction to procure an article in the Constitution which had been overlooked. He would state what had occurred while he was present in the committee room. When it was suggested that it might be left to the engrossing clerk to make a fair copy of the Constitution after the Convention had adjourned, which copy could be signed by the President and filed in the office of the clerk of the Court of Appeals, he had declared in the most decided terms, that never while he had breath to oppose it, would he consent to have a Constitution for the State which would finally be the work of one of the committee clerks without the supervision of the Convention or any portion of it. It was then suggested that the House should be asked to continue the revising committee of seven for the next day, and confide to them the duty of collecting all the various detached parts of our work, and comparing every word and letter with the original. To this arrangement he had ultimately assented, and wrote a resolution to that effect, which his friend from Queen Anne's (Mr. Grason,) took charge of to place in the hands of the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard.) His friend soon after returned and reported that some difficulty was likely to be caused by it. For the minute accuracy of this statement he appealed to the members of the committee, and particularly his friend from Queen Anne's, who was perfectly acquainted with every particular he stated.

This was the condition of things, when and while engaged in revising one of the bills he discovered there was no mode provided to settle a contested election of judges. An article was hastily prepared, discussed, amended and unanimously adopted by the committee, and he was requested to come into the House and propose its adoption as an article of the Constitution. He had hurried off without waiting even to make a fair copy of the article, and on coming in found