

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Maryland Constitutional Convention,

CONVENED AT ANNAPOLIS,

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1864.

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At 12 o'clock, M., Mr. HEBB of Allegany county, moved that the Convention be temporarily organized by calling to the chair, Mr. STOCKBRIDGE of Baltimore city.

The motion was agreed to, and

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE took the chair.

Mr. SCHLEY moved that JOSEPH B. PUGH of Cecil county be appointed Secretary *pro tem*.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. STIRLING offered the following order:

"Ordered, That a Committee of five be appointed by the Chair to wait upon the Governor and inform him that the Convention to frame a new Constitution and form of government for the State of Maryland has assembled in the hall of the House of Delegates in accordance with the Act of Assembly and his proclamation of the 14th inst., and effected a temporary organization; and that said Convention desires to be informed by him, who are shown by the returns made to him to be duly elected to seats in said Convention, and have taken and subscribed before him the oath prescribed in the act calling said Convention."

Mr. CHAMBERS. I would suggest to the gentleman an amendment to his proposition, to avoid the necessity of having at a future time another similar resolution. Some gentlemen are absent, and of course they have not taken the oath mentioned. It will be necessary, therefore, whenever a gentleman arrives, to send again to inquire. I would suggest the propriety of asking the Governor for the names of the persons elected; which would save further trouble. Of course no gentleman would appear here without having taken the oath. That will be a matter of form essentially necessary for him to go through before

occupying a seat; for it would be in the power of any gentleman at once to disable him from taking any part in the Convention until he should take the oath.

Mr. STIRLING. Certainly it is necessary for us to know now who are qualified to act as members of the Convention. If any one presents himself hereafter, who is not now qualified to act, he can present the proper vouchers to the Convention, or we can send to the Governor for further information as to that particular case.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I only make the suggestion, I will not take up the time by moving an amendment.

The resolution was agreed to.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Stirling, Berry of Baltimore county, Clarke, Greene, and Purnell, as the Committee, who retired in the discharge of the duty assigned them, and subsequently returned and reported that the Governor would send a message to the Convention.

SELECTION OF SEATS.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I would ask permission to have another order passed to enable those who are members of the Convention to act. Seats seem to have been occupied, by some sort of process from a very early period after, and I heard that some were chosen even before the election; and there are now left only here and there a single chair. Every gentleman, I suppose, recognizes the propriety of having each delegation together. According to the present arrangement it is quite impracticable. The little county which I in part represent, having but three delegates, can find no place where we may sit together. I believe it is usual in all such bodies to have fair play, and give all a chance to have the best seats as well