

Mr. CHAMBERS stated that at the last Constitutional Convention in the State there had been several candidates, and that the person receiving the largest number was then declared President by a resolution.

Mr. BERRY of Prince George moved that the calling of the roll be suspended in order to permit the introduction of such a resolution.

Objection being offered, and unanimous consent being required, the calling of the roll was proceeded with.

All the members present voted for Henry H. Goldsborough, except the following, who were excused:

Messrs. Miller, Harwood, Bond, Turner, Parran, Dall, Smith of Dorchester county, Hodson, Chambers, Hollyday, Lee, Brown, Wilmer, Morgan, Jones of Somerset, Crawford, Dennis, Horsey, Clarke, Berry of Prince George's, Belt and Goldsborough.

The CHAIRMAN announced that Henry H. Goldsborough had received 58 votes, and was therefore duly elected President of the Convention.

Mr. DANIEL moved the appointment by the Chair of a committee of three members to wait upon the President elect, inform him of his election, and conduct him to the chair.

The motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN appointed Messrs. Daniel, Berry of Baltimore county, and Clarke.

The President of the Convention having been conducted to the chair, addressed the Convention as follows:

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION:—It is with much diffidence that I enter upon the execution of the duties of presiding officer of this body. I am well aware of the responsibilities belonging to such a position in ordinary times, greatly increased as they must be in a period like the present, when the passions of men are aroused by the exciting events of each day, demanding in the position I now occupy the exercise or more than the usual amount of forbearance and control. I need not remind you with what solicitude the people of this State are watching our proceedings. I am sure I do not speak with unauthorized hope when I venture the prediction that you will bring to the performance of your several duties a fidelity, attention and an enlarged patriotism, equal to the expectation of those who sent us here for the purpose of organizing anew the institutions under which we live. At any time this is an important duty; at the present, it cannot be performed without a zealous determination to do our whole duty irrespective of personal considerations.

I will not advert to the present condition of our State or National affairs. I deem it most prudent to leave these to the impartial judgment of each individual member. While seeking to exclude from our deliberations all partisan prejudices, I beseech you to devote yourselves sedulously to the work before you; and while in the performance of our duties

not to overlook that respect and esteem that is due from each one to the other. If I should be successful in the pursuit of such course, I am confident that I shall be sustained and animated by the exhibition of a similar spirit on your part. We must expect to differ in our views. Let us determine to present and advocate them on all occasions in a courteous manner, one becoming a dignified deliberative body. By respecting the opinions of each other we shall be the better prepared to submit with becoming grace to the will of the majority, that cardinal principle to be cherished by all alike if we sincerely desire the preservation and perpetuation of free institutions.

Thanking you for this manifestation of your kind regards, I now enter upon the discharge of my duties, with the assurance of your generous confidence, and an abiding hope that our labors may redound to the peace, happiness and prosperity of our State.

On motion,

The Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock M. to-morrow.

SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, April 28, 1864.

The Convention was called to order by the President.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Davenport.

The roll was called and 78 members answered to their names.

The credentials of Mr. BRISCOE of Calvert, Mr. MARBURY of Prince George's, Mr. GALT of Somerset, Mr. SMITH of Worcester, and of Mr. HENKLE of Anne Arundel, all of whom had taken the necessary oath before the Governor, were presented by their colleagues, and they took their seats in the Convention.

Subsequently, on motion of Mr. KENNARD, the Secretary was instructed to enter upon the journal that the absence of JOHN L. THOMAS, Jr., of Baltimore city, was occasioned by sickness.

The journal was read.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I rise more for personal explanation than for correction of the journal. A remark is ascribed to me which I could not have made. "If so unlikely a thing should occur as an election by the party to which I belong." There could hardly be anything said more foreign to the real condition of matters so far as I, or the gentlemen who sent me here, are concerned than this statement. I was absent when I was nominated to this Convention. When I returned I received a communication from two gentlemen, professing to be the Chairman and Secretary, who notified me that I had been nominated to the Convention by a meeting consisting entirely of persons opposed to a Convention, without any other qualification. I said in answer that I had not been a member of any one of the present existing political parties for years. I