

was a long time out of all political party organizations. I was on the bench for a number of years, acting in accordance with my own opinion. Since then I have not been and am not now connected with any party. I am not here as a party man. I do not mean to act as a party man. I do not think it proper to act as a party man. I think my language was that if so unlikely a thing should occur as that the body should adopt the nomination made by my friend, it would then be my duty to plead the infirmity of age. I want to disclaim the expression attributed to me, because my friends at home would be rather surprised to find that after disclaiming there for years all connection with party, I spoke on the very first day of the session, of the party to which I belonged. There is no party which claims me as a member. I bear allegiance to no political party. I will endeavor to serve the State. If a proposition comes from one side of the House, from any member, which seems to me conducive to the interests of this State, I will adopt it with just as much cordiality from the lips of a man on one side as from the lips of a man upon the other.

OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION.

On motion of Mr. CUSHING,
Ordered, That the following persons be declared appointed to the offices of this Convention for which they are respectively named: Secretary—W. R. Cole, of Baltimore city. Assistant Secretary—John H. Shaw, of Allegany county. Sergeant-at-Arms—A. D. Evans, of Baltimore city. Committee Clerks—Wm. R. McCulley, of Allegany county; Thomas Tipton, of Carroll county; George Johnson, of Cecil county; S. C. Gorrell, of Harford county. Doorkeepers—Moses Anders, of Frederick county; Charles Whittemore, of Baltimore county. Postmaster—A. J. Langsdorf, of Washington county. Assistant Postmaster—Wm. Denny, of Howard county. Folders—Collins Tatman, of Caroline county; Charles Collins, of Worcester county. *And further ordered*, That the President of this Convention appoint four (4) Pages, one Lamp-lighter, one Hall Keeper.

RULES OF ORDER.

Mr. KENNARD moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed by the President to prepare and report rules for the government of this Convention, and that in the meantime the rules of the last House of Delegates, so far as the same are applicable, be adopted.

Mr. CLARKE moved to amend by adding thereto:

"Except relating to the call of the previous question."

Mr. STIRLING. I do not exactly understand what my friend from Prince George's means by that amendment. Does he mean to say that the previous question may be called, but

not according to the mode prescribed by the rules of the House of Delegates?

Mr. CLARKE. No, sir; if the amendment should prevail there would be in this body no provision with reference to calling the previous question until the committee shall report rules for the government of the body.

Mr. STIRLING. If the effect should be merely to throw the Convention back upon the ordinary parliamentary rule in relation to the previous question, I see no objection to the amendment. But if the effect were to be to take away from the Convention the right to call the previous question, I should object to it, and it might have that effect.

Mr. BRISCOR. I would suggest that the rules adopted by the last Convention be the rules of this body until the report of the Committee shall be made. The proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Kennard) designates the rules of the last House of Delegates. I propose that we adopt the rules of the last Constitutional Convention, in 1850; which were adopted, I believe, after considerable deliberation. I do not press it, but if it meets with the concurrence of the gentleman it seems to me that it will remove the difficulty and cover the suggestion made by my friend from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke.)

Mr. SANDS. I find by reference to the proceedings of the last Convention that the last proposition is substantially that of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Prince George's. On page 28 of the proceedings I find the following:

"*Resolved*, That a Committee of seven members be appointed by the President to prepare and report rules for the government of the Convention, and that, in the meantime, the rules of the House of Delegates, so far as the same are applicable, except the rule for the previous question, and that two-thirds should be required to alter any rule, be adopted."

The two are identical with the exception of the last clause that two-thirds should be required to alter any rule.

Mr. BRISCOR. I recollect that so far as the modification proposed by the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) is concerned, it is identical with the proposition I suggested. The difference was with reference to the two-thirds vote; mine covered the whole. I merely proposed it. I do not intend to press it at all.

Mr. STIRLING. I should like to be informed what will be the effect of this amendment. If it leaves us the previous question subject to the ordinary parliamentary rule, whatever that may be, I should not object; but if the Convention is not to have the power to call the previous question, I cannot vote for the amendment.

Mr. CLARKE. I will modify the amendment to meet the case. I do not presume this body desires entirely to deprive itself of the ordinary rule in relation to the subject. I move the