

amendment in this form:—"except the rule of the House of Delegates relating to the call of the previous question."

Mr. STIRLING. I see no objection to that.

Mr. CLARKE. That leaves the previous question subject to the ordinary rules of legislative bodies. If we have no previous question under the ordinary rules of legislative bodies, I desire that this Convention should stand in that position until we get a report from the committee.

Mr. DANIEL. I believe that there is no other previous question provided for by parliamentary law, except in the manner provided for by the rules of the House of Delegates. I do not think this Convention ought to deprive itself of that power. It may be a necessary power. I trust that each member of this Convention will extend a due courtesy to the other members. But we do not know when this committee will report, and I do not think it is proper for the Convention to deprive itself of the power of calling the previous question.

Mr. KENNARD. As the mover of the resolution, I think it proper to say that it was after deliberation that I came to the conclusion to omit the two classes of rules referred to, as having been excepted by the last Convention. We do not know how long the report of the committee may be delayed, and I should prefer that the resolution should be adopted as originally offered by me.

Mr. SCHLEY. I confess I do not understand why any one of the rules of the House of Delegates should be proposed to be excepted particularly at this time. I am free to confess that I do not know what is the rule of the House of Delegates relative to the previous question without reference. I do not know, and desire to be instructed, what is this rule that it is proposed to except from the ordinary rules of the House of Delegates, that may be applicable to the deliberations of this Convention. I shall oppose the amendment until better informed, and until I can see some reason for the exception. As the other proposition, relative to the two-thirds rule, has been withdrawn, it is unnecessary for me to refer to that.

Mr. HARR. I am opposed to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Prince George's, for the reason that it will deprive the Convention of the privilege of calling the previous question when the rules come up for consideration. It may be necessary then to go into a long discussion upon the rules, and it may become necessary to call the previous question upon their adoption. I am opposed therefore to the amendment, and in favor of the original motion.

Mr. BARRON. If we are to take the rules of the House of Delegates we would better take them all, or none.

Mr. SANDS. While I shall oppose the amendment of the gentleman from Prince George's, I for one shall not make any use of

the previous question for the purpose of choking off fair debate on any proposition that may arise in this body. I make this remark now, sir, that we may have an understanding if the start. There are very grave questions which must come before us. I want to hear all that can be said upon them. I do not fear, so far as I am concerned, debate, or a fair hearing upon any question which shall come before us. We are here, in our humble degree, to form public sentiment in consonance with the organic law which we propose to form for the State. Truth can do no harm. Light can shut out no principles from any one. I am for a full discussion, a free hearing, and a fair settlement of all questions which can come before this body. I make these remarks to assure gentlemen who may perhaps entertain views differing from mine, that while my own views, at least to my own satisfaction, are matured, I want to hear the views of all gentlemen. I am not afraid that whatever is said here, for or against, should go these remarks to notify gentlemen who may to our great jury—the people. I merely make entertained views differing from mine that while I shall vote against this amendment, it is not for the purpose of cutting off fair debate.

Mr. CLARKE. The reason for offering the amendment to the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Kennard) is this: The rule of the House of Delegates, is the 23d rule, to be found on page 7, and is thus:

"The previous question shall be in this form, 'Shall the main question be now put?' It may be called for on any question except on an amendment or other matter which cannot in its nature be postponed; and when demanded by a majority of the members present, it shall, until it is decided, preclude all further amendment and debate on the main question."

On referring to the Journal of the Proceedings of the last Constitutional Convention, I find that in adopting these rules, the Convention at the outset provided in the adoption of that order, that the rules of the House of Delegates should not apply, so far as calling the previous question was concerned. I accept the remarks of the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands) as no doubt bearing the true interpretation of the sense of this body that there is no desire on its part to cut off true and proper and legitimate debate. But certainly, having seen that this is the rule which was adopted by the last Convention, and knowing further that it may be some time before we may get a report from this committee, it being possible that even during the whole session of this Convention these may be the rules by which we shall be governed, and that we may be able to agree upon no rules of order, knowing also that important questions may be before this body prior to the adoption of rules of order by this Convention