

been consulted with in regard to this order, and I think all of them have agreed to it.

Mr. THOMAS. I think the committee on printing should consider this matter. I therefore move that this order be referred to the committee on printing.

Mr. STIRLING. What has the committee on printing and reporting got to do with the printing of the certified copies of the constitution after the convention adjourns? They are to have charge of the current printing of this convention. They have nothing to do with a proposition of this sort. Whether it be expedient or inexpedient is a matter for the convention to determine.

Mr. SCHLEY. I understand the proposition is to have the constitution printed and bound in the style of the edition printed by Murphy & Co. in 1855. I am very sure if the party, who it is proposed shall furnish these books, shall get them up in that style for two dollars a copy his margin of profit will be exceedingly small. I think it is a very economical plan for such an edition, and I shall support the proposition.

The question was then taken upon the motion to refer the order to the committee on reporting and printing; and, upon a division—ayes 29, noes 22—the motion was agreed to.

ENGROSSED COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. STIRLING. I move to reconsider the order adopted on Wednesday last, on motion of my friend from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely,) providing for four manuscript copies of the constitution as finally passed upon by this convention. I voted for that order, but upon reflection since then I am apprehensive that if it is carried out we will get ourselves into difficulty. In the first place it will take more time than we can afford. And then there may be some difficulty in having four originals. They may not all be exactly alike, and if they are not there is no authority to decide which original shall control. I think it much safer to have but one original of the constitution. The order as passed reads as follows:

Ordered, That four copies of the constitution when finally adopted by the convention, be copied on parchment or detached sheets of bill paper, that the same be subscribed by the president and members of the convention, attested by the secretary, and that one copy thereof be deposited with the executive, one copy with the clerk of the court of appeals, one copy with the comptroller, and one copy with the librarian.

The question was then taken upon the motion to reconsider, and it was agreed to.

The question then recurred upon adopting the order.

Mr. STIRLING. I offer the following as a substitute for the order:

Ordered, That the constitution when

finally adopted by the convention, be written on parchment or detached sheets of bill paper, that the same be subscribed by the president and attested by the secretary of the convention, and be deposited with the clerk of the court of appeals."

I think there may be some question as to what the subscription by the members, as mentioned in the original order, may mean; whether it means that all who choose may sign it, or the majority of the members, or all the members. And it may be contended that the proper subscription is necessary to the legal efficacy of the paper. There may be some questions raised about it which I think better not be encountered.

Mr. RIDGELY. I do not know what is the object of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Stirling.) I will only state that my purpose in offering the original was that one copy of course should be the original, and as the original should be deposited with the clerk of the court of appeals, who, I suppose, would be the proper depository. The other copies would be considered as duplicates, and would be deposited in the other offices named, with a view of preserving an authenticated copy of the constitution in the contingency of the original being lost or destroyed. That was the sole purpose I had in view; it was from abundance of caution to have duplicates of the original preserved. I do not know the object my friend has in view in the change he proposes.

Mr. STIRLING. The gentleman was out when I made my former statement. He interprets the order as I suppose he meant it to be interpreted. But it provides that there shall be four "copies." Copies of what? As I understand the meaning of the order, it is that there shall be one original and three copies, and so the gentleman explains it. That relieves it from some of the objections which I urged against it a few moments since. "Three copies and one original" is very different from "four copies." I think there need be only the one original.

Mr. RIDGELY. I do not object to that.

The question being then taken upon the substitute offered by Mr. STIRLING, it was adopted.

JOURNAL OF DEBATES.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I submit the following:

Ordered, That the revising clerk be requested to have appended to the report of debates a copy of the official vote upon the question of calling this convention, and also of the vote upon the question of the ratification of the constitution which we shall submit to the people.

Any gentleman who will look at the journal of the last convention will find in a little appendix at the close, the vote by counties for and against that convention. But it has not the vote upon the adoption of the