

Rules of the House of Delegates,

DECEMBER SESSION, 1861.

THE DUTIES OF THE SPEAKER.

I.

THE Speaker shall take the Chair every day precisely at the hour to which the House stands adjourned; shall immediately call the Members to order, and after Divine Service has been performed, on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the Journal of the preceding day to be read.

II.

He shall preserve decorum and order; may speak to points of order in preference to other members; shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the House by any two members; and his decision of any question shall be final, unless the yeas and nays be required; and he may vote on every question, except on an appeal from the decision of the Chair on a question of order.

III.

The Speaker shall examine and correct the Journal before it is read; he shall have a general direction of the Hall; he shall have a right to name, from time to time, any member to perform the duties of the Chair, but such substitution shall not extend beyond a term of seven days; he shall appoint all Conferees and Committees, unless otherwise directed by the House; and may admit Stenographers, willing to take down debates, and assign them such places on the floor, or elsewhere, to effect their object, as shall not interfere with the business or convenience of the House.

IV.

In case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct in the gal-