

said report of the said committee and the amendments agreed to and pending in said committee, to the Convention for its action.

The order having been read,

Mr. GWINN called the previous question.

Mr. CRISFIELD. I ask the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. GWINN) to withdraw the call for the previous question for a moment. I desire to suggest to him, that it would be better so to modify the order as to allow five minutes to the mover of a proposition, and no further debate. I approve the object of the order, but should be better satisfied with it, if such a modification was made.

Mr. GWINN. The gentleman will perceive that the resolution does not operate upon a subject when it comes into Convention. There a gentleman can occupy as much time as he chooses.

Mr. CRISFIELD was proceeding to reply, when

The PRESIDENT interposed and said, that all debate was precluded by the demand for the previous question.

Mr. McLANE desired to be informed, whether gentlemen would be at liberty to offer in Convention, any amendments which had not been offered in committee of the whole.

The PRESIDENT stated his impression to be that, according to all practice under the parliamentary law, no proposition could be offered in Convention, which had not been offered in committee of the whole.

A desultory debate followed, covering a great deal of ground, and making the general application of the parliamentary law and rules of order in the House of Representatives of the U. S. and in the House of Delegates.

Mr. BISER intimated his opinion that the usage in the House of Delegates, had not been in conformity with the intimation made by the Chair; and submitted that, under such a construction, members would be prohibited from offering in Convention amendments which, had they anticipated any such course of proceeding, they would have offered in Committee.

Some conversation followed on the part of Messrs. SPENCER, BUCHANAN, BISER, JENIFER and DORSEY and the PRESIDENT.

Mr. DAVIS moved to lay on the table the motion for the previous question.

This motion was at first entertained by the PRESIDENT, but was subsequently declared out of order.

After some further conversation, the question was taken on the demand for the previous question, and there was not a second.

So the question recurred on the adoption of the order.

Mr. PHELPS moved that it be laid on the table.

Mr. GWINN called the yeas and nays.

Mr. PHELPS withdrew his motion, in order, he said, that the question might be taken on the order itself.

Mr. GWINN. I ask the yeas and nays on the adoption of the order.

Mr. CRISFIELD moved to amend the resolution by striking out so much as directed the Chairman to report the bill, with the pending amendments, to the Convention, and to insert in

lieu thereof, a provision "that the Convention proceed to take a vote on the amendments pending, and on such as may be offered, and that the mover have the right of explanation."

Mr. McHENRY alluded to a proposition which he had offered on a former day, having, he said, precisely the same object in view, but which had not yet been acted on.

Mr. CRISFIELD said if the gentleman meant his proposition as a substitute, it would meet his, (Mr. C.'s) views.

Mr. McHENRY then offered the following substitute for the resolution of Mr. GWINN:

"Ordered, That the debate on the articles of the Constitution, reported by the committee on the elective franchise, shall terminate in committee of the whole on this day, at 2 o'clock, P. M., when each amendment pending, or which may be offered shall be passed upon, without any further discussion than explanatory remarks not extending beyond five minutes by the several proposers of such amendments."

Mr. PHELPS moved to substitute fifteen minutes for five, but withdrew the amendment.

Mr. RICAUD moved to amend by designating one o'clock of this day, as the hour at which the vote should be taken.

A long discussion followed upon the question of order, the construction of the parliamentary law, and the effect of that law upon the business of the Convention if the interpretation intimated by the President was correct.

Mr. BUCHANAN suggested either that that interpretation must be over-ruled, or that the Convention must retrace the step it had taken the other day, in prohibiting the taking of the yeas and nays in committee. Otherwise, nothing would be known to their Constituents.

Mr. McLANE, after giving his view of the construction of the parliamentary law, expressed the opinion that it would be best, as the report of the committee on the elective franchise had been discussed in Committee, to let it run its career there; but intimated that hereafter he should be opposed to sending any subject to the Committee.

The point of order was further discussed by Messrs. JENIFER, BUCHANAN, McLANE and BISER,

When the PRESIDENT announced that the hour assigned for the order of the day had arrived.

On motion of Mr. TUCK,

The consideration of the order of the day was postponed, that the Convention might proceed with the consideration of the pending question.

Mr. SOLLERS cited a rule of the House of Representatives of the United States, to show that the practice in that body was not in conformity with the opinion given by the President.

Mr. TUCK followed in a brief exposition of his view of the Parliamentary law.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. DORSEY, BLAKISTONE, by the PRESIDENT, (in explanation,) Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, SPENCER, THOMAS, CHAMBERS and BROWN.

The PRESIDENT intimated that the whole difficulty might be avoided by the adoption of a new