

venience would be consulted by the refusal of the Convention to adopt such a resolution—but, in the absence of the gentleman who offered it, he had thought it right to say a few words in explanation.

Mr. RANDALL said, that the gentleman from Frederick now in his seat, (Mr. Johnson,) had some time since introduced an order having for its object the appointment of a Committee of Revision. Being near the gentleman at the time, he (Mr. R.) had suggested to him this plan, which he (Mr. R.) supposed would be the best. The matter was laid over, and he supposed it was from the conversation which then took place, so near to the seat of the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Tuck,) that this proposition had now been made. The idea then entertained by gentlemen within range of the conversation was, that the various chairmen having had the custody of the various measures, knew more as to the motives which induced the committees to come to the conclusions they had adopted, than any other gentlemen.

Again, it was thought important that the various branches of the government should be so organized that there should be no inconsistency in their various branches. The object was to dovetail (if he might be allowed the expression) all these various parts of the constitution, so as to prevent inconsistencies and incongruities.

Then again, it seemed to many gentlemen who were inquiring into the matter at the time referred to, that the phraseology of the different branches of the constitution should accord. Mr. R. gave a case in illustration.

There could be no danger to be apprehended from the appointment of such a committee, because the committee was merely to *recommend* matters to the Convention for its final adoption or rejection, so that no important change could be made without the sanction of the Convention itself.

He was satisfied that these were the motives which influenced the gentleman who had offered the proposition, and he thought it was due to that gentleman that it should be so stated.

Mr. THOMAS said he had already intimated his opinion that a committee less numerous than that proposed by the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Tuck.) would be more convenient, and more likely to come to a harmonious conclusion. It was well known that a great many provisions had been introduced into various parts of the Constitution, changing entirely that part of the instrument in which they were incorporated from the form it took as it came from the committee. For example, the chairman of the Committee on the Executive Department of the Government was in part the author of that branch of the constitution which related to the apportionment of representatives—not the gentleman in his eye, (Mr. Chambers, of Kent,)—who was the chairman of the Committee on Representation. And, if gentlemen would analyze the subject, they would find the fact to be in nine cases out of ten that the reports of the committees had been so modified as, instead of being the productions of the chairmen of the

committees, to be the productions of some half dozen gentlemen on the floor, (of whom, however, he was not one.) He did not know that a single provision had been introduced into the constitution on his motion. It was understood between his constituents and himself that his private engagements were such as would prevent his attendance here, except at such times as might be convenient to him. And upon no other terms would he have come here.

He repeated that if these matters were submitted to a committee of fourteen, and they were to sit as *one body*, the object in view would not be attained; that was to say, the Constitution would not assume the form of one harmonious production, the emanation, as it were, of one mind.

He objected, however, to so numerous a body. He would rather assign the duty to the Presiding Officer alone than to a committee of fourteen. He would rather entrust it to the official reporter of this body than to such a committee. He certainly would prefer a committee of three to a committee of fourteen or fifteen. It was one of those cases in which the patient should not have too many nurses.

He submitted that it would not take more than two or three hours to see what corrections or changes of phraseology would be requisite. He perceived that the whole instrument would be very little larger than one of our morning journals. He desired that it should be sent out in such a form as would do credit to the Convention; and he believed that a committee of three would be infinitely more competent to the accomplishment of that object than a committee of fourteen or fifteen.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, rose simply to remark that he disclaimed any attachment to this particular mode of proceeding. He had not had the slightest participation in its introduction. The gentleman, however, had greatly undervalued the labor which had to be performed in the revision of this Constitution, if the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Thomas) would assume the duty, nothing on earth would give him greater pleasure. And, if before one-fourth of the labor was disposed of, the gentleman did not discover that he had made a most unfortunate prophecy, both as to time and labor, he (Mr. C.) would abandon all further conjectures on the subject.

One thing might be regarded as certain. He (Mr. C.) did not intend to serve on any such committee of three members only. That was one fact established. (Laughter.)

Mr. THOMAS said he did not suppose that the gentlemen would *require* him to say what he (Mr. T.) would, with the greater cheerfulness say, that his relations to this body differed, perhaps, from those of any other gentleman; otherwise a conscientious source of duty to his constituents would keep him constantly in his seat. Without referring more particularly to his private affairs, he might be permitted to say that they were so complex and complicated as to make it physically impossible for him to be here oftener than he had been, and he must again be