

be the work of a committee clerk or any body else, unreviewed and unexamined either by the Convention together or a respectable delegation from it at least.

And in this consisted the difference between the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard,) and his own. The gentleman's proposition makes no provision whatever for any examination or comparison with the original, or for correction of errors. A copy is to be made by direction of two gentlemen, who of course, will employ a clerk; indeed, it is barely a power to employ a clerk, without any authority to any portion, even of this body, (to do what the whole Convention ought to do,) to examine and compare the drafts and to see that they conform to the enactments upon our journal.

The ground he had taken in committee and on the opening of this debate in the House, was that this was altogether irregular and improper and he still stood upon that ground. The order he had drawn up with a reluctant assent went as far as he could go. That order professed give the revising committee of seven, ample authority to compare and examine the copies when made and to correct any errors. By the way, the article passed a short time since, has not been placed in the hands of the revising committee, although the order of the House expressly requires it.

The object of an engrossing committee was to correct errors, if any, and report them to the House. It appeared to him that any one must at a glance perceive the difference between the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore county, and that from the revising committee, in their practical effect.

Mr. TUCK. Will the gentleman tell me what is the meaning of an engrossed copy—a corrected copy?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Certainly; a correct copy in a fair legible hand. I ask in return, if the gentleman ever knew or ever heard of an engrossing committee acting after the final adjournment of the body which appointed it, or indeed without reporting the result of its labors to the body?

Mr. TUCK. I don't know whether I ever did or not.

Mr. BOWIE. Does this order of the gentleman from Baltimore county, [Mr. Howard,] do any thing more than authorise the committee to submit the constitution to this convention as its act, or that the instrument shall be sent to the revising committee simply?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I say it assumes, and erroneously assumes that it is here in a condition to be signed. Its language is, "ordered that Mr. TUCK and Mr. GRASON, be instructed to deposit the engrossed constitution after its signature by the president and secretary, in the office of the clerk of the court of appeals for the western shore."

Now, what is to be done? Two things. One is to obtain the signature of the president and secretary, and the other is to deposit it in the clerk's office. These two gentlemen have no other, no further authority.

Mr. BOWIE. I suggest then that some resolution or order should be offered to bring up the subject.

Mr. CHAMBERS. There is an order offered, I am endeavoring to show the difference between that and the one which gentlemen say is exactly like it; that in one case we confided a large authority to seven members of this body, and in the other we are to take this unintelligible mass of papers and scraps, sign and file it.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thinks the order which passed on Saturday last on the subject has been faithfully complied with.

Mr. CHAMBERS, (in his seat.) So am I.

Mr. HOWARD. I said it was not necessary to have more than two members on the committee, and there was no necessity for continuing the whole committee. The order ran in this way:

"Ordered, That the articles of the Constitution, which have been adopted, be referred to the Revisory committee."

There might have been the words in it "for examination." "And that the engrossed copy be deposited in the office of the court of Appeals." That resolution he had understood, passed the Revisory committee unanimously. The gentleman said it did not meet his approbation. He (Mr. H.) had remarked that the Convention could adjourn to-night, if they could pass the resolution. That was the communication made to him, (Mr. H.) Now, the main feature of the two papers did not differ. They both contemplated the same object—that was, to leave a committee of two having nothing to do but to compare one piece of writing with another, and see to the general arrangement of the Constitution. Those were the circumstances under which he had offered the order. It, therefore, much excited his surprise after doing so, to find the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) rise in his place, and oppose it. He (Mr. H.) could not suppose, for a moment, that there existed any desire to threaten on the part of gentlemen. They were unworthy of it. He could not account for it in any other way than by supposing that the information was incorrect. He supposed the proposition did not meet the approbation of gentlemen.

Mr. CHAMBERS said:

He must reiterate what he had so often said. There were a thousand points of difference between the two propositions. He adhered to the position he had originally taken. His resolution gave to a respectable committee of this body the authority to compare and correct errors, the order of the gentleman gave no such authority and practically left it to the engrossing clerk. He would ask his friend from Queen Anne's to say whether that was not his original objection emphatically urged in the committee room, and also to say whether the resolution he had prepared did not give authority to the revising committee as he had stated.

Mr. HOWARD observed that this was an explanation more than any thing else. He would say a word or two in reply to the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers.) He must say that a