

rule (of which no notice was requisite) pending, that amendments might be offered, &c.

After which,

On the motion of Mr. BROWN,

The pending proposition was informally laid upon the table, to enable

Mr. SOLLERS to offer the following resolution:

"After report from the committee of the whole the article shall be again subject to be debated and amended before the question upon its passage shall be taken."

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. BROWN moved that the Convention resume the consideration of the proposition of Mr. GWINN, with the pending amendments.

Some conversation followed, after which,

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, offered the following order:

Ordered, That so much of the 17th rule be rescinded, as prevents new amendments being ordered after the call for the previous question shall have been sustained; and be it further ordered, that all rules which allow this Convention to resolve itself into committee of the whole, be rescinded.

Mr. RANDALL suggested that an amendment, made to the rules the other day, provided for this very thing.

Mr. BRENT explained wherein he considered the two propositions as differing from each other.

Some further conversation followed.

Mr. BRENT then moved, (according to the requirement of the existing rule,) that the rules be suspended to enable him to offer the resolution. But he withdrew the motion, and intimated that he would offer the resolution to-morrow morning.

On motion of Mr. BROWN,

The Convention resumed the consideration of the resolution offered by Mr. GWINN, and of the pending amendments.

Mr. RICAUD withdrew his amendment, designating the hour of one, as the limitation of time, (that hour being already passed.)

The question was then taken on the substitute of Mr. McHENRY, and it was adopted.

And the resolution of Mr. GWINN, thus amended, was adopted.

THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

On motion of Mr. BROWN,

The Convention proceeded to the orders of the day.

And the Convention resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. BLAKISTONE in the Chair, and resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the elective franchise.

The pending question was on the amendment offered yesterday by Mr. DORSEY to the amendment of Mr. RIDGELY.

The amendment to the amendment, by yeas 28, nays 34, was rejected.

And the amendment, by yeas 25, nays 34, was rejected.

Mr. FOOKS offered the following amendment:

"After having taken an oath (if not conscien-

tiously scrupulous, and in such case, affirmation,) that he has not received, and will not receive any fee or reward for his vote at said election, and that he has not given or offered to give, and will not give or offer to give directly or indirectly, any fee or reward to bribe, or assist in bribing, or influencing any voter at said election, or to induce any person not to vote at said election."

The question was taken and the amendment was rejected.

Mr. KILGOUR offered the following amendment:

Insert in the second section, seventh line, after the word "same" the following: "And any person who gives or causes to be given an illegal vote, knowing it to be so, at any election, to be hereafter held in this State."

The amendment was agreed to.

The question now recurred on the amendments offered yesterday by Mr. SPENCER, as the third and fourth sections to the Report. (See proceedings of yesterday.)

Mr. McHENRY expressed a hope that the Convention would not consent to embody what was almost an entire code of laws in the shape of an amendment to the Constitution. He would not make any objection to the principle contained in this proposition of the gentleman from Queen Anne's. The details into which it had been extended were very suitable for a law. But he hoped they would not be admitted here. The provisions of an organic law should be general, plain and unmistakeable. If, following this example, we are to engraft in the organic law, all the details which would be necessary in a legislative act for the punishment of murder, larceny, and all the other classes of crimes, we shall never get through the labor before us. All that we can do, all that is proper for us to do, is to insert general provisions, leaving it to the Legislature to fill up the details. It is for us to consider the purpose for which we are sent here, and to carry out the wishes of the people; and unless we do this, they will reject the Constitution when presented to them, and all our work will fall to the ground. If there was one antipathy which was felt by the people stronger than any other, it was against any restrictions on the right of suffrage. This was a privilege which the people had a right to delegate to as few persons to exercise, as they might think best, as in other countries it is entrusted to a limited number. But so jealous are they of this power, that they will not be satisfied with any thing less than its most ample enjoyment. Every restriction on this right is therefore to be avoided.

At an earlier period of the session, he had offered a provision prescribing a short residence in the district; and he had intended to follow it up with another making the election districts smaller, so that the voters in each district may be well known to each other. This, he thought, would be the best way to prevent fraud, and would be the only safeguard to the right of suffrage. Having withdrawn that proposition, and finding that numerous motions to restrict the privilege had been since offered, he would now give notice that