

THIRD DAY.

TUESDAY, May 3, 1864.

In the absence of the President, the Convention was called to order by the Secretary.

On motion of Mr. PUGH,

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE was appointed President *pro tem*.

Certificates of the qualification of Messrs. Blackiston, Billingsley, Thomas, and Johnson, were presented, and these members appeared and took their seats.

On motion of Mr. DANIEL,

Ordered, That a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. PUGH, of Cecil County, for the efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of temporary Secretary of this Convention.

On motion of Mr. DANIEL,

Ordered, That a copy of all documents printed for the use of the members of the Convention be furnished to each of the official reporters, and that the same be furnished to each of the reporters of the press having seats upon this floor.

On motion of Mr. BILLINGSLEY,

Ordered, That it be entered upon the Journal that JOHN F. DENT, a member elect from St. Mary's County to this Convention, is absent from his seat in consequence of the indisposition of his family.

FURTHER STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. CLARKE submitted the following order :

Ordered, That a Standing Committee to consist of seven members, be appointed by the President of the Convention, to consider and report respecting the appointment, tenure of office, duties, and compensation, of all civil officers not embraced in the duties of other Standing Committees.

Mr. STIRLING. It strikes me that the Convention supposed the other day that they had divided the work among the several committees sufficiently to embrace at least what seemed to them at that time necessary. I should much prefer that those committees should have some time, after they are appointed, to see whether they have the subject matter of the Constitution sufficiently referred to them, before we appoint further committees. I think the order is hardly necessary, and certainly do not feel prepared to vote for it at this stage of the Convention.

Mr. CLARKE. There are certainly various officers provided for in our present Constitution, which would not properly come before any of these committees. There is a Surveyor provided for in our Constitution, and a Wreckmaster, for instance; and I do not know whether constables would properly belong to any of those committees. By looking through the Constitution we shall find several other officers provided for, and not included here. On referring to the proceedings of the last Convention, I find that a committee was constituted to consider and report upon such offices, and any new offices that any member

might think it proper to suggest to be incorporated in the Constitution. It was simply to follow that precedent, and to provide for those offices which would not appropriately come before any of the committees yet constituted, that I offered the order that this committee might be appointed with the others, and that there might be no delay.

Mr. STIRLING. I should like to have further time; and I move to postpone the further consideration of this order until after the appointment of the Standing Committees already ordered.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. PURNELL. I should like to make a few remarks on this question before it is decided.

Mr. DANIEL moved to reconsider the question of postponement.

Mr. PURNELL. If it is now in order I wish to make a few remarks favoring the motion of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke.) I think it eminently proper that we should have such a committee as he suggests. If we are to be governed by precedent, certainly there was such a committee appointed by the last Convention. Looking over the catalogue of the committees proposed to be raised by the order submitted to and adopted by the Convention, a few days ago, there does not seem to me to be any committee whose duty it will be to examine the subject contemplated in the order submitted by the gentleman from Prince George's. I see no necessity for waiting for the announcement of the committees before acting upon this matter. If it is necessary to appoint such a committee at all, I see no reason why it should be postponed. I am prepared to vote for the order; and I think it desirable that the appointment of this committee should be coterminous with that of the others ordered a few days since.

The motion to reconsider was not agreed to — ayes 33; noes 38.

Mr. HOPKINS submitted the following order :

Ordered, That a Standing Committee of _____ members be appointed by the President to consider and report upon the subject of Emancipation of Slaves in this State.

Mr. STIRLING. I think that is already covered by the committees already ordered. It certainly was so understood.

Mr. BELT. What committee, under the present arrangement, will have the consideration of the Emancipation question, if such a question should be raised?

Mr. STIRLING. I should suppose, without speaking for the gentleman who made the motion, that that subject properly belongs to the Committee upon the Bill of Rights. I believe that every State which has heretofore taken action upon this question in its Constitution, has done so in its Bill of Rights. I see no occasion for a special committee, especially as the different committees will have the power to confer with each other to see by