

would be to discharge them if they should ask it, and then take up the subject in the House. He thought the instructions contained in the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne's (Mr. SPENCER) would only embarrass the committee, without leading to any practical result. It was his opinion that the committee ought to report a plan.

Mr. CHAMBERS said that the committee could report a plan directly, if they could have a vote of the Convention.

Mr. THOMAS replied that this was only a single opinion. He thought the committee might make a report without violating the order of the House.

Mr. SPENCER said he had no intention to give the committee any instruction beyond what the resolution appointing them gave.

Mr. THOMAS suggested that under the instructions of the gentleman's amendment, the committee may not report at all. His object was that they should be ordered to report a plan.

Mr. SPENCER stated that the committee was appointed to deliberate and report on the subject of representation. The amendment he had offered was to recommit with instructions to do, what the original resolution instructed them to do. The gentleman from Frederick objected to it, on the ground that they might not report at all. He wanted them to agree and ask instructions.

Mr. GWINN intimated that a majority could not agree.

Mr. SPENCER intimated that if they could not agree to ask instructions, any two of them, or even one, might make a report on which the Convention could go on. Let them separately report articles which may be taken up and considered. Unless they do this, how were any articles to come before the Convention? He said he was not tenacious about the instructions and was willing to strike them out.

Mr. PRESSTMAN concurred in the views of the gentleman from Frederick.

Mr. THOMAS moved to strike out the instructions in the amendment.

Mr. SPENCER accepted the amendment, and modified his proposition by striking out the instructions.

Mr. PRESSTMAN understanding that the gentleman from Kent, had said that some members of the committee wished to bring forwarded plans, in order to present their views to the Convention, asked if a member of the committee had any greater right to do this than any other gentleman in this body.

After a brief explanation between Messrs. CHAMBERS and PRESSTMAN,

Mr. CHAMBERS resumed. His object in rising was to urge immediate action on the report, as the safest, surest mode of expediting our work. Pass this report, and you will probably, in a few hours after the committee can be convened, have a report on the compromise plan—reject it and thereby declare your determination to take a ratio of numbers, and you must have a report accordingly.

It had been remarked that delay was desirable, because it was a subject, the discussion of which

would produce angry feelings. Why should such apprehension exist? There is nothing in the question to excite angry or unkind remark—nothing. He regretted—very much regretted—to hear such anticipations. They seemed to invite such a state of irritation. Where was the occasion for it? It is a question of political expediency and policy; involving no personal imputations. We differ—differ honestly. It is fair to use arguments to convince each other; but passion is not argument, and of all means is the least likely to convert or persuade an opponent. None of us are excited now by any unkind feeling. Then why should we become so in the calm investigation of such facts, and the cool expression and consideration of such arguments as should lead us to wise conclusions? He thought this the place, now the time, and that the form in which the question should be discussed and decided.

Mr. MERRICK said that the Committee could have had no intention to violate the spirit of the order, or to bring up abstract principles. They thought the resolutions contained practical principles, such as it would be necessary for the Convention to settle, before the Convention could consider and report details. It was necessary that they should know whether popular numbers was to be the basis of representation or not, that they might go into the details under the sanction of the vote of the Convention. The committee were of opinion that the business would be expedited if they could get these principles settled. The gentleman from Frederick asked what progress could be made? He answered that they might make great progress. There must be animated discussion on the subject, and why should we not begin by making the ground clear. We should advance the business of the committee, by coming to a solemn decision as to the character of the basis. To settle that now would be to get rid of a great subdivision of the subject. And if it should appear that the Convention will adopt neither federal nor popular numbers exclusively, a compromise of opinions would take place in the committee. It was his opinion that individual members, or even a minority of the committee, had no right to make reports, but that this right was in the majority only. But a member of the House was always at liberty to submit propositions, and, as such, he had submitted a plan. He had presented it as his own, not presuming to offer it as a report from the committee. Hitherto there had been no plan suggested on which the committee had been able to agree; but hoped that they would soon come to an agreement, especially if by a vote of the Convention, the principle were to be established. The expression of the views of the House would, at once, terminate the difficulties in the committee.

Mr. GWINN offered the following amendment.

“Ordered, That the committee on Representation be instructed to report a plan of representation in the Senate and House of Delegates, giving one delegate to each five thousand of population in the counties and city of Baltimore, in the House of Delegates, and dividing no county or