

The Secretary read the journal in part, when, on motion of Mr. WRIGHT, the further reading was dispensed with.

The President announced the regular order of business to be the call of the committee for reports.

THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. JOHNSON (Chairman of the committee on the Legislative Department) said, he was instructed by that committee to make a report.

The committee (Mr. J. said) had given as much time as could well be spared to the consideration of the subject matter of this report. They had found some difficulty in defining the line where their appropriate duties began and ended. So multifarious had been the matters referred to them by the Convention—some belonging to the committee on the Legislative Department, and some to other committees—that it had not been an easy task to escape encroachment upon the prerogative of other committees. So far as was possible, however, they had done so.

In the report now presented, the committee had embodied many suggestions drawn from the references made to them by the Convention, but had not made a special report upon each special reference. He presented it as a report in part, inasmuch as there were one or two subjects which had not yet been acted upon, and upon which a report would be made when the action of the committee had been matured upon them. And each member of the committee, so far from being considered as committed to the report, would feel himself privileged to offer any amendments which he might think proper at any time in the course of the discussion. Many such amendments would no doubt be offered—the common desire of all gentlemen being to perfect the Legislative Department so far as practicable. Mr. J. then presented the following

REPORT :

Section 1st. The Legislative power of this State shall be vested in two distinct branches, the one to be styled the Senate, the other the House of Delegates, and both together “the General Assembly of Maryland.”

Sec. 2d. The Senators shall be elected by the qualified voters, for the term of four years, and the Delegates for the term of from the day of the general elections.

Sec. 3d. The first election for Senators and Delegates shall take place on the first Wednesday of October eighteen hundred and fifty-one, and on the same day in every second year forever thereafter the general elections for Delegates; and for one-half of the Senators as nearly as practicable, shall be held.

Sec. 4th. Immediately after the Senate shall have convened after the first election under this Constitution, the Senators shall be divided by lot into two classes as nearly equal in number as may be, the Senators of the first class shall go out of office at the expiration of two years, and Senators shall be elected on the first Wednesday of October eighteen hundred and fifty-three, for

the term of four years, to supply their places; so that, after the first election one-half of the Senators may be chosen every second year. In case the number of Senators be hereafter increased, such classification of the additional Senators shall be made as to preserve as nearly as may be, an equal number in each class.

Sec. 5th. The General Assembly shall meet on the first Wednesday of January eighteen hundred and fifty-two, and on the same day in every year forever thereafter, and at no other time unless convened by the proclamation of the Governor, who shall have power to convene the same whenever he may deem it expedient and proper.

Sec. 6th. The General Assembly may continue their first two sessions after the adoption of this Constitution as long as in the opinion of the two Houses, the public interest may require it, but all subsequent regular sessions of the General Assembly shall be closed on the tenth day of March next ensuing the time of their commencement, unless the same shall be closed at an earlier day by the agreement of the two Houses.

Sec. 7th. No person shall be eligible as a Senator or Delegate who, at the time of his election, is not a citizen of the United States, and who has not resided at least three years next preceding the day of his election in the State, and the last year thereof in the which he may be chosen to represent, if such shall have been so long established, and if not, then in the county from which in whole or in part, the same may have been formed; nor shall any person be eligible as a Senator unless he shall have also attained the age of years, nor as a Delegate unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years at the time of his election.

Sec. 8th. No member of Congress, or person holding any Civil or Military office under the United States, shall be eligible to a seat in the General Assembly, and if any person shall after his election as a member of either House of the General Assembly, be elected to Congress or be appointed to any office, Civil or Military, under the government of the United States, his acceptance thereof shall vacate his seat.

Sec. 9th. No Priest, Clergyman or Teacher of any religious persuasion, society or sect, and no person holding any civil office of profit under this State, except Justices of the Peace, shall be capable of having a seat in the General Assembly.

Sec. 10. Every Senator and Delegate before he acts as such, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, viz: “I do solemnly swear, (or affirm as the case may be,) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Maryland, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as Senator, (or Delegate as the case may be,) without prejudice or partiality, and to the best of my ability.”

Sec. 11th. The Senate, upon assembling, shall choose a President and its other officers, and the House of Delegates when assembled shall choose a Speaker and its other officers—each House shall be judge of the qualifications, elections and