COMMITTEE OF REVISION.

Mr. JOHNSON said he had been a good deal absent from the Convention, and now, for the first time, saw the report of the committee on the elective franchise, as it had come from the hands of the committee of the whole. I was about to make a suggestion, (continued Mr. J.) which, if it should meet the views of more experienced gentlemen, will, I think, have a salutary effect on the business of this Convention. It is that a committee of revision be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take charge of bills after they have been reported from the committee of the whole, correct and, if need be, condense their phraseology, and report them back for the action of the Convention. If objection is made, I will withdraw the resolution.

The PRESIDENT intimated that such a resolution pending, a motion to postpone was not in order.

Mr. JOHNSON waived his motion for the present.

THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

The question then recurred and was taken on the motion to postpone the consideration of this report, and it was decided in the affirmative.

So the further consideration of the report was postponed until to-morrow.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

Messrs. BLAKISTONE and BROWN moved that the Convention proceed to the consideration of the bill of rights.

Mr. PARKE. I feel some objection to that motion, because, having given notice of amendments which have not yet been printed for the use of the Convention, I shall enter upon the consideration of the subject at a disadvantage. I think it would be better to postpone the consideration of the bill, though if it is the pleasure of the Convention now to take it up. I suppose I can send to the Printer and withdraw my amendments from his hands.

Mr. TUCK. Probably the gentleman's amendments do not come in at the first part of the bill.

Mr. PARKE. One of them is an amendment to the preamble.

SEVERAL VOICES. "Well, then, the question on the preamble will be taken last!"

Mr. GRASON. I was willing that the report of the committee on the elective franchise should be taken up and finally acted upon, but as it is postponed, I think that the Convention should now proceed with the regular order of business. That is the report of the committee on the executive department. I think the bill of rights one of the very last subjects which should be considered by the Convention. After we have framed the other parts of the Constitution, and have decided what powers shall be vested in the different departments of the government—legislative, executive and judicial—we shall be better enabled to judge what provisions should be placed in the bill of rights for the purpose of restraining them. Besides, I think, that if the bill is taken up now, the debate upon it may occupy a month; whilst if its consideration is postponed until other subjects have been disposed of, the Convention, under the pressure of an earnest desire on the part of the members to go home, will be content with a much shorter discussion.

Mr. BOWIE. It seems to me to be most appropriate that the bill of rights should be taken up first. Our Constitution is to be grounded upon the great fundamental principles of liberty, set forth in that declaration. It is important first to settle the great cardinal republican principles upon which we will base a Constitution, before we attempt to raise the superstructure. Otherwise, we may have conflicting provisions. I know of no subject on which we all agree better than on these general abstract principles embodied in the bill of rights. A few amendments may perhaps be offered, but not many. I have, myself, none to propose. I hope we shall take up the bill and continue its consideration, until we have finished it. I cannot concur with gentlemen in the idea of taking up things by piece-meal. Let us take up one subject at a time, and continue upon it until it is disposed of. If we come to that determination, we shall move on in something like harmony and order—efficient order.

COMMITTEE OF REVISION.

Mr. JOHNSON desired at this time to offer the order indicated by him, providing for the appointment of a committee of revision. If the resolution gave rise to debate, he would, he said, withdraw it.

Mr. BLAKISTONE, for the moment, withdrew his motion to proceed to the consideration of the bill of rights.

Mr. JOHNSON then offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee for the purpose he had indicated.

Mr. JENIFER, enquired of what number the committee should be composed.

Mr. RANDALL suggested that it should consist of the Chairmen of all the committees.

Mr. JOHNSON said, that as Chairman of one of the committees, (the committee on the legislative department,) he must ask to be excused, as he would be unavoidably absent for some time.

Some conversation arising, Mr. JOHNSON withdrew the resolution.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

The motion was then renewed that the Convention take up this bill.

The motion having been agreed to, the Convention proceeded to the consideration of the following report, submitted by Mr. DORSEY, on the 11th instant, as Chairman of the Committee on the

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

We, the Delegates of Maryland, in Convention assembled, taking into our most serious consideration, the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State, declare:

Article 1. That all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole.