

Dennis, Dashiell, Eccleston, Chambers of Cecil, McCullough, Grason, George, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Annan, Sappington, McHenry, Nelson, Carter, Thawley, Gwinn, Ware, Fiery, Neill, jr., John Newcomer, Harbine, Brewer, Weber, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown.—42.

So the amendment was rejected.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the original resolution of Mr. BRENT.

Mr. DORSEY desired to be informed by the chair, whether all debate was cut off.

The PRESIDENT replied, that it was, because the previous question had not yet been exhausted.

The question was then taken, and by ayes 45, and nays 26, the resolution was adopted.

Mr. HICKS desired to offer as an original proposition the substitute amendment of which he had given notice, and which was as follows:

Ordered, That Committee No. 14, be requested to inquire into and report to this Convention the expediency of holding three night sessions in each week, until the close of this Convention for the purpose of giving members an opportunity to make personal explanations and fancy speeches, that time and expense may thereby be saved.

The President had awarded the floor to Mr. DORSEY.

Mr. HICKS gave notice that he would offer his resolution to-morrow morning.

Mr. JENIFER (whilst Mr. DORSEY was reducing to writing the proposition he intended to offer) laid on the table the following order, which he intended to call up hereafter :

Ordered, That it be incorporated among the standing rules of this body, that no member shall speak at one time longer than one hour, nor more than one hour on the same question.

Mr. DORSEY then moved the following order :

Ordered, That the rule adopted as to the attendance of members of this Convention shall not apply to members who will state that the cause of their absence was their necessary attendance to the business of this Convention.

Mr. DORSEY said it seemed to him that the precipitation with which the Convention was required to act in its proceedings here, was not becoming such a body. They had been brought here for the purpose of deliberating calmly and acting intelligently upon every subject which might be brought before them. It was their duty to devote to every subject such portion of time as might be requisite to enable them faithfully to discharge their duty in regard to it. It appeared to him, from the discussion which had taken place, that members thought that all they had to do was to attend the committees, to agree, or disagree, to what might there be done—and that that was the scope and limit of their duties. Such was not his view. He considered it as much his duty, as a member of this Convention, to satisfy his own mind by all proper investigation, whether the Report of a Committee ought, or ought not, to be adopted in

the terms and manner which they proposed, as it would be to form his own conclusions, as a member, of every particular, why he should agree or disagree to its report. Take, for example, the Report of the Committee on the Elective Franchise. If he had been called upon to vote upon that subject without having paid any attention to it, he should have been perfectly blindfold. He believed that a dozen amendments were necessary to carry out the wishes of the people on that subject, and what he supposed to be the wishes of the Convention. He considered the labors which members should perform in their rooms, quite as important as any which they were called upon to perform here. They ought not to act without a minute examination of what is contained in the Reports, nor without weighing every word of every section they contained. Otherwise they might form a Constitution which the people would reject, as indeed, under such circumstances, they ought to reject it.

Mr. BRENT interposed and explained that his resolution contemplated that the name of no absent member should be entered on the Journal, if he should report himself during the day.

Mr. DORSEY, expressing his entire knowledge of the import of the resolution, proceeded to say, that he was as anxious as any member of the Convention could be, that its labors should be brought to a close; but it was due to themselves, to the body and to the State, that full and perfect consideration should be given to every subject. He referred to a conversation which he had held, when last coming to Annapolis, with a gentleman who was either a member of the Virginia Reform Convention, or had been attending its sessions, in which Mr. Henry A. Wise (a member of the latter) was said to have declared in the Convention, that he would not give a fig for any Constitution which was framed in less than twelve months; and that if he had been a member of the Legislature by which the Convention was called, he would have offered a provision declaring the Convention incompetent to adjourn, or adopt a Constitution, in less than six months. He (Mr. D.) did not mean to say that this opinion accorded with his own views. But he was willing to labor as long as any man in the Convention to mature and make the best Constitution which they could. He desired to gratify each portion of the State so far as it could be done consistently with the rights of every other portion. But he thought that to meet at the hour of ten, allowing no time for exercise, and to act precipitately and without due consideration on the subjects before them, were unreasonable requirements.

Mr. McLANE suggested to the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. DORSEY), so to modify his proposition as to give it a retrospective action, and to call upon every member to come up and declare on his honor and conscience how long he was absent and for what purpose. And he made some remarks in support of the suggestion.

Mr. DORSEY said he would accept the modification.

Mr. BRENT, of the city, replied to some of the