

Mr. MERRICK said, that if any postponement was to take place, he should be glad, in view of some private matters which required his attention, that the postponement should be to a less distant day than had been moved.

Mr. BROWN suggested a postponement to Thursday next.

Mr. PRESSTMAN submitted, as a question of order to the chair, whether after the resolution should have been taken up, it would be in order for gentlemen to submit plans for apportionment, and whether these plans would then be before the Convention for action, without the necessity of referring them to the committee on representation.

If so, he was in favor of taking up the resolution. He was opposed to referring the matter again to the committee in any form whatever.

The PRESIDENT said, it was his impression that it would be in order for the Convention to engraft any proposition it might think proper, on the report of the committee, without referring that proposition.

Mr. PRESSTMAN said, he was entirely opposed to the action of the Committee. He agreed with gentlemen who had expressed the opinion that this was but an abstraction. Gentlemen had been sent here for the most part with power to carry out the direct wishes of their people, and they knew as well now how they stood, as they ever would know.

The question of representation according to population, he considered as settled—settled beyond the power of resurrection. The election had settled that point. He was not in favor of discussing it; and he was opposed to all discussion upon the subject, unless directed to some practical plan. He should vote at all times for the basis of representation according to population, but he could not close his eyes to the fact, that upon that question he was in a very small minority. He preferred, therefore, that the discussion should be confined to some liberal plan of compromise, and he believed that there were gentlemen in the Convention who had such plans to offer, without the intervention of the committee. He hoped that the committee would never again have charge of the subject. And he gave notice that he should himself offer a plan, looking to a compromise.

Mr. KILGOUR was in favor of the postponement. The members of the Convention, he said, were now in good humor with each other, and the longer they remained so, the better it would be, not only for themselves, but for the accomplishment of the objects which had called them together. If there was any question which would excite the minds of members and lead to irritation and ill-feeling, it was this. And if they get mad, one with another, (laughter,) what sort of a Constitution did gentlemen suppose they would make? He hoped the consideration of the subject would be postponed until every other had been disposed of.

Mr. DASHIELL. As we have already entered upon the discussion, I hope that the motion to postpone may be withdrawn.

Mr. DENT. I do not feel at liberty to with-

draw the motion. I can see no practical good that is to result from the discussion now; and I, therefore, persist in the motion.

Mr. BROWN enquired whether it would not be competent for any gentleman to submit a plan of representation, and then to move a re-commitment with instructions to report that plan.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thinks it would be in order.

Mr. BROWN. Then I move to postpone the consideration of the subject to Thursday next.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, referred to the fact, that at an early stage of the session, he had been in favor of postponement; but the sense of the Convention had been against it. This was a most important question, and when the Convention took it up, they should give their entire and undivided attention to it. He thought the Convention was not prepared to consider it now, and he hoped that it might be postponed generally, and that the Convention would proceed to the consideration of the Bill of Rights.

Mr. SPENCER hoped, he said, that the Convention would take up the resolution reported by the chairman of the committee on representation, that it might be determined whether it would, or would not give these instructions to the committee. It was his intention, at the proper time, to move that the report be referred back to the committee, with instructions to report a specific plan. If the committee could not agree let majority and minority reports be made. He was opposed to all discussion on abstractions.

Mr. TUCK suggested that the Convention could not shut out the discussion on abstractions. If gentlemen were prepared to enter upon such a discussion, it must unavoidably come;—it might as well come now as at any time, and, when once over, gentlemen would be ready to give their votes upon some substantive proposition. He thought time would be saved by refusing to postpone the consideration of the question. He should, therefore, vote against the postponement, and in favor of all motions to take up the subject at once.

Mr. GWINN said, it was immaterial to him whether the question was referred back to the committee or not. He knew very well that that committee could not agree upon any thing, unless they should receive specific instructions from the Convention. But he must say, in reply to the remark of a gentleman who had preceded him, that there had never been in the history of the country an instance in which this question of representation had been taken up and acted upon from beginning to end without interruption. In support of this assertion, he cited the instance of the Convention that framed the old Constitution of the State of Virginia. It was not to be imagined that a question of this magnitude could be disposed of in one day. Debate must take place, and the result might be a compromise upon all matters involved. As a mere individual, he considered himself instructed to insist upon the principle of representation according to population. The people whom he represented believed that to be the true and honest doctrine; and he would never think of any plan of compromise,