

of the propositions which have delayed its action have emanated from the quarter from which this motion is to come to-morrow.

Mr. GWINN. From myself?

Mr. MORGAN. No—but from the quarter of the State from which this motion is to come to-morrow. I do not intend to say, that the gentleman has interrupted or impeded the progress of the public business. But what does the gentleman now say? He declares, in the presence of this body, that if he had known what would have been the result of our proceedings, his right arm should have withered before he would have voted, as a member of the Legislature, for the bill which authorised the call of this Convention. Sir, does the gentleman intend to say that any one of the propositions which have been maintained here were spoken of in the Legislature? Did the gentleman ever hear the question of representation talked of when the bill was under consideration? Gentlemen were very cautious upon that question, until after the passage of the bill—and yet the gentleman comes here and tells us that his right arm should wither by his side before he would have voted for it, if he had known what now he knows.

Every body knows that certain propositions have been brought in here from Baltimore city, which have been defeated; and now, because, as I suppose, they were not decided as he and his constituents desired that they should be, he rises in his place and proposes to put an end to this Convention. I cannot sympathise with him in such a purpose. I tell my friends here that the people of the State of Maryland, beyond the limits of the city of Baltimore, desire that a Constitution should be formed; and that if the votes and proceedings which may be recorded here should not be in consonance with the views of the people of that city, they may be in accordance with the views of the people of the rest of the State. And for that reason, I shall vote against any motion to bring the session of this body to an abrupt or premature termination. The most important measures before us have yet to be acted upon, and I believe that the confirmation by the people of what we may do here, depends upon the result of these measures.

I have heard much of the dilatory proceedings of the Convention. I have seen the charge in the newspapers and elsewhere. But look at the condition of things. No State in the Union can be cited as an example for our own. A Convention assembled in any other State, under circumstances similar to those by which we are surrounded, would have been placed in the same difficulty. The condition of our people is different from that of the people of any other State.

In one section of the State, we have a large slave interest, and in another section an anti-slavery feeling. We have a large city in our midst, with an overwhelming population, claiming representation according to numbers, and with the counties in opposition to it. We have a commercial and agricultural interest, and all these interests conflicting with each other. And, to crown all, we have an organic law that has remained essentially unchanged for seventy years; so that

we have now to engraft upon it all the modifications and improvements, which, through this long lapse of years, have been developed in the science of human government. All these delicate and difficult questions have now to be settled by us, as the people of other States, through their Conventions, have already settled them. I cannot, therefore, concur in the opinion any where expressed, that we have been here doing nothing.

If we now go earnestly to work—if we attend to the business before us, and deliberate calmly and wisely upon it, the people, instead of condemning us for what we have done, or finding fault with the time we have spent, will greet, with their approbation and applause, the Constitution which we may submit to them.

I shall, therefore, vote against the motion of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Gwinn,) but in favor of every proposition calculated to expedite the transaction of the public business.

Mr. SOLLERS. I call the previous question.

There was a second.

The main question was ordered, and having been taken, the motion of Mr. SOLLERS was agreed to.

So a committee was ordered to be appointed.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair nominates as the committee, MESSRS. SPRIGG, McLANE, RICAUD, SCHLEY and BUCHANAN.

Mr. McLANE asked to be excused on the ground of feeble health.

The Convention excused Mr. McLANE,

And the PRESIDENT appointed Mr. BROWN in his stead.

Mr. SPRIGG asked to be excused, upon the ground of his imperfect acquaintance with parliamentary practice.

The Convention excused Mr. SPRIGG,

And Mr. JOHN DENNIS was appointed by the PRESIDENT in his place.

Mr. DENNIS asked to be excused from service, on the ground that he had already been appointed a member of four committees.

Mr. D. was excused.

The PRESIDENT then said that the House being very thin, the Chair would take further time to complete the committee.

On motion of Mr. HARBINE, the Convention proceeded to the orders of the day.

THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the unfinished business, being the report of the committee on the legislative department.

The third section was read, as follows:

“Sec. 3. 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.”

Mr. DORSEY moved to amend the section by striking out the word “general,” in the third line.