

discussion on the question of representation. I see no good to be attained by its continued discussion now. I confess I have borne it until my patience is totally exhausted, and I must protest against the continuation of a state of things calculated to protract the session of the Convention to an indefinite period.

The PRESIDENT (to Mr. Ridgely.) Does the gentleman from Baltimore county claim the floor? Mr. RIDGELY yielded the floor.

Mr. DIRICKSON took the floor, and remarked that he felt himself placed in an awkward position.

Mr. BLAKISTONE interposed, and suggested that the gentleman from Worcester, (Mr. Dirickson,) should permit the question to be taken on the previous question, (there being an evident disposition on the part of the Convention not to second the previous question at the present moment.)

Mr. DIRICKSON yielded the floor.

Mr. SCHLEY. I hope that the Convention will not second the demand for the previous question.

I regard the subject which is now engrossing our consideration, as one of grave importance, and think that the gentleman from Washington county, (Mr. Fiery,) is mistaken in supposing that the same principle will again come up for discussion on the question of representation. I cannot see the connection between the two. But apart from that consideration, if it were time that this question is again to come under our revision, I, for one, am disposed to avail myself of all the light I can obtain by discussion among the members of this Convention. I care not if we remain here six months; my constituents will not make any unreasonable demands upon me. As their representative here, I have a duty to perform as well as rights to protect. It becomes me so to discharge my duties here as that when I go home, I may tell my constituents that I have accomplished the objects for which I came here.

There are some gentlemen in this body—I do not wish to specify—who seem to understand by intuition all the matters that come before us, and are ready to give their votes the moment a question is broached. I am not one of that number; and I am anxious to give to every gentleman who is disposed to speak, an opportunity to do so, that I may myself enjoy the benefit of his views. Whilst I should be glad to see more rapid progress than we have hitherto made, in order that we might perfect, as soon as possible, the work for which we have assembled, yet I am very sure that, to the satisfactory accomplishment of that work, debate is necessary. Gentlemen must be permitted to express their views, and those gentlemen only who are perfectly cognizant of every subject, are prepared to vote in the beginning, without examination and without discussion. As I am not one of them, I desire to move not at a gallop, but at a more reasonable speed. I wish to accord to every gentleman the right to express his opinions and views. I have been a long time a listener to debates at the house and elsewhere, and I cannot see that the latitudinous and irrelevant debate which gentlemen

speak of here, has in fact taken place. I think that gentlemen have confined themselves pretty closely to the legitimate subject matter under discussion. I, therefore, hope that every gentleman, who desires it, may have an opportunity of being heard.

Mr. TUCK, (to the Chair.) What is the question before the Convention?

The PRESIDENT. It is on the amendment of the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers.)

Mr. DIRICKSON took the floor.

Mr. FIERY. I move the previous question.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman has not the floor to make the motion.

After some conversation, the floor was yielded by Mr. DIRICKSON, for the motion for the previous question.

But the Convention refused to second it.

So the question again recurred on the amendment of Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent.

Mr. DIRICKSON said:

He had listened calmly and patiently to the debate which for the past two days, had occupied the grave attention of the Convention. He had listened with somewhat more than his usual earnestness, seriously regarding the amendment offered by the gentleman from the city of Baltimore as not only of the highest and most solemn importance, but as involving principles which might shake our whole government to its inmost centre, and in a moment of time crumble its fair fabric into dust and ruin. Little did he expect to hear in this Hall, consecrated by so many patriotic and historic associations, sentiments like those which but recently had come from more than one quarter of the wise assemblage now around him—sentiments which but for the great respect and high regard he entertained for the sources from which they emanated he would denounce, as they deserved to be, as moral treasons against the fair fame and dignity of our noble State, and the peace, happiness and security of her sovereign people. There might be times and places, when and where, the enunciation of such political heresies however agrarian in their tendencies and red-republican in their odor, would be entirely harmless and unimportant.

But such was not the case with emanations from this body. He saw around him many among the most eminent and distinguished of the land—men whose past lives and intellectual labors had already become a part of the history and pride of their country; and to an assembly graced and adorned by such a presence, the people might look with more than wonted confidence and hearken with a willing ear to its political teachings.

He did not wish to interfere with those who, by the utterance of new, and to him strange creeds, sought to place themselves in a popular attitude before their peculiar constituency. The ascent of the politician is ever steep and toilsome—ways new and untried—crooked and tortuous are frequently pursued ere station and pomp and power and all the bright baubles that dazzle around ambition's goal are fairly won. And was this an ordinary political assembly collected together