

at a fixed period, the business of the Convention might be facilitated. After it was reported from the committee of the whole, or perhaps in committee of the whole, after the general debate had terminated, it might be desirable to allow five minutes, or perhaps a still less time, for explanation of amendments. Other changes of the rule, not requisite to be mentioned here, might also be found advisable and proper.

He had made this movement from the sincerest motives and the kindest feelings. Especially had he made it from motives of charity to the reform party in this Convention, who were bringing upon themselves a tremendous responsibility, and heaping coals of fire upon their own heads. Upon them the people would visit the consequences of the state of things which now existed in this Convention.

He had only to request that if the committee should be appointed, the President would not place him, (Mr. S.,) upon it.

Mr. GWINN said :

That he would gladly support the motion of the gentleman from Calvert, or any motion which would facilitate the business of the Convention. In the absence of other means he would himself move, before long, to fix a day for the adjournment of the Convention, distant enough to ensure a full consideration of all the business which it was assembled to perform, and yet sufficiently near to make all absentees sensible of the necessity of their attendance.

Much had been said in relation to the diligence of this Convention. He did not intend to detract from its merits, whatever they might be, but it was certain that it afforded evidences of a longer session, than any body which had ever assembled in any one of the several States, which had resorted to the same means of reforming their Constitution. Our duties and our labors, dignify them as we may, stand in no higher place than those which other Conventions have performed.

He confessed that he was anxious to bring the labors of this Convention to a close. When a member of the last Legislature, he had supported the bill under which it was organized. He did not do this because he considered it just, or equitable, in all its parts,—but for the reason that the reform party of the whole State had committed itself to bills as unequal in their character, from the beginning of the movement, to the day of the passage of the bill in question. He was then hopeful, that, unequal as the representation was, full justice would be done to all sections of the State. In the Legislature, with such inequality, little could be expected. It was composed chiefly of young men, who, properly enough, were unwilling to assume the direction of public opinion in the sections of the State, which they represented. The Legislature, in general, is but the index of the public feeling; and must have attained extraordinary development before a body, so constituted, will obey its impulse. But it was supposed that this Convention, made up of men distinguished for long and honorable service to the State Government, and from their position and ability, entitled to direct public

opinion, would be prepared to assume the responsibility of over-leaping the narrow limits or present interest, and would provide, with a wise foresight, for such a settlement of this vexed question, as would ensure future tranquility in the whole State. He confessed that he had been disappointed—deeply and bitterly disappointed—but he was not less; anxious to bring the labors of the body to a speedy and sober conclusion. It would be, after all, but the making of the first step; a small step, it might chance to be—but it would be the beginning of a progress, which should end only in the attainment of full and substantial justice.

The PRESIDENT, (to Mr. Sollers.) Does the gentleman designate any number of which the committee shall be composed?

Mr. SOLLERS said he would submit that point to the judgment of the Chair.

Mr. SOLLERS then took the floor, and disclaimed any intention to detract from the character of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Gwinn,) or of any of that delegation, but expressed the opinion that the confusion of tongues of which he, (Mr. S.,) had spoken, had been created in a great degree by that delegation, owing to the amount of talking which they had done.

Mr. GWINN. The gentlemen must remember that we are entitled to one third of the talking. [Laughter.]

Mr. SOLLERS. You are entitled to it, and you have done it. [Laughter.]

Mr. BUCHANAN said he believed the Convention would bear him witness that he had talked but little hitherto, and, for himself, he could promise, that he should talk still less hereafter. I am gratified, (continued Mr. B.,) at the proposition of the gentleman from Calvert, (Mr. Sollers.) It meets my hearty approbation. But I think that the gentlemen will perceive that some injustice has been done, which, if report speaks truly of him, he would be the last man to do.

Some time ago the proceedings of this Convention were spoken of as being dilatory elsewhere, and sometimes here. I am free to confess, that the progress of business has been protracted and slow. Nevertheless, I believe that there are men here, who, from first to last, have been influenced by the sincerest and most conscientious desire to discharge their legitimate duties. And I say to my friend from Calvert, (Mr. Sollers,) that, so far as the standing committees are concerned, every one of them has made its reports. These reports are before the Convention; are about to be taken up; and although we are just now, as the gentleman has observed, only on the threshold of the debate; still the work is all cut out, and is here. Let us do it. I, for one, am ready.

I had occasion some time ago, in an incidental debate here, to refer to the labor which had been performed by the committees of this body, and to shew that the last of all complaints which could justly be made against them, was that they had been neglectful of their duty, or slow in its discharge. The results of their labors are now before us, and I believe that if the proposition of