

my friend from Calvert, (Mr. Sollers,) prevails, we shall do more work within the next five weeks, so far as the perfecting of measures is concerned, than we have done in the whole antecedent period of our session. But I concur entirely in opinion with him, that we must put a stop to this everlasting propensity to talk. And to accomplish that object, some uniform rule will be required.

If one gentleman indulges in remarks, another must have the privilege of reply, and thus instead of closing our labors by the first of April, (after which period, I do not believe that a quorum of this body can be kept together,) we shall not terminate them until September. I cast reflections upon the course of no man, but I have a right to vindicate my own.

During the three and a half months that have elapsed since the meeting of this Convention, I have been absent from my seat only two days. I am here at my post now and at all times, ready and anxious to discharge the duties which have been entrusted to my hands. So far as my personal wishes or interests are concerned, the business of this Convention cannot be disposed of too soon. I will vote for every fair and reasonable proposition which has that most desirable consummation in view.

Mr. JOHN DENNIS said:

That as it seemed to be the order of the day for gentlemen to give their experience, it might not perhaps be considered inappropriate in him to say a very few words on the proposition now under consideration. The Convention would bear him witness that he had obtruded himself but little on its attention—whether, because his natural temperament was such, that he was not troubled so much as some gentlemen, with that raging disease known as the *cacathes loquendi*, or whether because he did not feel himself as competent to participate in public discussions as others, it was not for him to say. But from the commencement of the session until the present time, with the exception of a short interval after the recess, he had been in his seat.

It had pleased the honorable gentleman who presides over the deliberations of this assembly, with so much dignity, ability and credit to himself, to appoint him upon four very important committees—to wit: The committee of twenty-one, composed of a member from each county, and the city of Baltimore—the committee on qualifications of members to seats—the committee on the apportionment of representation—and the committee of twenty-one called the union committee.

I believe, (continued Mr. D.,) that during the sittings of these committees, night or day, I have been absent but once. I am, therefore, responsible for none of the impediments or delays which have attended the transaction of the business for which we assembled. In May last, when the subject of this Convention was mooted, I, in the exercise of my privilege, voted against the call; not that I did not think there might be some improvements made in the Constitution, but because I doubted the propriety and expediency of

this mode of action, and, because, from the little experience which I had had in the course of twenty years, I feared the result would be pretty much that, which surrounding events and circumstances now foreshadow.

During the last fall, I took the ground before the people that no man could estimate what the cost of this Convention would be. It was said that it would be some sixty thousand dollars. My answer was, that it might cost that sum—or it might cost one hundred thousand dollars—or that, for aught that could then be foretold, it might cost two hundred thousand dollars. I knew we might anticipate that some long-winded gentlemen would be returned to this body, whose love of speaking, growing by what it fed on, would render it impossible to tell how long we might remain here, or what the cost might ultimately be. Although no prophet, nor the son of a prophet, it seems that these anticipations are likely to be realized. The wide unbounded prospect lies before us—but shadows, clouds and darkness rest upon it.

We are here in chaos, and when we are ever to emerge from the darkness that envelops us, into the light of day—the powers above alone can tell.

I knew or thought I knew, that this task of making a Constitution would prove more difficult in its execution, than was dreamt of in the philosophy of those whose vision is bounded by the political horizon of twenty-four hours. Instead of finding it a work of such easy execution, it is now discovered it may not inaptly be compared to the labor of Sisyphus.

I told my people that I preferred they would select another delegate in my place; but when they insisted that I should represent them here, I told them of all the difficulties by which we should be met. I told them that the duration of the session would be far beyond any calculation of theirs, or any reasonable expectation of my own, and that it might become requisite for me to return to my home.

I shall vote with all my heart in favor of the proposition of the gentleman from Calvert, (Mr. Sollers,) or of any other that is likely to be attended with beneficial results.

It is high time that something should be done. If something is not done, we may go on *ad infinitum*, and never bring our labors to a close. Let us stop debate, and go to work.

Mr. MORGAN said, that he should, with pleasure, support the proposition of his friend from Calvert, (Mr. Sollers,) but declared, in advance, that he would not vote for the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Gwinn.) The Convention, (continued Mr. M.) will bear me out in the assertion, that I am not one of those at whose door can rest the charge of having interrupted or impeded the proceedings of the Convention, by offering propositions which have led to debate, or by debating such propositions myself. And I must say to my friend from Baltimore city, (Mr. Gwinn,) that the motion of which he has given notice, comes with no very good grace from him. For, I think that the proceedings of the Convention will show that most