

vention, wait until his name was called, go out and stay out for the rest of the day. Or, he might come in one minute before the Convention adjourned, report himself present to the Secretary, and thus be recorded as having been present from the commencement of the sitting. And thus both these gentlemen, neither of whom had been present for any substantial purpose, were placed in the same position with gentlemen who had been in attendance during the whole day. There were other reasons which might be urged against the adoption of the resolution, but he thought this one sufficient.

Mr. JENIFER said, that if the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. McLANE) had not withdrawn his amendment, he (Mr. J.) should have voted for it, but with the intention at the same time to have voted against both the amendment and the resolution, if the amendment should have been adopted. He was surprised to hear the declaration that the absence of members was the cause of the delay in the public business.

Mr. BRENT explained that he had not stated that the *past* absence of members was the cause of the delay.

Mr. JENIFER proceeded to remark, that he considered it their duty to leave all these matters to their constituents. If it was intended to inflict an iron rod upon this Convention, and to make the members sit down here and listen to all the dull speeches that might be made (including his own) upon every question, he would not give his sanction to any such proceeding. He believed that if members did pair off in twenties on some occasions, it would be better for the Convention, and would expedite its motion. He thought if some of them (and he enrolled himself among the number) were sometimes out of their seats it would be all the better. He referred to the argument of the gentleman who preceded him (Mr. WELLS) in regard to the unequal operation of the rule, and showed how, under its operation, a member might be here at the call of the roll on one day—go to Baltimore—return the next day, and yet have his name recorded as present on both the days of his absence.

In regard to the morning hour more especially, he thought it would be well if most of the members were not here, for more time was taken up in the discussion of propositions such as these, than in more important matters. He referred, as an example, to the resolution of the gentleman from Baltimore city, which had already been the subject of debate in two morning hours. Let every gentleman be left to his own conscience and to the judgment of his constituents. For himself he must be permitted to say, that if the order was passed he should never record his name, because, when he went home to his constituents, and when they knew that he had discharged his duty with fidelity, they would not desire that he should be brought up to the Secretary's table to record his presence, like a servant who answered to the overseer's call on Saturday night.

Mr. BRENT said some gentlemen might suppose it to be a matter of very little moment whether the Convention made a Constitution or

not; for one, he desired that a Constitution should be made with as little delay as possible, and such a Constitution as the people would accept. The gentleman who had just taken his seat had remarked that if some gentlemen were absent at times, it would be all the better for the Convention.

Mr. JENIFER, (interposing.) I included myself.

Mr. BRENT. I know you did, and I am willing to include myself also—but that is a matter of taste. I say that every gentleman's constituents have a right to his full services here.

But (Mr. B. proceeded to remark) the gentleman had said that members should not be bound to sit here all day and listen to dull speeches.

Mr. JENIFER. There also I included myself.

Mr. BRENT said, gentlemen could walk out at any time they pleased; and the resolution gave the very liberty that was claimed. Again—the gentleman had remarked that he would not record his name. Let him take that responsibility on himself. He (Mr. B.) did not pretend to say, that the resolution would work successfully, but at all events he hoped the Convention would try it. If any gentleman proposed to draw a distinction between those who were here all day and those who were not, let him introduce a resolution to that effect. All he (Mr. B.) proposed, was to get gentlemen here who were in the city of Annapolis,—not gentlemen who were perhaps a thousand miles off. If they were in the city they could be sent for, or could be brought here by a call of the Convention.

Mr. SOLLERS said, he was not in his seat yesterday when the question was taken on the resolution of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. BRENT,) and if he had been, he should have voted against it. There were two objections to it. In the first place, this whole series of measures was calculated to bring the Convention into disrepute with the people of Maryland, and, he agreed with the gentleman from Cecil, (Mr. McLANE,) that, whilst they did so, they were calculated also to make it lose respect for itself. He (Mr. S.) did not see the necessity for the adoption of such a resolution.

In the second place, it was utterly inadequate to the accomplishment of the object in view. Were the members of this Convention to be tied, like children by their nurses, to a bed-post with a garter? He did not intend to be so—he was responsible to his constituents alone. The yeas and nays were taken on every important question, and the people could see who were here and who were not. He owed responsibility not to the Convention, but to his constituents alone.

But the gentleman who offered the resolution said, let us try the enforcement. It was of no practical use to do so. The penalty was insufficient. A member could not be compelled to record his name if he did not choose to do so, and he gave notice that he, for one, should never choose to do so.

Mr. HARBINE demanded the previous question, but withdrew the motion.

Mr. DASHIELL, in order, he said, to accomplish the object of the resolution more effectually, moved to amend by adding the following: