

ted in favor of Henry G. Wheeler, the Reporter to the Convention.

On motion of Mr. THAWLEY, The Convention was called, and The Doorkeeper sent for the absent members.

Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER moved to suspend further proceedings under the call; which was Determined in the negative.

Mr. SMITH renewed the motion to suspend further proceedings under the call; which was Determined in the affirmative.

The question was then stated to be on the motion of Mr. THAWLEY.

Mr. WEBER said:

That if he had been present at the time when the vote was taken on the adoption of the resolution it was now proposed to reconsider, he would have voted against it—not that he did not subscribe to the doctrine, that “the laborer is worthy of his hire,” for in the discharge of every public duty, he should endeavor to carry out that sentiment, according to his judgment. But his principal reason for intending at this time to vote for the motion to reconsider was, that this subject must come up again.

He had now in his possession a petition presented by the printers in connexion with this subject, and if they were again to open the question of reporting and printing—if they were to assign to the reporter and the printer what each was justly entitled to; if they were to break down the solemn contracts they had entered into—if they were to do all this, he maintained that they should endeavor at the time these contracts were opened to divide the fund equitably. He desired to do no one injustice. He was prepared to vote for a proposition, after these contracts should be opened, to allow the reporter as much as was paid in either House of Congress for reporting the debates, or he was willing to allow him as much as the Virginia Convention paid to its reporter. If, according to the terms of the contract, they did not pay the reporter as much as was allowed by other States, then he was prepared to go beyond the limits of the contract, and pay him a fair and proper compensation. He was satisfied from his own knowledge, as he declared in this body when the subject was originally under consideration, at which time he opposed the appointment of a reporter, that they could not accomplish the reporting and printing for eight thousand dollars, if the session should extend over three months.

He was satisfied that when they should come to measure the work already done, it would amount to more than that sum, and he was for remunerating both the reporter and printer fairly. He did maintain, and he thought he could demonstrate it, that if the reporter was paid poorly, the printer was paid worse than poorly.

Therefore, that this whole subject might be opened, and the contracts set aside, (for he desired that new contracts should be entered into to do all parties justice,) he would vote for the motion to reconsider.

Mr. BOWIE considered it rather singular that at

this late day of the session, they should talk about going back, and making new contracts. The gentleman was entirely mistaken in supposing that the contract would be broken up. The facts had been reported to the Convention, by the committee on printing, and he was sure every body understood them. The appropriation of four thousand dollars, gave out on a particular day, and they were called on to say whether the reporting should cease, or whether they would make a further appropriation to carry it on. The Convention determined, by a large vote, that two thousand dollars further should be appropriated. Under the contract made by the reporter with the printing committee, (and his friend from Allegany had said that he was perfectly willing to give him as much as was given elsewhere,) the reporter did not get as much as was paid in Washington. The other day, they voted an additional two thousand dollars, but it did not follow that the reporter would get the whole of this amount. If the Convention should adjourn by the first of May, perhaps he would not get it. The contract with the reporter and the contract with the printer, were as separate and distinct as the sun and moon. They made one contract with the reporter, and another with the printer. The reporting had no connexion with the printing. They were entirely distinct. He was glad to hear his friend from Allegany, say that he was willing to pay the printer a fair and liberal compensation. So was he, [Mr. B.] and he doubted whether there was a man in this body that would not be willing to do the same thing. But why should they connect these questions together. They had provided for one, and disposed of it; and now they wanted to reconsider it, in order to bring in something that had not the slightest connexion with it. It would be time enough to consider the printer's bill when it came in. He had heard no complaint from the printer. The gentleman had said that he had a petition from the printers—on the same ground, perhaps—that their appropriation would fall short. Was there a man here who did not know that eight thousand dollars would not be enough for reporting. Everybody said so in the beginning. The gentleman from Anne Arundel, thought it would cost thirty thousand, some thought it would cost twenty thousand, and others thought it would cost fifteen thousand dollars. Every one thought that if they could have the reporting done for ten thousand dollars, it would be making a very good bargain. He had no doubt that they would get both for less than ten thousand dollars, and he hoped that he would hear no more about this reporting business. They had now actually made an appropriation, and the reporter had gone to the expense of getting an additional corps, and this day expected a reinforcement from Boston. In consequence of their meeting at an early hour thus making the sessions longer, he found it impossible to get along with the present corps, and was obliged to obtain additional force. Gentlemen did not understand thoroughly the force of the position in which they were placed, or else they would not so pertinaciously adhere to the motion to reconsider.