

Mr. THAWLEY expressed a desire to hear the contract read.

Mr. BOWIE hoped that this would not be done. The Convention had already heard it read a dozen times.

Mr. THAWLEY. I think the gentleman from Prince George seems very liberal, but he (Mr. T.) would much prefer to see gentlemen liberal at their individual expense in a matter of this character; and, especially so, with the evidence of the contract for this work before them, and which contract he considered was most liberal and conclusively. This, in his opinion, would be much better than to be liberal at the expense of the State. He would confess that this liberality, would not go a great way with him, although he was willing that the reporter and printers should be justly and adequately paid for every particle of labor performed by them.

Mr. BOWIE. That is what we are doing now, but it is proposed to reconsider it.

Mr. THAWLEY. How much per day does the gentleman from Prince George suppose the reporter gets.

Mr. BOWIE. We give him five dollars a column.

Mr. THAWLEY. I would like the gentleman from Prince George (Mr. Bowie,) to inform me how much the pay the reporter receives per day?

Mr. BOWIE. I do not know.

Mr. THAWLEY. The gentleman from Prince George, (Mr. Bowie,) chairman of the report we are now acting on, appears to be very conversant with what was paid at other places. Is the gentleman aware that that the reporter will get more than forty dollars per day, from the day he commenced reporting to the middle of May?

Mr. BOWIE. I do not know how much he gets per day.

Mr. THAWLEY. I presume the gentleman has never made any calculation.

Mr. BOWIE. But the reporter has three assistants, and expects another to day, which will make five.

Mr. THAWLEY said, if he was not mistaken, there had been but two here to do the work until very lately. If he had not been misinformed, one of them was engaged for twenty-five dollars a week,* he thought he made a fair calculation when he said the reporter would get forty dollars a day, from the day he commenced reporting until the day he would leave the Convention; and if he was not satisfied with that amount, he thought he ought to be. He said he had made a calculation; from the 13th day of January, (the day the reporter was engaged,) to the present time, and he found upon a correct calculation made, if he was capable of making one, that it

would amount to forty dollars a day up to the 13th day of May. That amount he thought, when paid to the reporters, paid them very handsomely; and all that he had to say was, that if gentlemen thought the reporters were worth more than that amount, they ought to pay it themselves, and not want the State to do it. He thought the contract was to prepare "sketches of the debates," and those who had made lengthy speeches, and had them reported in full, were justly entitled, and honorably bound to pay for them themselves, and not make the State do it.

Those gentlemen who thought the services of the reporters were worth more than forty dollars a day, would of course vote against this motion to reconsider, but for his part, he thought they were not worth more, and therefore he made the motion to reconsider, and should vote for it.

Mr. STEWART, of Baltimore city, said, that when the majority of the Committee on Reporting and Printing submitted their report the other day, he contented himself by merely having his dissent from that report entered on the journal. He should not have said one word now on this subject, except from some of the remarks which fell from the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Bowie,) who stated that no one supposed that the reporting, according to the plan recommended by the Convention, would possibly have cost less than eight thousand dollars, and it might, (he added,) have cost more than that. Now, it would be seen, by looking at page 181 of the journal, January 3, 1851, that the committee distinctly reported to the Convention, as their opinion, that the whole cost of the reporting and printing would not exceed the sum of eight thousand dollars. This was the report of the committee which had this matter in charge, and to which was confided the making of this contract. The expenditure was classed under the head of four thousand for reporting, and four thousand for printing. He stated, in connection with that report, that he, for one of the committee, did not believe that in point of fact so much would be expended in the accomplishment of these two objects. The Convention would perceive, upon reference to page 198 of the journal, that on the motion of his friend from Worcester, the amount was limited to four thousand dollars, and with this limited authority for the committee to exercise, they made the contract with the reporter, which, in its terms, the reporter was very special about, and in which he had far more experience than any member of the committee; so far as reporting was concerned. He took the contract for sketches of debates, employing this technical term, of which he was familiar, for the whole session, for four thousand dollars. He, (Mr. S.,) would say here in his place, that if the sketches of debates inserted in the contract, as a technical expression, at the instance of the reporter, had been adhered to, by the first of May he would not have exhausted the four thousand dollars—there would have been a surplus. The whole expenditure would not have been required, provided, the reporter had kept to the sketches of debates, about which he insisted with extraordinary urgency.

*This statement is wholly unfounded. The gentleman referred to was paid the full compensation per column from the beginning to the end of his engagement. The remarks of Mr. T. are published as written by himself—his own report having been substituted for that furnished by me.