

ter session when Congress was in session. They deserved a high rate of compensation, because there was rare talent required in their profession, and it was the result of great labor and experience. In measuring the compensation they must not look to see what they themselves would do it for, but the inquiry was this, what were similar services worth and how were such services usually compensated? This was the rule adopted by the Court of Appeals. The compensation they had adopted for this gentleman was, he believed, at the same rate he would have received from Congress, and that reporters usually receive for Congressional reporting. It had been said that Mr. Agg received twenty-five dollars a week. He should like some gentleman to rise up then and say so. He had known that gentleman many years—he knew him to be a most intelligent and competent reporter, and he undertook to say, without knowing anything about it, unless some gentleman was better informed, that he never had consented to serve for twenty-five dollars a week.

Mr. SMITH rose for the purpose of explaining his position. He, for one, in the onset, opposed most strenuously the employment of a reporter. He thought, then, that it would add seriously to the expense as well to the duration of the Convention. He was now thoroughly convinced of the fact. He had no doubt that if this Convention had proceeded without a reporter, they would long since have been quietly at their homes. If they would examine the journal, they would find upon page seventy, that they commenced the discussion on the subject of reporting, and it was continued from day to day, at times with a good deal of animation, up to the 197th page. It was then predicted by several gentlemen who took part in the discussion, that this very state of things which now existed would come to pass. He assured a number of gentlemen, in private intercourse, that the same thing would arise here, which had arisen in almost every body where a reporter had been employed—that they would come in and claim extra compensation. He further predicted that when that period should arrive, many gentlemen who were most strenuously in favor of the reporting, would be found upon the opposite side, while many gentlemen, like himself, who at first opposed, would be found sustaining the reporter. He had then, and had now, entire and perfect confidence in the Committee, who had charge of the subject. He believed they made a fair contract; but he felt it was incumbent upon that committee, to have carried it out, and to have attended to all these matters throughout, and whenever either deviated from the terms of the contract they ought to have been arrested, or informed that if they did so, it would be at their peril. He believed that this Convention had been detained perhaps some six weeks longer than they would have been, had they not employed a reporter, and at an expense of thousands, and he attributed the whole matter to the efforts of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Stewart,) who first introduced the proposition. It was voted down by a decided vote, and at a

very early period, and there ought to have quietly slept, but the gentleman from Charles, [Mr. Jenifer,] in connexion with the gentleman from Baltimore city, pressed this matter from time to time, until they obtained a reconsideration. Then being the chairman of the committee, he thought that the gentleman from Baltimore city was the responsible man in the committee—was responsible for any and every violation of the contract. He, (Mr. Smith,) found that on the 24th of March the reporter informed the House, by letter, that on the fifth of April his fund would be expended, and he requested an early answer to his application. Very soon afterwards a report was made. After very little discussion a vote was had, and a very decided one in favor of the report of the committee. Here then was a renewal of the contract, and a verification of the prediction that extra compensation would be asked. At that time they would find his name recorded in the affirmative, in favor of the proposition to give the reporter an additional sum of two thousand dollars. He found a number of gentlemen who at first voted in favor of employing the reporter, and amongst them the name of two of his own colleagues, (Messrs. Holliday and Fitzpatrick,) [for at that time he acted in concert with the other two,] recorded now in the negative.

Thus the very prediction that he then made that many gentlemen who voted on one side at that time, would be the opposite, was verified by the vote of his colleague, who voted against himself. Although decidedly opposed to the reporting in the first instance, Mr. S. thought it an act of folly in the extreme, to arrest it at this stage; the work would be incomplete. One of the most important subjects—Judiciary—not yet discussed. It will not cost, except by protracting the sessions, more than was first estimated by the friends of the measure, and he sincerely regretted his two colleagues, [Messrs. Holliday and Fitzpatrick,] were not found sustaining the reporter, as they did in the first instance.

It was contemplated, when the contract was entered into, the Convention would terminate about the 15th of March. Now we are in the month of April, and no gentleman of this Convention expects to get through before the 10th of May. I hope the proposition to reconsider will not prevail.

Mr. CHAMBERS said he thought it proper the Convention should recall to their recollection the facts in the case. We had commenced under a contract, such as has been stated. We were all entirely without experience as to the details of labor, price, amount of force required, and above all, without knowing what was to be the effect of sketching, or condensing speeches, into a compass of one-fifth of their natural dimensions. It so happened, that amongst the first of my speeches was one, which was intended for a legal or rather a constitutional argument. The reporter made no pretension to legal learning, and had never, in his life, read the first line of our Constitution. It was no part of his education, or his occupation. Well, in this condition, he is to