

the people the means of investigation. But he had been somewhat disappointed—not in respect to their talents—for he had met men in this Convention, as learned and talented as any he had ever met with in the country. But, he would say that their talents had been most lamentably perverted and misapplied. Why did he say so? Seats had been vacant here week after week and month after month, and still the pay was going on. He had offered, sometime ago, a resolution to stop the pay of absent members, except in case of sickness, and it received but nineteen votes. Well, he would stand by that nineteen, for it was a lucky number; and he believed that those nineteen would yet be sustained by a majority in the State. They would be sustained by the people at large. And it was upon that number he would take his stand. He would say, further, that not only had members been absent from their seats, but even when in in the Capital, they could not be got to come into the Convention until after much delay. And, on one occasion he had been surprised to find that there had been a large majority in favor of holding afternoon sessions; but, when the hour for meeting arrived, those present raised such a hubbub and noise, that after various motions had been made, the Convention was obliged to adjourn, it being found impossible to do any business. He had said at an early part of the session that he did not believe the health of members would be as much injured by meeting here as by keeping irregular hours. He entertained the same opinion still. He had himself, no objection to meet here at four o'clock in the morning, (laughter,) he cared nothing about the time of meeting, so that it was fixed at and regular.

There were those in this Convention, he cared not to name them, for he knew the fact, who had been determined to thwart the holding of afternoon sessions, and for two mortal hours had they, he recollected, on one occasion, prevented business from being done. He would never have been driven from his purpose, if he alone could have effected anything, and had had the strength of body to have stood out the trial—nay, he would rather have sat there till the flesh had dried upon his bones, than have given up!—[Great laughter.] Now, much money had been lost to the State, as well by delegates absenting themselves from their seats, as by permitting members to write out their own speeches. Now, the gentlemen from Kent and Baltimore city, (Mr. Chambers and Mr. Gwinn,) both had said they had had their speeches submitted to them; and the former gentleman had observed that the reporter had made him sometimes say absurd things. Now, that was certainly saying a great deal for the reporters! Then of course that gentleman, as well as others, had to turn round and put themselves right. The gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Gwinn,) had also said the same thing in substance, and had been obliged to write out his remarks. And then the gentlemen get to writing, and as they proceeded, they would say to themselves, "there's a beautiful

idea; I must put that in—I must incorporate that;" and so on, till they get a long speech.—(Laughter.)

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, would ask the gentleman if he spoke from his own knowledge of the fact?

Mr. STEWART, of Caroline, replied that he did not, but he spoke from his knowledge of human nature. A desire to please was strong in the human breast. He (Mr. S.) would tell the gentleman that he (Mr. S.) had never written out but one speech in his life, and he did not know that he should ever do such a thing again.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Sir, I protest. The gentleman is totally wrong. Why, sir, I never thought of such a thing as putting a beautiful idea here and there in my speeches. The gentleman will look in vain for one. (Laughter.)

Mr. STEWART of Caroline, must say that he had looked over the gentleman's (Mr. Chambers') speeches with much of curiosity and pleasure. When he had been at home, some of his constituents had said "Judge Chambers does say some remarkable things." They would say, "why don't you put the anti-reformers down? and close the business of the Convention, in time to give the people an opportunity of investigating the merits of the new Constitution.

Why, they would say you have got many great and talented men, (laughter,) and why, when you get together, don't you go to work and close the business of the Convention.

"Why," he replied, "they would move for a reconsideration—a call of the House, and for the yeas and nays—and when they had got through that process, they would move an adjournment, and then again the yeas and nays, and so on for hours." That was the only way he could account for the doings of this body, and the long time we have been here.

Mr. CHAMBERS. The gentleman has made me to say I have put into the report of debates what I had not uttered on this floor. Now I have not so said. On the contrary I do assert just the reverse. I have altered the language of notes furnished by the reporter, but I have never changed the substance of any one speech made in this House. That is the question between us. Have my speeches been changed? Are they the same as reported and as delivered here? Did the gentleman mean to say they were different? I have a right to demand an answer to that question, and I ask him to give it plainly.

Mr. STEWART, of Caroline, observed, that if he understood the gentleman from Kent correctly, his question was in substance this: "Do you say that Mr. CHAMBERS wrote out for the reporter, a longer speech than he made?" Now, he, (Mr. S.) did not say that; but he did say that the contract was, that there should be only one-fourth of what was spoken reported, and that many members, and he believed among them was the gentleman from Kent, wrote out their whole speech.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent. I don't say say that. Mr. STEWART, of Caroline, would say one-fifth