

tion of debate. The question was a very important one—as much so perhaps as any that had been before the Convention. He thought that at this early stage of the discussion, the order was premature.

He moved that the order be laid upon the table.

Mr. DORSEY requested him to withdraw the motion for a few moments.

Mr. BOWIE withdrew the motion.

Mr. DORSEY said, it seemed to him that the gentleman who had introduced this resolution, had not read the bill to which it referred, or at all events that he had not read it with the care and scrutiny with which it should be read. There were, in his, [Mr. D.'s.] judgment, many objections to the bill, and he could not vote for these parts of it until they should have been amended. He spoke for himself.

Mr. THOMAS differed in opinion, he said, from both gentlemen who had spoken. He should cheerfully vote for the adoption of the order. After the debate on the general principles of the judiciary system should have closed, gentlemen might submit the various propositions which they desired to offer, and could support them in remarks of ten minutes duration. It must be foreseen, that many gentlemen who did not desire to enter into the general discussion, would be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity to speak during the ten minutes allowed for explanation. There must be some limitation on the general debate.

He referred to the habit of debate in the British Parliament, (as contra-distinguished from that of Congress and our other public bodies,) remarking, that in the former members seldom spoke more than eight or ten minutes, the discussions being chiefly of a conversational and business character. He hoped, therefore, that the order would be adopted.

Mr. SPENCER remarked, that the discussion on the judiciary system had commenced only yesterday. Every gentleman would admit that it was one of the most important questions which could engage the consideration of the Convention. He was unwilling, at this time, on the very threshold of the discussion to indicate any particular time at which it should close. Let it go on until Monday or Tuesday next. There would then be an opportunity of knowing what the state of the question was, and the Convention would be better prepared to take some action as to the course of the debate. And even now he was willing to vote for a proposition restricting the time during which any member should speak, to three quarters of an hour. He might, perhaps, be willing to terminate the general debate at the close of the next week—say on Friday next. At present, however, he was not prepared to vote for such a proposition.

The gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas,) seemed to think that the minds of gentlemen were made up on this question. Although the minds of some gentlemen might be made up, he, (Mr. S.), did not believe that the public mind was made up. He knew it was not. In this connec-

tion he alluded to the doubt which rested on the public mind of his own county on the subject.

He did not know that he should, himself, address the Convention on the question in its present aspect. It was possible, however, that he might do so. But, at all events, when the details of the system come to be considered, he should desire to present certain facts and statistics to the consideration of the Convention, and he did not wish to be excluded from the opportunity of doing so.

Mr. DORSEY said, that it was not every gentleman who could arrive at conclusions on important matters. It required almost superhuman power to do so so soon as the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas.) Mr. D. briefly argued the necessity of deliberation in regard to the various propositions growing out of the judiciary system, and the inexpediency of acting blind-folded upon them.

Mr. BOWIE moved to lay the subject on the table.

But Mr. B. waived the motion at the request of Mr. BUCHANAN.

Mr. BUCHANAN remarked, that if the programme of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer,) were to prevail, the labors of this Convention would not be brought to a close until September of next year. If there ever was a disgusted constituency, it was the people of Maryland. What were they dissatisfied with? Not with the failure of this body to debate, but with its everlasting debates. That was the ground of complaint. The people were anxious that the labors of the Convention should terminate. They wanted time to consider the provisions of the Constitution before voting upon them, and they were desirous to form their own judgment upon them.

Mr. B. referred to the beneficial influence which an order of a similar character, exercised on the representation question, and expressed his opinion that without some such order, the Convention would not get through with the debate in less than four or five months.

He renewed the motion, (according to promise,) to lay the motion on the table.

But Mr. B. withdrew the motion at the request of

Mr. SPENCER, who declared his unwillingness to be placed in the position of protracting the session of the Convention, and briefly reiterated the reasons he had assigned for refusing to vote at this time to close the debate. He believed it would be an act of injustice to themselves and to their constituents thus, *in limine* to adopt a rule which would bind the Convention as with hooks of steel.

Mr. S. moved to postpone the consideration of the order until Tuesday next.

Mr. PHELPS enquired of the chair, whether a motion for indefinite postponement would now be in order?

The President said that the motion to postpone to a day certain would, in the opinion of the chair, take precedence over the motion for indefinite postponement.