

Mr. CRISFIELD renewed the motion of the gentleman (Mr. Buchanan) to reconsider.

Mr. BUCHANAN said he had had no opportunity to examine the statistics on the subject. There were two months in the year—April and November—when the Baltimore county court was never able, within a month, to get through the business before it, nor half of it; and the civil business, within his knowledge, was never all transacted. Now, that was not attributable to any want of industry and good management on the part of the judges. A better and more assiduous and untiring set of men could not be found; they were always at their posts, and diligently at work. But certain it was there was an immense mass of business undisposed of when the courts adjourned. He would undertake to say there would not be one-half the necessary business done under the proposed new arrangements of the districts. Mr. B renewed his motion to reconsider.

Mr. SPENCER rose, and requested Mr. Buchanan to yield him the floor for a few minutes, by withdrawing his motion.

Mr. BUCHANAN assented; when

Mr. SPENCER said, he had given notice this morning that he would move to reconsider, and inasmuch as the motion was up to reconsider, he hoped he might be allowed to give his reasons therefor. He would ask the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Buchanan) to yield the floor to allow him to assign his reasons.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Certainly, sir.

Mr. SPENCER then proceeded: When he had voted for the amendment of the gentleman from Somerset (Mr. Crisfield) yesterday, he had in view this motion to reconsider. He looked upon the arrangement of the districts, so far as his county was concerned, as oppressive. We had four counties thrown into our district, and of those four, two of them—Queen Anne's and Talbot—had as much business, and more, than any two counties in the district of Worcester, Somerset and Dorchester, to occupy the time and attention of the court. His great objection to it was, that it would embarrass the plan of incorporating the orphans' court business and that of the chancery court together. He believed that an arrangement of that sort could be effected.

He had had a conversation with the chairman of the Judiciary Committee since that time, and from what had passed between them, he (Mr. S.) was led to suppose that such an arrangement of the districts could be made as to bring about a consolidation of the orphans' and chancery courts, so that one judge could preside over both. If there be any two courts that should be connected, or were natural allies, looking to the character of their business, it was the orphans' and the chancery courts. By virtue of sundry acts of Assembly, when a man dies, if he has charged his real estate with the payment of his debts, and directed it to be sold by his executor, he has to account in the orphans' court. Consequently, a large portion of the business of the State, of that description, is settled in that court. He would repeat that, in his opinion, the

orphans' court and chancery court were natural allies of each other, and therefore they ought to be connected. He thought a project could be presented to this convention by which a consolidation of the two could be carried out. The result of it would be to make only one additional district, making eight districts in all. If, on the other hand, the proposition of the gentleman from Somerset (Mr. Crisfield) should be carried, the State would be put to additional expense. He made this motion, therefore, in order that the whole matter might be perfected. Mr. S. concluded by renewing Mr. Buchanan's motion to reconsider.

Mr. BROWN rose to a question of order. He denied the right of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer,) to make three speeches on one motion. Now, the rule was, as he understood it, that a member should speak ten minutes only, and he could make but one speech when he made his motion to amend. He objected to this course of proceeding. He was tired out and wanted to get home; and he gave gentlemen notice that whenever this rule was violated he would call gentlemen to order.

Mr. HOWARD said he really wished—if the Convention did not wish to be misled—to be allowed to make a single remark.

The PRESIDENT then asked if there was any objection to permitting the gentleman from Baltimore county to proceed.

No objection being made—

Mr. HOWARD remarked that his object was merely to say this: that the statistics read by the gentlemen from Somerset (Mr. Crisfield) would mislead the Convention, because he had not brought the fact to its knowledge that the law limits the session of the Baltimore County Court to one month, and then the judges must go to the city and do business there. He stated the law, and he would say it was no wonder there were many trials.

Mr. CRISFIELD hoped the Convention would indulge him with a single remark in reply, made necessary by what the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Howard) had just said. [Cries of "Leave," "Leave."]

Mr. C. then remarked that he had no design to mislead the Convention.

Mr. HOWARD. No, not at all; I am sure it is only an error into which he has fallen.

Mr. CRISFIELD. If it was an error, it was not an error of his own. The statistics to which he had referred, had been called for by the convention, and furnished by the proper officers. Did gentlemen mean to say there were in Baltimore county annually more than an average of two hundred suits within the last five years? Can the gentleman say there is more business in that county than had been reported? Does the gentleman deny the correctness of the facts stated? If the statement was wrong, it was the error of the clerk. They were not facts of his (Mr. Crisfield's) making; they were returned to us here by authority. There was no complaint that he knew of, that the time allowed the court to be in session was not long enough to complete all the business. Here, then, were the statistics showing