

on the constitution." It is in accordance with the suggestion made this morning by the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely.) It proposes to strike out so much of said section as extends from the word "law" in the seventh line down to the word "and" in the thirteenth line as printed in bill form, and in place of the part thus stricken out to insert the following words, to wit:

"That an election will be held in the city of Baltimore on the twelfth day of October, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and in the several counties of this State, on the twelfth and thirteenth days of October in the same year, at the usual places of holding elections in said city and counties, for the adoption or rejection of this constitution, which election shall be held in the said city of Baltimore, on the twelfth day of October, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, between the hours of eight o'clock, A. M., and five o'clock, P. M., and in the said several counties of this State, on the said twelfth and thirteenth days of October, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, between the hours of eight o'clock, A. M., and six o'clock, P. M."

Mr. CHAMBERS. This experiment of two days election is perhaps a little unsafe in itself. I have a very distinct recollection of a three days election at one time, and I have also a very distinct recollection—as my venerable friend with the white head in front of me (Mr. Ridgely) will no doubt testify—that after the first day there was a sort of battle royal at the hustings. It was a very confused, and perhaps without misapplying the term, I may say a very riotous proceeding.

I do not object to the two days election in this case particularly. But the two days will afford sufficient time certainly if the hours of voting be limited to between the hours of 8 o'clock, A. M., and 5 o'clock P. M., instead of 8 o'clock, A. M., and six o'clock, P. M., as proposed here. The lateness of the hour will probably increase the excitement of the day, and of those who may be at the polls. I would therefore suggest that 5 o'clock, P. M., at that season of the year is quite late enough. It is sundown in the month of October, before 6 o'clock. I would suggest 5 o'clock instead of six as likely to lead to more quiet at the polls.

Mr. EARLE. Many members of the convention expressed a preference for seven o'clock, P. M., as the hour for closing the polls, and solicited the committee of revision to recommend that change. But, if we are to have a two days election, the vote of the State can certainly be taken between the hours of eight o'clock, A. M., and five o'clock, P. M. Without the slightest violation of confidence, or the privacy of the committee room, I may be permitted to state, that the amendment now under consideration was reported to the convention according to instructions from the

committee of revision. Personally, I have no preference for the two days election. On the contrary, as at present advised, I am of the opinion, that the entire vote of the State can be taken in one day. Others, I know, entertain very different views, and I hope we shall have a full expression of opinion on the subject from gentlemen representing the different divisions of the State. My own vote may be influenced to some extent by the opinions expressed.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I am greatly afraid of this experiment of two days election, and nothing would reconcile me to it, but the probability that it would be absolutely impossible to poll the whole vote within the hours allowed in one day. I do not know how it may be in the various election districts in the counties; and before voting upon this proposition I would like very much to hear from members representing the various counties whether it would be impossible for them to poll their full vote in one day. Unless that would probably be impossible, I would very much prefer to have but one day's election. I believe that more than one day's election has operated badly in other States, and nothing but the impossibility of polling the entire vote would reconcile me to the experiment in this case.

Mr. GREENE. In answer to the inquiry of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge,) I would say that the district in which I reside is one of large territorial extent, and polls upwards of seven hundred votes, when the whole vote of the district is out. And it has appeared to me from the beginning that the usual hours of election would hardly be sufficient to secure the administration of the oath to all the voters. I have been desirous of obtaining all the time I could in order to take the whole vote of the district. It has been the habit of the voters of that district to come in to the polls at a late hour of the day; especially those engaged in the mines. They finish their day's work, and come up to the polls somewhat late in the afternoon.

Mr. ECKER. My colleague (Mr. Smith, of Carroll,) who is now absent, I know thinks it would be utterly impossible to get all the votes in in one day. So far as my district is concerned, we poll between three and four hundred votes, and could probably get through in one day. But Taneytown polls five hundred votes, and Manchester about six hundred. And I would therefore prefer to have two days for the election.

Mr. RIDGELY. I would say, in answer to the inquiry of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge,) that so far as Baltimore county is concerned, in the four districts lying immediately on the city line, the first, third, ninth and twelfth districts, in all contested elections the vote ranges from eight to nine hundred votes. If there is to be a