

record my vote, after well-considered and mature reflection and the experience of three years of civil war, in favor of the declaration of paramount allegiance which I hold I owe to the Government of the United States.

Mr. BELT. I would enquire whether it would be in order for me to move an amendment to this fourth article at this time?

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman can move an amendment to the amendment of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke); or he can wait until that amendment is disposed of, and then move to amend the article.

Mr. BELT. There is no proposition before the Convention which fully meets my views; there is no proposition before the house which will enable me to take a course of argument strictly in accordance with my views upon this subject. If it would be allowable, merely for the sake of argument, to move to strike out the fourth article, then I would proceed with what I desire to say.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman can give notice of a motion to strike out this article, and on that notice he can proceed with his argument.

Mr. BELT. That will accomplish my purpose. I accordingly give that notice, and move that this Convention now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to;

And the Convention accordingly adjourned.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1864.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. McNemar.

Present at the call of the roll the following members:

Messrs Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Berry of Prince George's, Billingsley, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Carter, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Cunningham, Cushing, Dail, Daniel, Davis of Charles, Davis of Washington, Dellinger, Davis, Duvall, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Farrow, Gale, Galloway, Green, Harwood, Hatch, Hebb, Hodson, Hoffman, Hopkins, Hopper, Horsey, Johnson, Jones of Cecil, Jones of Somerset, Keefer, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Larsh, Lee, Marbury, Markey, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Nulikin, Murray, Negley, Noble, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Peter, Pugh, Ridgely, Robinette, Russell, Sands, Schlosser, Scott, Smith of Carroll, Smith of Dorchester, Smith of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Todd, Turner, Valliant, Wickard, Wilmer, Wooden—84.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

PRINTING OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. RIDGELY submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the President of the Convention be and he is hereby requested, if con-

sistent with the terms of the present contract with the printer of the Debates of the Convention, to take such steps as may be requisite to enforce the delivery of the printed copies thereof to the members within three days after the copy is supplied by the stenographer, and if such end cannot be attained consistently with the existing contract, that he be and is hereby authorized to effect such a modification of the contract as will reach this object.

Mr. RIDGELY said: I do not know that it is necessary for me to say anything in explanation of this order, for it is apparent from the present mode of the delivery of the Register of Debates, that they will be of little value to the Convention. In reference to the very able and elaborate argument delivered here the other day by the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Clarke,) it will be extremely difficult for any member of this Convention to make a satisfactory reply to it in the absence of the printed report of it. I was present myself during the entire delivery of that argument. But I confess for one, that I was not able to follow the argument in such a manner as to sufficiently comprehend its force, or to have it sufficiently intelligible to me, to enable me to distinctly understand it. Nor do I think it possible for any member of this Convention to be able to meet any argument, especially such as we now have relating almost exclusively to constitutional law, without the aid of the printed report. It is for this reason that I have offered this order, and I think it will be adopted by this Convention with unanimity. Our Register of Debates will be of comparatively little service to us, if we are not to receive them until some two or three weeks after the arguments have been delivered here.

Mr. DANIEL. I was just preparing an order similar to the one offered by my friend from Baltimore county, (Mr. Ridgely.) Doubtless every member of this Convention has felt the need of having the printed debates before us in some more recent time than has been the case heretofore. The last two weeks comprise the most extended debates, and the most work of this Convention, yet not one page of the printed record has been laid before us. Now there should be no reason for this delay. In Congress all the debates are printed within a day or two after delivery; and any member who desires to examine and reply to any argument, has it before him in such a form as to enable him to ascertain accurately all the points it contains. It would certainly facilitate our business here very much, if we could have the debates before us in a printed form within a reasonable time, especially as we are now in the midst of a most interesting debate, and perhaps others of a similar character soon to follow. It is very necessary and proper, for an intelligent discharge of the important du-