

is already a growing dissatisfaction among the people of this State at the dilatoriness with which this Convention is performing its labors, and we will add to that feeling, if this motion prevails. I can conceive no earthly reason why we should, at this time, be cut short for one entire week in our deliberations. We are now discussing an important part of our work. Why not go on with the bill of rights, and complete it before the time comes to adjourn over. I think this motion is entirely out of place at this time, and I am utterly opposed to it.

Mr. STIRLING. I agree entirely with what the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Negley) has said in regard to this adjournment. However, what I desire to say is more for the purpose of clearing my skirts of any responsibility in this matter, than because I think it is going to have any particular effect upon the result. My friend from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely) urges as one reason for this adjournment, that the order we have just now adopted in regard to the printing of our debates, can be more certainly complied with by allowing the time which will be given by this proposed adjournment. I voted for that order with great pleasure, because I think our debates have been kept from us too long. But if that is going to be regarded as the main object to occupy the attention of this body; if each individual member is to be constantly engaged in studying these debates, in order to be able to make some reply to something that has been said here, then this body will resolve itself into a mere talking machine. Now I think the less we read them the better; the less we undertake to consider the elaborate speeches of other members, after they get in print, and to cook up other speeches in reply, the faster will the work of this Convention be performed.

Now what reason is there for this adjournment? No reason can be assigned except the mere fact that because of the great interest taken in the Convention to meet in Baltimore on Tuesday next, it is probable the temptation to be there will be so great that we will be left without a quorum. That is the only practical argument which can be made in favor of this adjournment. And so far as that is concerned, if it is deemed certain that we cannot get a quorum here on next Tuesday and Wednesday, then let the Convention adjourn over. But so far as I am concerned, I do think that, considering the dignified purpose for which this Convention is assembled, it is our duty to stay here, and pay no regard to the nominating Convention, or any other kind of Convention. The Congress of the United States has deliberately refused to adjourn over on account of the Baltimore Convention. I know there is a strong temptation on the part of many to attend when that Convention is in session; and if that is the case here, let us yield a part of the time. Why

cannot we meet here on Monday, and Thursday, and Friday next? Some of the members of this Convention may be obliged to be absent on Tuesday and Wednesday, and even after that. But I think this Convention can get along without them; surely our labors here are not dependent upon the presence of half a dozen individuals.

I say to my friends of the majority of this house, that if they prepare to adjourn for one week, they must prepare to assume a severe responsibility. There is no doubt that the people who sent us here, whether a minority, as the gentlemen on the other side contend, or a majority of the people of the State, still the people who sent us here are dissatisfied with the slowness of progress of this Convention, and there is no doubt about our work being belittled before the people, and its acceptance rendered doubtful, if we turn this Convention into a machine for talking, and do not go to work deliberately to do what we are sent here to do. We have been in session for five weeks, and we have not yet passed a positive declaration on the main subject for which we were sent here. Everybody knows this is a peculiar season of the year, nobody wants to sit here during the heat of summer: it will be almost impossible to keep the Convention here all summer. It is absolutely practicable for this Convention to terminate its session by the first day of July, if members will but determine that it shall be done, and will resolve to sit here and do it—and in my opinion the Convention will deserve the condemnation of the people, if they do not terminate its session by that time. I hope this Convention will not adjourn for the time it is proposed.

Mr. BARRON. I seconded the motion of the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Ridgely,) and I do it upon a proper basis. I made a motion last Friday to adjourn 'till Tuesday; that motion was amended to meet on Monday; now I was here in my seat on Monday, but I noticed that the gentleman who made the motion to meet on Monday was not here. We hear a great many buncombe speeches about injustice towards the people—now there is no man here who is not fonder of work than I am, for God knows I don't like it. But I noticed that gentlemen started out here that we should not go to Baltimore; that we were sent here to do the people's work; yet some of them have been away five, six, eight days. Now I don't blame them: that is all right—and whether we adjourn or not, I suppose that, being one of the peers of this house, if I choose I can stay away a week, and there will not be much said about it. Now there are many members here who want to attend the Convention in Baltimore. I want to be there myself; I am in favor of father Abraham—and I want to be there to see all the log-roll, ing and wire-pulling, and all about it. Now