

in 1850 met here and adopted the present Constitution of the State. The Legislature, when they passed the bill at the last session, presumed that the Constitution which this body was to frame would be framed here, in this ancient city, the place where Constitutions have always been framed for the State of Maryland. What is our charter? Our commission from the people is to come here and make a Constitution here.

What conveniences have we here for the performance of the duties which the people have imposed upon us? We have a hall here, fitted up in the most convenient manner, for the accommodation of the members. We have the rooms in which our various committees can assemble and deliberate upon the various subjects committed to their care. We have our State Library, containing the records and journals of the proceedings of the former Convention and former legislative bodies that have been held here, to which we have ready access; and books to which reference can be made in the argument and examination of any question which may come before the body are all right at our hands. Now I know that in the city of Baltimore we cannot be accommodated with these things unless our Library be removed. There is no library there that we can have access to. They have a Law Library, to which members of the bar are only admitted. A removal of this Convention to Baltimore would necessitate, in order that we may carry out properly the objects for which the people sent us here, the removal of almost all the archives of the Government to that city.

Our committee rooms have been fitted up and we have access to them. If we go into a hall in the city of Baltimore, any which has been mentioned by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. BARRON) yesterday, we shall probably have to look for the accommodation of our committees to rooms in a different building.

But the question is not whether it may be more convenient to members, in giving them railroad facilities to their homes, and their families, or to attend to their own private business; but the immediate purpose to which we should look is the duty which the people sent us here to perform.

Mr. BARRON. I will state to the gentleman, with his permission, that Odd Fellows' Hall has committee rooms far superior to what we have here.

Mr. MILLER resumed. The gentleman says that there are committee rooms there. But even if they have halls and committee rooms, every facility for performing the work which the people sent us here to do is in the city of Annapolis. It is the capital of the State. All the records, and archives, of the government of the State are here; all the departments of the government, from which we shall wish to obtain information on the subjects on which

we are to act, are here. We have ready communication with them, which we cannot have, with such facility, if we remove to the city of Baltimore.

Besides that, as I have said before, it is a departure from the law under which we are assembled. The people, when they sent us here, intended that we should meet in the city of Annapolis and hold our sessions from day to day until we had completed our work. The people said to us that we were not to consult our own convenience. When we came before the people as candidates for this high public trust we accepted the position knowing that under this law the people had directed that we should come here and hold our sessions, and continue here until our work was completed.

The facility of carrying on the business of the Convention, apart from those matters to which I have referred, would be greatly increased by remaining in the city of Annapolis. Baltimore is a city in which there are various allurements which would perhaps attract members from the duties which they are required to perform; and I venture to predict that if we go to the city of Baltimore we shall not complete the labors of this Convention within so short a time, by a month, as we should if we stayed here. I know a little about Baltimore city, and if gentlemen choose to absent themselves and leave the Convention without a quorum, and if a call of the Convention is ordered, and the Sergeant-at-Arms is sent out for absent members, I should like to know how long it would take to get them present in the hall. The Sergeant-at-Arms might hunt over the city of Baltimore for a week before he could find an absent member and bring him into the body. But this, our ancient city, where Constitutions have been formed, where the seat of government is established, is comparatively small, the residences of members are known, and it can be known at once whether a member has left the city or is here; the absent members can be summoned without delay to participate in the deliberations of the body and made to perform their duties.

The dignity of the body also, it seems to me, would be preserved by following the precedents which have been set by those who have framed our previous Constitutions. Let us not, in the very opening of our session, do an act which would seem to disregard the will of the people who sent us here, as expressed in the law under which we are convened.

I will not allude to many other things which might possibly occur in the city of Baltimore. I wish, and I have no doubt it is the wish of the majority of this Convention, that there shall be full and free and frank debate on all questions that may arise in this body. We can have it here. Can we at all times without interruption have it in the city