

of Baltimore? If the history of that city is to be looked to, we shall find that sometimes not law prevails there, and that freedom of debate in deliberative bodies has been interfered with. I do not know that any such thing will happen if this Convention goes there; but it may happen; and we should avoid as far as possible every chance of such an interference. We are to frame a new Constitution. Great and important changes are to be adopted by this body. We ought to deliberate upon them calmly. We ought to have the privilege of debating them fairly. We ought to have a calm, full, fair, and open discussion of all those subjects. In my judgment this above all others is the fitting place in which to hold this assembly; and I am opposed to the order for removing to the city of Baltimore.

Mr. SANDS. If it be proper to do so, I will premise what I have to say by tendering my grateful thanks to the gentlemen of Baltimore for their kind invitation; and I, for one, feel inclined to accept it, not because, as the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller) suggests, I want to pocket any part of my *per diem* as a member of this body. Being named after our good old George Washington, I am willing to follow his example, keep strict account of my expenses and pay the balance to whomsoever may choose to accept it, Baltimore city, Annapolis, or anybody else. That is not one of my considerations at all. Neither am I influenced by any particular love for Baltimore city, or any particular disregard of the good old city of Annapolis. I like Baltimore city for some things, and dislike it for others. I have had individually greater cause to dislike Baltimore city than Annapolis. I am very much, too, in favor of giving all due deference to old things, old laws, old customs, old habits, anything that time has tried and proved good. Still, if I believe that the public good requires a move, no matter in what direction that move is to be made, I for one feel disposed to accept the responsibility of making it.

I thought the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller) in the course of his remarks tacitly admitted that he was setting up objections to the acceptance of this invitation simply that they might be knocked down. For instance, "could we have the same accommodations there?" "Yes," says the gentleman from Baltimore, "and better." "Can we have free debate there?" Now I presume that every individual member of this Convention, no matter what be the shade of his political opinions, stands bound as a gentleman to guaranty the rights of every other individual member of this Convention. He stands so pledged and will never fail. Free and full debate can be had just as well in the city of Baltimore as here; for I take it for granted that no gentleman sent here by the

people to represent them would stand by and see an act of wrong, or injustice, or maltreatment, committed upon any fellow member.

I think then upon those two points, the question of convenience, and the question of free debate, I am authorized to say that the convenience will be greater, and the order just as great, and debate just as full, and fair and free. I turn then to the other points.

I agree with the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller) that no private interest ought to be allowed to stand in the way of the public good; but I allege, from the experience of a single week, that it is my conviction that the business of this Convention will be expedited, instead of delayed, by going to Baltimore. I take it that the objection founded upon the difficulty of the duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms in Baltimore city rather proceeded upon the ground that this Convention, school-boy like, is going to saunter out at any and every opportunity, and that it will be the constant duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms to go out and hunt up its members and drive them in. I have a very different idea of members of this body. I think they came here to discharge a high responsibility—a great trust. Until I find any one of my fellow members delinquent, I am perfectly willing to assume that he will faithfully discharge his duty.

What, then, is that duty? To frame the organic law of the State—to frame a new Constitution for the State of Maryland. If that Constitution pleases the people in its provisions, if it embodies the reforms that the people demand, does it make any difference to A, B, and C, of Anne Arundel or Howard county, where that Constitution is framed? I am one of the people who under this act voted that this Convention should meet and frame a new Constitution. I had not the remotest idea, in voting for a Convention and a new Constitution, that I was tying the Convention down to any given point or place. Neither had the people. The people care nothing at all about that. On the contrary, so far as I had the opportunity of mixing with the people at home, since this matter of removal has been talked about, it has met with universal favor there, from the conviction on their part that the business of the Convention will be expedited.

I claim to be as patriotic as most gentlemen, and as willing to make all reasonable sacrifices as most gentlemen. But I say that no gentleman has a right to ask of me an unnecessary sacrifice. All needful ones I will make freely; all I ask is that I shall not be required to make a useless sacrifice. How then am I situated, and how are the members from Western Maryland generally situated with regard to the place of meeting? I say that holding our sessions in Annapolis will keep these members out of this body at least