

pending, may dispense with the rule herein provided for the reading of the bill upon three several days.

Sec. 18th. No bill shall become a law unless it receive the concurrent vote of a majority of the members present in both Houses.

Sec. 37th. Any citizen of this State who shall after the adoption of this Constitution fight a duel with deadly weapon, or send, or accept a challenge to fight a duel with deadly weapons, either in or out of the State, or who shall act as second, or knowingly aid or assist in any manner those thus offending, shall be deprived of holding any office of trust or profit under this State.

Sec. 38th. No new lottery grant shall be authorized by the Legislature of this State.

Sec. 39th. It shall be the duty of the legislature to pass such laws as may be necessary and proper to decide differences by arbitration when the parties may elect that method of trial.

Sec. 40th. All property both real and personal, of the wife owned or claimed by her before marriage, and that acquired by gift, devise or descent, shall be her separate property, and laws shall be passed by the legislature, more clearly defining the rights of the wife in relation to her separate property.

Which was read.

Mr. P. said he gave this notice now, in order that the Convention might have an opportunity to examine the amendment.

CHURCHES AND CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Mr. BUCHANAN enquired of the chair, whether there was any business before the Convention?

The PRESIDENT, *pro tem*, answered in the negative.

Mr. BUCHANAN said, he had received a petition from a very respectable citizen of the city of Baltimore. He, (Mr. B.,) declared that he did not know exactly what to do with it. It seemed to him that the petition was respectful. The petition was entitled to be heard, and he; (Mr. B.,) could see no reason why he should not be heard. He did not know precisely to what committee it should be referred. [Mr. B. explained the petition. It came from James P. Kennedy, and related to the building of churches and to church government.]

Mr. B. moved its reference to committee No. 14—(not knowing, he said, any other committee to which it more appropriately belonged.)

Mr. MITCHELL called for the reading of the petition.

The petition was read and created much amusement.

The propriety of the reference of the paper, gave rise to some desultory discussion, in which MESSRS. JENIFER, BUCHANAN, THOMAS and SOLERS took part, when

Mr. JENIFER moved that the petition be laid on the table.

The question was taken, and, by ayes 23, noes 25, the Convention determined that the petition should not be laid on the table.

And then the petition was referred to committee No. 14.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. DORSEY rose and said:

It is with extreme reluctance that, in consequence of the remarks made by the gentleman from Baltimore, in which I am held up before this body, and intended so to be held up, I presume, before the public, as guilty of the grossest dereliction of official duty as one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals, I rise to communicate a few facts within my own knowledge; but which are unknown, for the most part to the members of this Convention. I should, in immediate response to the gentleman from Baltimore, have given the explanation I now offer, but I did hope that he would have made such inquiries above stairs, (where the means of information were abundant,) as would have enabled him to ascertain the correctness of the information received by him from his informant; and in that event, I expected from him such explanatory statements as would have rendered any remarks from me on this subject, wholly unnecessary. But in this expectation I have been, to my regret, disappointed.

The impressions made upon this body by the statements of the gentleman, were, I have no doubt, not only that the Court of Appeals had been adjourning day after day from the want of a constitutional quorum for the transaction of its business, to the great hindrance and delay of the administration of justice; and that I had greatly contributed to produce this inconvenience by wholly absenting myself from the Court and having no participation in its labors; or paying any attention to its progress with the business before it. Sir, this could not have been the meaning of the gentleman, for he well knows that since this Convention has been assembled, he argued before me, as one of the Court, with two other counsel, a case of no inconsiderable length, difficulty and importance; that I participated in its decision, and drew the opinion of the Court in the case which has been for sometime filed. And the informant of the gentleman on whose statement his remarks were predicated, since the Christmas recess, argued also a case before me, in which I believe his speech consumed an entire day.

I understood the gentleman to say, that I am not here as a representative of the sovereign people of the State; but was only selected by a portion of the people of Anne Arundel county. This assertion proves rather too much. If true, it shows that the people of the State have no representatives in this body; although we are sitting here preparing a Constitution for their adoption and government. It proves that our Revolutionary ancestors in 1776, who framed our Constitution at that period, were not the delegates of the people of the State; that no Constitution perhaps of any State in the Union was framed by the representatives of the sovereign people. Such a doctrine has nothing to sustain it. Each and all of us in this body are as much the representatives of the people of the State as if elected by a general ticket or popular vote of the whole people of Maryland. My authority to withdraw from the Bench of the Court of Appeals to serve as a member of this body, I believe to be as fully es-