

tablished, by the passage of the Act of Assembly, its adoption by the people, their subsequent elections and our Convention thereunder, as if this Convention had been assembled after the most successful, forcible, and revolutionary struggle.

But when I came here I made up my mind that my attendance on the Convention should not prevent there being a constitutional quorum for the dispatch of business in the Court of Appeals. Of that determination I notified the Court, and requested that I might be sent for when an emergency required it. And day after day, and longer than there was any occasion for it, I visited the Court, and from time to time sat therein when it was necessary for me to do so. I have no knowledge of the Court being adjourned for want of a constitutional quorum; nor do I believe that any such adjournment ever took place. Of my determination in relation to the Court of Appeals I made no communication to my friend from Kent; being apprehensive if I did so, that he might have offered to alternate with me. I was unwilling that he should have done so; being of opinion that his services here were more valuable and important to the business of this Convention than mine were. On one occasion, and only one, when I visited the Court of Appeals at about its hour of meeting, I found that it had adjourned a few minutes before; and fearing, that my absence had caused its adjournment, I expressed my regret and asked why I had not been sent for according to my request; when I was informed that the court had adjourned, not because it was not in a condition to proceed with its business; but because counsel had asked the indulgence, not being prepared to argue the case which had been called up for argument.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, said that he regarded the statement of the gentleman from Anne Arundel County as calculated to impeach the statement made by him the other day.

Mr. DORSEY explained that nothing was further from his intention, as he was sure the gentleman from Baltimore fully believed his statement to be correct.

Mr. BRENT resumed, that he did not suppose that the gentleman meant to charge him, with intentional misstatement. But until he was satisfied he must believe and reaffirm that the business of the Court of Appeals had been delayed for want of a quorum. He doubted whether Mr. DORSEY's explanation would bear investigation. The solution of the matter I suppose to be this, that as the cases were reached in *their order*, there was no quorum, because one of the three judges in attendance, was disabled from sitting, owing to his having decided the case below. In that condition of things there was no Court to try the cases as the counsel came to argue them under the rules of Court, but the Court looking ahead on the docket and seeing a remote case in which the three judges could sit, would agree to take up that case out of its order, but the counsel being of course unprepared to argue that case, the Court was compelled to adjourn over without any fault of counsel as intimated by Mr. DORSEY, but really because there was no quorum—so that Mr. B. regarded his

statement as correct, and that no such adjournment would have taken place but for the presence of two of the Judges in this Convention.

In making these remarks previously, he wished every one to observe that he had only done so in answer to Mr. CHAMBERS' assertion that there had been no delay, and he Mr. B. wished it to be understood that there was no blame on the judges who were out of the Convention. He had written to his informant, and if he had done injustice he would publicly acknowledge it.

The PRESIDENT, *pro tem.*, announced the orders of the day.

#### THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Declaration of Rights.

The pending question was on the amendment offered yesterday by Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. DAVIS was entitled to the floor.

Mr. CRISFIELD suggested that, as the gentleman from Montgomery (Mr. Davis) was indisposed, and could not, therefore, proceed with his remarks to-day, the Convention should take up some other business.

Mr. SOLLERS alluded to the fact that a committee had been appointed to arrange the seats in a certain quarter of the hall, and said, that as time would be required for the purpose, he would move that the Convention adjourn until twelve o'clock on Monday next.

But Mr. S. waived the motion to enable

Mr. GEORGE to give notice of his intention to offer the following articles as amendments to the Bill of Rights:

*Art. 43.* The amount of debts hereafter contracted by the Legislature, shall never exceed one hundred thousand dollars, except for the defence of the State; unless such debt shall be authorized by a law for the collection of an annual tax or taxes, sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as falls due, and also to discharge the principal of such debt, within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same, and the taxes laid for the purpose shall never be repealed or applied to any other object, till the said debt and the interest thereon shall be fully discharged.

*Art. 44.* The assent of two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the Legislature, shall be requisite to every bill appropriating the public money, or pledging the public faith, for local or private purposes; and the Legislature shall not have the power to make appropriations, loans or subscriptions to any work of internal Improvement.

The question then recurred and was taken on the motion of Mr. SOLLERS, and, having been decided in the affirmative,

The Convention adjourned until Monday morning at twelve o'clock.

MONDAY, February 10th, 1851.

The Convention met at twelve o'clock, in pursuance of the order of Saturday last.

Prayer was made by Rev. Mr. GRAUFF.