

men to rise here gravely to discuss a question settled last night in a caucus. It would be the extreme of folly to engage in an argument against a proposition, to the support of which a majority is solemnly pledged. The Constitution was to be made for the whole people, it ought to be made by the representatives of the whole people. Any other course of proceeding would impose on the State a Constitution formed by a minority of the Convention, in fact, though not in form. Other gentlemen might think this an allowable and proper course. Doubtless if they pursue it, they do so think. He had no right nor any inclination to censure them for such opinions, but he did claim the privilege of expressing a contrary opinion, and he further thought, that when it became the settled practice to adjust matters elsewhere than in this body, and by a portion of it less than the whole, it would be well for the other members to save the State the expense, and themselves the time and trouble of remaining here.

Mr. PRESSTMAN addressed the Convention at some length, but before closing his remarks, (which will be hereafter published,) gave way to a motion to adjourn.

Which being agreed to,

The Convention adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, March 26, 1851.

The Convention met at ten o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRAUFF.

The roll was called, and

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. BISKER presented a petition of fifty-two citizens of Frederick county, praying that provision may be made in the new Constitution to prevent the sale of intoxicating drinks, except the same shall first be sanctioned or approved by a majority of the voters in the county, election district or ward, where the same is to be sold; and

Mr. PARKE presented a petition of forty-nine citizens of Carroll county of similar import;

Which were severally read, and

Referred to the select committee already appointed on that subject.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

Mr. HOWARD offered the following order:

"Ordered, That the Convention will on day next, at o'clock, unless the debate shall have ceased before that time, proceed to vote upon the various motions, propositions, articles and amendments, which may be pending touching the subject of representation.

The order having been read—

Mr. HOWARD said:

His object was to draw out the opinions of gentlemen, so that some day might be fixed upon by general consent, when the debate should terminate.

Mr. MERRICK. Does the gentleman designate any day?

Mr. HOWARD. I have left the time blank, so that the Convention may fix upon some time—a day or two hence, when the question shall be taken.

Mr. MERRICK said:

He had conferred with some gentlemen as to the propriety of designating a day for the termination of the debate, and the idea seemed to be, so far as he could learn, that it should be brought to a close on Friday next.

The Convention was now quite full—as full, probably, as it could be expected to be—and, by fixing a day, gentlemen would have notice in time to be present. At this moment, however, the Convention was thin, and he suggested that the order should lie over until to-morrow.

Mr. BLAKISTONE enquired of the gentleman from Baltimore county, who had introduced the order, (Mr. Howard,) whether it was intended that a vote should be taken on the various propositions that might be submitted, or that the Convention should be confined to the two propositions which might be pending at the time the debate was closed. Were all other propositions to be excluded?

He desired himself to present what he considered as the *ultimatum* for which he was likely to go. For his own part, he was prepared to vote now; but he would like to get the proposition which would be most acceptable to the people.

Mr. MERRICK took it for granted, he said, that there was no intention to exclude any proposition, and that the only object of the order was to fix a day for the close of the debate, so that all gentlemen might have fair notice when the question would be taken.

Mr. BROWN suggested to the gentleman from the county, (Mr. Howard,) so to modify the proposition, as to allow five minutes for explanations to gentlemen who might offer propositions.

Mr. B also suggested that the blank should be filled now, and the resolution adopted, so as to give all the time possible to absent gentlemen to return to the city.

Mr. SMITH asked that Saturday should be substituted for Friday. One of his friends, (he said,) from Western Maryland, (Mr. Schley,) now absent on indispensable business, was exceedingly anxious to be here when the vote was taken. It was impossible for that gentleman to receive notice so as to be here by Friday, but he could reach the city by Saturday. He had requested him, (Mr. Smith,) when a time should be fixed for the termination of the debate, to inform him of the fact.

Mr. MITCHELL expressing his desire that the fullest possible attendance should be obtained when the vote was taken, moved to fill the blank with Monday next.

Mr. MORGAN said, that some gentlemen desired Monday, and some Friday. The object was that notice might be given to all the absent members of the Convention, that the vote would be taken at a specified time. He knew of some