

been to repel the charge of disrespect towards the people of the West, which the gentleman had brought against the smaller counties. His, (Mr. C.'s,) object had been to show, that he was now where the gentleman had been in 1836, and that no want of respect had been shown, unless it had been in not following the gentleman in his charges. And now he did not intend to be unkind. The remarks he had now made were rendered necessary in his own defence by the reply of the gentleman.

And then the Convention adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 28, 1851.

The Convention met at ten o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRUAF. The roll of the members was called, but no quorum was in attendance.

On motion of Mr. DORSEY, it was

Ordered, That it be entered upon the journal that Mr. DAVIS is called home by the indisposition of a member of his family.

On motion of Mr. WEBER, it was

Ordered, That it be entered upon the journal that the absence of Mr. SHERWOOD, of Talbot, is occasioned by the indisposition of a member of his family.

Mr. GAITHER presented a petition of 65 citizens of Frederick county, praying that a clause be inserted in the Constitution of this State, empowering a majority of the legal voters of any county, district, city or ward, to restrict the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, in their respective counties, wards or districts.

Which was read, and

Referred to the select committee already appointed on that subject.

The PRESIDENT announced the unfinished business of yesterday, being the order submitted by Mr. JAMES U. DENNIS, allowing no member to speak more than forty-five minutes upon the question of representation.

No quorum was present.

Mr. SPENCER said, he thought that the Convention had waited long enough for a quorum. He moved that there be a call of the Convention.

A call was ordered.

After some time, all further proceedings on the call were dispensed with.

THE PENDING DEBATE.

Mr. DIRICKSON moved the Convention take up for consideration the motion made by him on yesterday, to reconsider the vote of the Convention, limiting the debate upon the various amendments pending, touching the subject of representation, to two o'clock this day.

Determined in the affirmative.

Mr. D. said, it was useless for him to state the motive which had influenced him in submitting this motion.

Mr. MERRICK said, that a few days since, upon full deliberation and discussion, the Convention had determined that the debate on this subject should be closed to day, and that they should proceed at once to some definite result. The object contemplated was that notice should be given to those gentlemen who were not in the city, that at a certain time the vote would be taken upon that question, which seemed to be considered the most interesting of the session. It was observed also that there was a larger number of members present than there had been for a long time, or that it was likely there would be again. The object nearest to the heart of every gentleman who took a deep interest in the subject, was that when the question was taken it should be voted upon by the largest possible number of members—that no affirmative proposition should be carried that did not receive the votes of the majority of the whole number of the Convention. Upon this question, at all events, if not upon any other, there should be a fair and full expression of the judgment and opinions of the Convention.

The spring had opened—the vernal season had arrived—the sweets of nature were tempting us abroad in every direction. The pursuits of many of the members of the Convention, imperatively required them to give their personal attention to that business, upon which they depended for the support of themselves and their families. They were all here present under due notice given that the vote would be taken to-day, and all were willing to remain here for the purpose of carrying out the deliberate will of the majority. After that question had been taken, he had no idea that a Convention as full as it now was, would again be obtained.

Wherefore, then, should this resolution be rescinded? For what purpose? If for any thing, it was for the purpose of discussion. There could be no other object. Did any gentlemen believe that, after a session of five months, during which the minds of all the members of the body had dwelt more or less upon this question; and, after a discussion of the duration of a week, there was any gentleman here whose opinion could be changed by discussion? Not one. No man anticipated any such result. It was also to be borne in mind, that under the rule which had been adopted, five minutes were allowed to every gentleman to explain any proposition he might offer. Let us not then open the question to further debate; which, for all practical purposes, would be useless here.

Mr. DIRICKSON said, that the reasons which had been assigned by the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Merrick,) against the motion to reconsider, required a few words from him, (Mr. D.) He, like that gentleman, desired to return to his home. He should be glad if the Convention could close its labors this day and this hour. But although, as the gentleman had said, the vernal spring was tempting them away, yet he and the gentleman from Charles had duties to discharge and obligations to fulfil here, from which they could not be turned aside by person-