

As a member of the committee on the judiciary, I have never yet expressed my sentiments either on one side or the other. So far as my individual opinions are concerned, I may say, that, with a few exceptions, I shall oppose all parts of the report of the Chairman of the committee, and that I shall at the proper time, submit my views upon the subject.

In the earlier part of the session I threw out the general opinions I entertained. So with regard to the minority report of the gentleman from Somerset, (Mr. Crisfield.) That report cannot receive my support or sanction. This important question remains to be considered and acted upon.

Are we prepared to come here, sit all day in the discussion of grave questions like this, and then return again to the same duty in the evening? I think I have about as strong a constitution as any member of this body, and that I can undergo as much fatigue. But what must be the condition of some other gentlemen advanced in years—who were sent here for their wisdom, learning and virtue; occupying seats on both sides of the Chamber—of one party and of the other.

Are we, by our course of proceedings, to break down the health of these gentlemen, and thereby deprive ourselves of the benefit of their services at a period of the day when we shall have most need of their prudence and discretion? Allow me to say, that even if the strength of all of us were equal to such a test, and even if we were all capable, as some gentlemen seem to be, of seeing at a glance the strong points of all propositions, and of comprehending, with a sagacity unrivalled, their tendency and operation—still no good result can grow out of these evening sessions. They will not be attended. We shall waste our time in continual calls of the Convention, and if any propositions should be carried, they will be reconsidered the next day.

If, however, we continue to meet at ten and adjourn at three, we can, whenever any emergency arises rendering such a step expedient, remain here one, two, or three hours beyond the usual time. Such a motion will hardly fail of success, whenever its necessity or propriety shall be apparent.

We shall then proceed regularly and systematically with the business before us, and in my judgment will expedite the period of our final adjournment. That the contrary course will, by the difficulties it will interpose, embarrass our business and protract our session, I have not a doubt.

Mr. TUCK referred to the evening sessions of the Legislature and said, that the comparison was not altogether correct. The Legislature always had before it a multiplicity of business on many different subjects. Evening sessions were principally devoted to local legislation, and then there was a struggle as to which bill should come up first, and hence the confusion. But

he had always observed, that when they were engaged on a subject which involved the public interests of the State, and had an evening session, gentlemen were as attentive then as in the morning. The gentleman from Anne Arundel had said, that on account of ill health, he would not be able to attend the evening sessions. Last Saturday evening he saw that gentleman voting against all adjournments, going so far as to say, that he would be willing to sit there all night to carry a measure.

Mr. DORSEY said that he did not want to put off the question.

Mr. TUCK said that he was only stating a fact. They had now been in session over five months, and he believed they had settled nothing yet, except one clause in relation to slavery. They had many things to do, and unless they worked faster, they could not get through the Constitution so as to submit it to the people to vote on by the first of June. They could try this experiment, and if it should not succeed, they could return to their old plan. It was worth an experiment. As to what fell from the gentleman from Queen Anne's, he concurred in it. He, (Mr. T.,) suspected that they were to have a good many speeches—speeches to go on the record—which would convince nobody. In his opinion they might just as well be delivered in the afternoon as at any other time. Under the present state of things, he would undertake to say, that they could not complete their labors by the first of May.

Mr. HOWARD said that there was one consideration bearing upon this matter, which he thought members should not lose sight of. If they should pass this order, and wished their speeches to be taken down in short-hand and then written out, it would be impossible that it could be done when they crowded business upon the reporters in this manner. It seemed to him that this would be physically and mentally impossible, unless they should call to the aid of their reporters some three or four more to assist them. It was a wonder that they had kept up thus far with the proceedings. They must write out the speeches at night or at some time, and if they should impose this duty upon them, it would be utterly impossible for them to keep up with the Convention.

Mr. THOMAS very widely differed with gentlemen who opposed this order. He had seen evening sessions in the Congress of the United States, a much more numerous body than this, and had known a great deal of good to grow out of them. He could not but think that it was doing injustice to the Convention to say that they could not assemble in evening sessions. The gravity of the occasion would make men grave. He could not believe that after having been there so long without settling one great principle—hardly one—that that body would refuse to give to the public interests additional sessions of three or four hours. He would take occasion to say, that it was perfectly congenial to his feelings in every