

charged me "with virtually betraying my trust." I heard no such thing from him. I heard him say that I did not correctly express the sentiments of my people, but I heard nothing which amounted to a charge of traitorism or betrayal of trust. I can only say that I do not recognize in that speech, or version of my remarks, what I did correctly say. I do not know the person, in any shape or form, who wrote the letter. I am only responsible for what appears in the report of the official reporter to this body.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

Mr. JENIFER rose, he said, to offer an order, the adoption of which, he thought, would be attended with advantageous results. He believed that every member of the Convention was perfectly satisfied that they were as far removed from an adjustment of the question now as on the day on which they first proceeded to its consideration. The object of the order was to bring the Convention to a fair expression of opinion, so that some compromise might be presented which would command the votes of a majority. If it failed no harm could be done—if it succeeded, practical good would follow. The order did not come in conflict with the appropriate duties of the committee which had heretofore been appointed on the subject. Every portion of the State had been heard, so far as the views of each portion were concerned; and yet, as things now stood, the Convention was as far from a practical result as ever.

The order was read, as follows:

"Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed, to consist of two members from the counties of each gubernatorial district, and one from the city of Baltimore, to take into consideration the question of Representation, and to report to the Convention the most expedient mode of apportionment for the House of Delegates, and that said committee have leave to sit during the sittings of the Convention."

Some explanation passed between Messrs. Dorsey and Jenifer.

Mr. MORGAN moved to amend said resolution by striking out from the word "seven," in first line, to the word "district," inclusive in second line, and inserting in lieu thereof "twenty-one;" be appointed to consist of one from each county.

Mr. M. argued that, under the adoption of the amendment he had proposed, some compromise might possibly be arrived at, and some definite action had upon the report of such a committee. But he could not conceive, he said, that any committee raised upon the plan pointed out by the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Jenifer,) could arrive at any conclusion which would either expedite the business of the Convention, or bring the Convention to any definitive vote.

Mr. JENIFER briefly replied to the objections of Mr. Morgan, and contended that the appointment of a committee such as that proposed by the gentleman from St. Mary's, (Mr. Morgan,) would be equivalent to referring the subject to a second Convention, and would delay the business of the body. He hoped that his own proposition would be adopted. It might do good, and at all events could do no harm.

Mr. MORGAN said, it was not enough that the proposition of the gentleman from Charles (Mr. Jenifer) would do no harm. The question was, would it do any good? If not, why should it be adopted? He wanted to see the labors of this Convention terminated; he was tired of sitting here. Mr. M. replied to the objections of Mr. Jenifer to his [Mr. M's] amendment; he contended that they were not well founded, and that it was only by the adoption of some such proposition as he had offered that a definite conclusion could be reached.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, disagreed with the supposition of both the gentlemen who had preceded him, as to the impracticability of doing any thing on this question of representation without some extraneous influence. He did not believe that the labors of the Convention, in the efforts it had made to adjust the question, had been lost. He did not think that the Convention was as far from a decision as it was at the beginning. But he agreed with the gentleman from St. Mary's, (Mr. Morgan,) that, upon the hypothesis that the Convention were as far from an agreement as ever, he [Mr. C.] believed that the plan of the gentleman from Charles (Mr. Jenifer) was not one calculated to expedite its approach to the *terminus ad quem*. A report from a majority in favor of any given proposition was calculated to fasten and rivet upon that portion of the body with whose opinions it might concur, their precious judgment. The complaint was now that gentlemen would not abandon the positions they had occupied. He thought that the philosophy of the case was this: that whenever the members of the Convention should be satisfied that every means which could be used to attain the result at which they aimed had been exhausted, and had proved ineffectual, they would then be prepared to make some advances in another direction. He did not speak with reference to any particular individuals; there might be individuals actuated by some ulterior motive, of which he knew nothing. He spoke of the views of the members. That point had nearly been reached. Every member of the Convention had offered his first love. The gentleman from Charles (Mr. Jenifer) had offered his. He [Mr. C.] here offered his; and he was satisfied that the matrimonial contract never could be consummated between the high-contracting parties on this floor. Although he was anxious to have a Constitution, he deemed it hopeless to expect one if gentlemen were to say that they would adhere tenaciously to their own propositions, and would take no other. The spirit of compromise was abroad. Various propositions looking to that end had been offered. Some project must be adopted. Let the Convention continue voting until that project should turn up. It was not by the advice, or the weight, or the influence of a committee that this question was to be settled, but by the deliberate judgment of the different parties of the State.

After a remark from Mr. JENIFER, (imperfectly heard by the Reporter,)

Mr. SPENCER said, he conversed pretty much with the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers.) He [Mr. S.] did not think that the slightest pos-