

the City Council of Baltimore. The Convention will now listen to that communication.

Mr. EVANS, chairman of the committee, said: Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention: We are here, as has already been suggested, as a committee of both branches of the City Council of Baltimore, sent here for the purpose of presenting to this body an invitation to transfer your sittings to our city. It is comprised in a series of resolutions which unanimously passed both branches of the City Council, which I shall have the honor of sending to the Chair. In addition to that it is perhaps scarcely necessary to make any statement; but I will observe that both resolutions passed both branches unanimously, receiving not merely a formal but the hearty assent of every member of the City Council. I am authorized to assure the Convention that if they should think proper to accept the invitation, they will find that sort of welcome which a body of this kind is entitled to receive from such a body as the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. They will be provided with a suitable hall, and everything will be done to make them comfortable and enable them to conduct the deliberations which we hope will result so much to the advantage of the State, in the most efficient manner. I have now the honor to send to the Chair the resolutions.

The resolutions were read as follows:

RESOLUTION OF INVITATION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO TRANSFER ITS SESSIONS FROM ANNAPOLIS TO BALTIMORE.

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, That an invitation be extended to the Constitutional Convention, now in session at Annapolis, to transfer its sessions from that city to Baltimore.

Resolved, That a joint committee of three members from each Branch be appointed to obtain a suitable hall and accommodations for said Convention, without delay, and that they be authorized and instructed to extend as soon as a suitable place of meeting can be engaged, an invitation to the Constitutional Convention, to transfer its sessions to the city of Baltimore, and to occupy the hall so provided, at the expense of the city.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,

Baltimore, April 29th, 1864.

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution which was adopted unanimously by the First and Second Branches of the City Council of Baltimore, at their session of this date.

ANDREW J. BANDELL,

Clerk First Branch.

WM. S. CROWLEY,

Clerk of the Second Branch.

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of the following order, offered yesterday by Mr. SCOTT:

WHEREAS, The City Council of Baltimore

have tendered to this Convention, free of cost, a Hall for our sessions; therefore,

Ordered, That we accept their generous offer, and adjourn to that city as soon as the Convention are in receipt of information that a suitable hall is ready for our reception.

Mr. MILLER. I am opposed to the adoption of that order. I have heard no reason assigned by any member who has advocated its passage why we should transfer the sittings of this body to the city of Baltimore. It seems to me that the question which this body is called upon to determine for itself, is not whether Baltimore city will be a more convenient place for members individually to attend to their private business; or whether it will furnish them with more facilities to go to their homes, or whether it will be less expensive to them in the way of board or accommodation, or anything of that kind. The question is whether Baltimore city, or Annapolis the capital of the State, is the best and most convenient place in which to do the duty which the people sent us here to perform. Personal convenience or personal emolument, whether we shall put into our pockets the difference between the \$5 per diem granted by the bill under which we have assembled and our expenses, never entered into the consideration of the people who sent us here. It was a high public trust which we were to assume, under the bill which called us together, and the people who sent us here supposed we would accept that trust and go to the capital of the State and there perform the duties which they entrusted us to perform.

What does that law say? The third section of it provides:

"That in case a majority of the ballots cast shall be in favor of the call of a Convention as aforesaid, then the said Convention shall meet at the city of Annapolis on the last Wednesday of April, in the year 1864, and shall continue in session from day to day until the business for which said Convention shall have been assembled shall be fully completed and finished."

When the people voted under that law, they voted to send us here to the Capital of the State, to meet here, and to continue our sessions from day to day until the business for which we were called together has been fully completed and finished. It is in every way fitting and proper that we should meet and hold our sessions here. Why are we assembled at this time? It is for the purpose of framing a new Constitution, a new organic law for the State of Maryland. What has been the precedent in such cases? Our predecessors in 1776 met here, in the State capital, and continued their sessions, working from early in the morning until late at night, and framed and adopted here, in the Capital of the State, a Constitution which lasted for more than half a century. Our predecessors