

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I move that that motion be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to postpone was agreed to.

On motion, The Convention adjourned.

FIFTH DAY.

THURSDAY, May 5th, 1864.

The Convention met, and was opened by prayer.

The journal of yesterday was read.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I made the motion yesterday that the consideration of the subject, and not of the motion to reconsider, be indefinitely postponed, and I desire that the journal should be so corrected.

Mr. SANDS, Mr. BARRON, Mr. HEBB, and the President stated that the journal corresponded with their recollection of the motion that was made.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE, and Mr. BERRY of Baltimore county, recollected the motion otherwise.

There being objection, the journal was not changed.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

Mr. SANDS submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the following named members be added to the Committee on the Judiciary Department: Messrs. Daniel, Purnell, Thruston, Baker, Davis and Billingsley.

Mr. BERRY of Baltimore county, object to that. If the gentleman desires the committee to be increased, let him ask for that and let the President appoint. I think it is a reflection upon the President to put such an order as that upon the journal.

Mr. SANDS. I take pleasure in assuring the gentleman that the order is no such reflection. I have now met that committee several times; and I think it wants more members. All the members have not been present at any meeting of that committee. I think we need a larger committee. I disclaim any idea of reflecting upon the President or anybody else. The original motion was for the President to appoint seven, which he has done. Now, sir, as a member of this body, after meeting with that committee several times, I say that my conviction is that it needs enlarging, and I have offered an order that the committee may be enlarged, simply that the business of the body may be facilitated. I repeat that I utterly disclaim any reflection upon the President, or upon any gentleman whatever.

Mr. MILLER submitted the following amendment:

Ordered, That the number of the Committee on the Judiciary Department be increased by five additional members, to be appointed by the President.

Mr. CUSHING. I should like to know for what reason an increase of this committee is desired. The committees were established by a vote of the Convention, seven in each. I

have heard no allegation that the members are insufficient to do the work. So far as my own experience has gone, too large committees are not desirable. The Convention had this subject under discussion when the committees were ordered to consist of seven members each. Before voting for the increase of any committee, or the addition of any members, I wish to know on what grounds the increase of the committee is desired.

Mr. SANDS. Of course it gives me pleasure to inform the gentleman. At the first meeting I think there were five members present; and after a little informal talk we adjourned. This morning again at half past 10 we met, and one member was absent; and it was proposed that we should adjourn in consequence of the absence of that member. To-morrow morning I shall not be able to be here, I think; my health being in that condition which will necessitate my returning home. Of course the same ground will be taken for adjournment, the absence of a member of the committee, there being but six there. I think by the addition of the names embraced in that order, we shall have a sufficient number of gentlemen to enable the committee to keep straight forward in the transaction of its business. That was the only purpose which I had in view. I want to get away as soon as I can; and I want the business of the committees with which I am connected to be transacted as speedily as possible. Those are the reasons upon which the order was based.

Mr. CLARK. I do not know whether it is properly in order to refer to proceedings which have transpired in committee; but inasmuch as the gentleman from Howard has referred to the matter, I deem it due to state that the committees were only announced on yesterday. I thought as one member, Mr. Jones, of Somerset, was absent yesterday and had not yet returned, this morning, being detained by the pass system going into operation this morning without his knowledge and being unable to secure his pass in time—it would be well to wait for him. The committee started at the very earliest period to go to work and discharge the duties assigned to us, and have worked faithfully and progressed rapidly. Probably if the committee had been larger, and the discussion had extended to more members, we should not have accomplished as much work as we have already accomplished. The committee have already passed upon various matters; and if now, after it has determined what course it will take, other members are added before the committee had an opportunity to submit the report to the Convention, it destroys the work already done, for it must all be considered again. The committee purposes to go on faithfully in the discharge of its duties. I have no desire, if the House wishes a larger number, that it should be limited to the number of seven. But I see no reason for