

into the full light of reason. I want to go there with him. I want to stand in that light. I want to act under that light.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I would suggest that the cloud that hangs over him, equal to the Egyptian midnight, must be first expelled.

Mr. SANDS resumed. The gentleman has heard of the little boy who went into the show and saw two animals. He had heard of the lion, and of another animal which had rather longer ears than the lion; and he wanted to know which was which. But the showman replied, "You pays your money, and you takes your choice." Whether my light or that of the gentleman from Prince George's is the true light I do not pretend to say, other than for myself. But I will add this, that if I wanted to go to an illuminating region, and I saw in one direction 35 suns, moons, or stars, and in another direction a galaxy of 61, I would turn my back upon the 35 and march straight toward the 61. Light! Yes, we want it; and I am going toward that system which has the most orbs in it. I do not interfere with the views of any gentleman. He is perfectly welcome to entertain them, to express them, and to vote upon them. I want the right to do so myself; I claim that right; and by no act of mine will I disrobe myself of the right and authority to do it.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore County. I see that the 49th rule says:

"Rule 49. The rules may be suspended when demanded by three-fifths of the members present."

This is not a suspension, but an alteration of the rule. I desire to know what vote is necessary in order to change the rule.

The CHAIRMAN, (Mr. Purnell.) A majority.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore County. The 55th rule is:

"Rule 55. No standing rule or order shall be rescinded or changed without one day's notice being given of the motion therefor."

That does not say how many votes are necessary. The third section of the 54th rule is:

"Sec. 3. The Rules of Parliamentary Practice on the call of the previous question on all other subjects shall govern the Convention."

In both branches of the Congress of the United States it requires two-thirds of the members present to change or suspend.

"Rule 145. No standing rule or order of the House shall be rescinded or changed without one day's notice being given of the motion therefor; nor shall any rule be suspended except by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present," &c.

In a note, we find the exceptions to this rule:

"By rule 104, a majority may at any time suspend the rules for the purpose of going into

Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and also for closing debate therein; and by rule 119, to make any of the appropriation bills in special order. These are exceptions to this rule."

According to that, the rules cannot be changed or suspended except by a two-thirds vote.

Mr. CLARKE. When this 55th rule was before the Committee I proposed to add to it so that it should read, that the rules should not be changed without a vote of a majority of the members elected to the Convention. The majority of the committee preferred that there should be no provision whatever in reference to it. I asked the committee what rule should govern in that case, and they said there was time enough, and no answer was given. The rule was reported in this way to the Convention, purposely leaving it in that state of uncertainty.

Mr. CUSHING. The same authority that adopted the rules can change them. We adopted them by a majority vote, and made no provision that it should require more than a majority, and consequently a majority can change them.

Mr. CLARKE. I hold that the rules were adopted by a majority of the members elect. I know of hardly a member who voted against them on their third reading. Following the precedent of their adoption, it would require a majority of the members elect to change them.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore County. I should like to have the question I raised decided; as it may avoid future difficulty.

Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH, President. I think my friend is laboring under the impression that the rule of the House of Representatives controls parliamentary law. I think he is mistaken in that respect. The House of Representatives is nothing more than a mere body like our own; while parliamentary law has come down to us from our ancestors in Great Britain. It is a standing rule, I believe, in all bodies, that the majority shall control unless the body shall have agreed and determined otherwise, by a special rule.

The CHAIRMAN, (Mr. Purnell.) The Chair is under the impression that in the absence of a rule on the subject, the majority will prevail.

Mr. HERR demanded the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

Mr. CLARKE. The 47th rule is:

"Rule 47. The Rules of Parliamentary Practice shall govern the Convention in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Standing Rules and Orders of the Convention."

Now I say that the rule of Parliamentary Practice is that a majority of the members elect, or the same vote that adopted a rule, shall be required to change it.