

my family and friends. I remain here in Annapolis.

As the chair has correctly observed, and it is the same with this house as with all deliberative bodies—the actual business of voting upon propositions is the very smallest portion of the business of the convention. I dare affirm that the actual business done here in any day, by way of voting or otherwise, could be done in a single hour. It is the necessary debate arising from a courteous interchange of views upon the different propositions, that prolongs the session three or four hours. The real work of this house, as of every such body, is done outside of it. How can it be done outside of it, when the sessions commence as early as ten o'clock? Can members consult in the morning before that hour? I profess to have received the great at light upon many questions from conversation with members; not necessarily in committee; from the interchange of views outside of the house.

I hold therefore that the best way to advance the interests of this assembly, and the business upon our shoulders, is not by separating and leaving our seats, but by remaining here, and giving a close attention to business, both in the house when it comes up, and out of the house when it is under consideration; that we should remain here every day.

It is fashionable—it has been the rule, I understand, with some members, from the very incipency of the session, to go home every day; leaving us who cannot get home, under the necessity of remaining here. The result is that we can hold but one session a day. Yet they are the very members who generally vote for evening sessions. When we come here at night, as we did last night, we find no quorum, because these gentlemen have taken advantage of the facility of going home. This is not right. If a part of this body must go to Baltimore, as they have done, it would facilitate our business to pass an order allowing them to remain in Baltimore and telegraph their votes here.

I shall vote for the order offered by the gentleman from Frederick, not because I think it is the best arrangement we could adopt, because I think the best arrangement would be to meet at ten o'clock and four, and hold two sessions a day—but because I think it is obvious that at this rate we shall be here as long as we have already been; and I am personally and every way strongly interested in not having that take place.

Mr. SANDS. I shall vote against the order just offered. I have voted for several such orders, and complied with their requisitions; and when I came here to meet the gentlemen who offered them, I did not find them here. We have made two efforts at evening sessions, and in both cases they have died out of themselves. I am here at a personal sacrifice as much as any gentleman upon this floor. I

abandoned my business at home to come here. I said at the beginning of the session, that I should have to give up my business at home or give it up here. I gave it up there, and have remained here, and have always been here to attend to business. I have been here on several occasions, even in the daytime, when we had to go away without a quorum. To those gentlemen who have sought this kind of popularity, I will say that I am willing that my presence shall be compared with theirs, to show who has been most diligent.

Mr. BARRON. I wish to make one statement. During the sessions of the Convention I have been absent three days only, and at the time of the raid.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair will remind the gentleman that the session of the Convention includes the entire day.

Mr. BARRON. Then you will have to deduct two evenings when I was not here. Aside from that I have been here. Very few gentlemen have a better record for attention. I have very often seen gentlemen go and stay a week, eight days or ten days, and then come back; and they were the first to offer this kind—the very first. I suppose they had rested somewhat from their labors, when they got back, and felt like going to work.

Mr. SCHLEY. It is a matter of regret that the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands,) and the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Barron) should have seen in this order anything having a personal imputation. I assure the gentlemen of the Convention that it was the farthest from me to arraign any gentleman.

Mr. SANDS. The gentleman is mistaken. I had no idea that this order had any personal bearing upon myself.

Mr. SCHLEY. I supposed so from the fact that those gentlemen adduced their personal attendance here, and alluded to the record of their personal attendance here as a proof of the impropriety of adopting such an order.

Mr. SANDS. Not at all.

Mr. SCHLEY. Then I do not see why they made reference to their personal attendance. I can very well imagine that gentlemen may be absent for the greater part of the session without any violation of their duties here. Causes beyond their control may make absence necessary. But there is a system here that interferes with the business of the Convention. It is not a system set up by one gentleman or another gentleman, but by a class of gentlemen whose regular departure from the city by the afternoon train, works an utter negation of every attempt of the Convention to hold two sessions per day. It was with that view that I fixed the hour specified for the re-assembling after the recess. It is not a convenient hour for me. It is not that I want to meet here in the very heat of the afternoon and immediately after dinner. But it was at the suggestion of the President.