

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I desire, before the convention adjourns to-night to add a single word, lest any one should suppose that the accumulation of equity business is the result of the inattention or negligence of the judges. It is incumbent upon them by law, in all equity cases, to file an opinion in writing when they pass a decree or decretal order. A judge cannot decide a case in equity and pass an order at random. He must do it with deliberation, writing and filing his opinion—that involves time, investigation, examination—in order that if the case should go up to the court of appeals, it may go up properly represented. This renders it impossible for judges having three, four, and in one instance five counties on his hands, with all their business, to attend to this business and prepare and file his opinions. Some remedy must be devised for this. The system proposed by the committee I suppose will remedy it.

As this is an important measure, and as the amendments proposed have not been printed, and cannot therefore receive the consideration to-night which I am sure we are all disposed to give them, I now move that the convention adjourn.

Mr. HERR. Will the gentleman withdraw that motion for a moment, that I may give notice of an amendment?

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Certainly.

Mr. HERR gave notice that he would submit the following amendment:

Strike out section 21, and insert:

"Sec. 21. For each circuit (the twelfth excepted) there shall be one judge; the said judges shall be styled circuit judges, and shall hold a term of their courts in each of the counties composing their respective circuits at such times as now are or may hereafter be fixed by law, such terms to be never less than two in each year in each county; special terms may be held by said judges, in their discretion, whenever the business of their several counties renders such terms necessary.

On motion of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE,

The convention adjourned.

## SEVENTY-SEVENTH DAY.

FRIDAY, August 19, 1864.

The convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. McNemar.

The roll was called, and the following members answered to their names:

Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Berry, of Prince George's, Billingsley, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Brooks, Brown, Carter, Clarke, Crawford, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Charles, Duvall, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Gale, Galloway, Harwood, Hatch, Hebb, Hodson, Hopkins,

Hopper, Horsey, Jones, of Somerset, Keefer, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Larsh, Lee, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nymen, Parker, Parran, Pugh, Purnell, Ridgely, Robinette, Russell, Sands, Schley, Schlosser, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Todd, Turner, Wickard, Wooden—70.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. AUDOUN,

Ordered, That the minority report on militia and military affairs be printed in bill form, and furnished to members of the convention.

## ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY.

Mr. MORGAN submitted the following order.

Ordered, That when this convention adjourns to-day it stand adjourned to meet on Monday next, at 12 o'clock, M.

Mr. STIRLING. I shall vote against this because I think we ought to stay here to-morrow, although it would be a great convenience to me to go home. But I hope that gentlemen who vote against it will let the convention know whether they mean to stay here; for although there is now a full house there may be to-morrow no quorum. I stayed here in Annapolis a week ago and that was just the result. I hope no gentleman will vote to stay here to-morrow unless he intends to stay himself. I call for the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. DANIEL. I hope gentlemen will be excused from attendance by leave of the convention and not by their votes.

Mr. CLARK asked to be excused for a few days.

The request was granted.

Mr. DUVALL asked to be excused until Monday.

The request was granted.

Mr. TODD asked to be excused for a few days.

The request was granted.

Mr. SYKES asked to be excused from this night's session.

Mr. DANIEL. Gentlemen seem to be asking to be excused without assigning any particular reason for it. It seems to me if no reason is to be assigned we might as well repeal the rule at once.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I think members of this house ought certainly to be trusted as honorable men not to ask to be excused unless for some reason. I think that for the house to require gentlemen to assign their reasons is to ask more than should be asked of honorable men.

Mr. DANIEL. Then what is the use of the rule?

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. So that members