

ally have no concern with it. I have only to say that the majority of this house will do what they please in regard to this matter. We prefer the arrangement of the committee; next to that, we prefer the arrangement we had adopted last evening, of one judge for each county to be elected. We can only say that the nearest approach the majority may make to any theory put forth by them, we shall certainly accept as a matter of necessity. For one I stand upon the record as opposed to the system, opposed on principle. I stand further opposed to it in detail; as I think the counties should each have a judge. I think that fitness in every respect required that we should adhere to the proposition adopted over night; but the gentleman from Baltimore has rallied his forces this morning, and it is rejected. I am therefore prepared to accept submissively whatever the majority of this body may think proper to allow.

Mr. STIRLING. I think the gentleman from Kent will believe me when I assure him that I have not made the slightest attempt to organize the majority of the house upon this question in any shape or form. I have had no consultation with them, except with two or three members in the casual intercourse around the State house this morning.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Then the gentleman pays himself a still higher compliment; for it seems to have resulted from his attempt to rally them last night, and I did not think any one member had so much power over the majority.

Mr. STIRLING. No, sir; it is simply because gentlemen are here who were not here last night.

Mr. BRISCOM. If I understood the convention that the report of the committee was not to be entertained with any favor in this house, and not likely to be passed, I could very readily determine how I should vote upon a proposition of the kind before this body. Compared with the present judiciary system of the State, I infinitely prefer the amendment of the gentleman from Allegany; but compared with the report of the judiciary committee, I am perfectly decided that I prefer the report of the committee. If I am bound to vote upon this amendment, as it now stands, although I prefer it to our present system, I am bound to vote against its adoption because I prefer the original report. That report reaches sooner the objects designed by the substitute offered by the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke,) giving a judge to each one of the counties of the State. The report of the committee provides for a resident judge in each of the counties, and that report divides the State into judicial circuits.

So far as the question of economy is concerned, I do not see much difference between the report of the committee and the amendment of the gentleman from Allegany. This

question of economy is one to which I wish to direct the attention of the convention. I understood from the chairman of the committee on the judiciary (Mr. Stockbridge) that if his report was adopted, the cost of the administration of the judiciary system would be increased above that of the present system only by a very small amount. I should like to learn from the gentleman from Allegany what would be the cost of his system, if he has made any calculation.

Mr. HEBB. I have made no calculation; but the system proposed by this amendment has eight districts less than as proposed by the committee. Therefore it will cost about \$20,000 less than that, and about \$10,000 more than the present system.

Mr. BRISCOM. Under the report of the committee, as I understand it, this is to be followed up by requiring one of the judges of the circuit to act as judge of the orphans' court in conjunction with two associate judges of the orphans' court elected by the people. So far as the question of economy is concerned, when we look to that view of it, I think the advantage of economy is with the report of the committee as it was brought before us originally. It seems to me that this is a proposition of the gentleman from Allegany, offered on the spur of the moment. The report of the committee on the judiciary, composed as that committee has been, I presume, of gentlemen representing every part of the State, who have conferred with the ablest counsel of the State, and looked to the interests of the State, goes over the whole subject carefully; and I think that their conclusions are entitled to more consideration by the house than the proposition of the gentleman from Allegany. Other things being equal I am disposed to favor the report of the committee, because, so far as the question of economy is concerned, I think the original report has the advantage in that respect over the gentleman's proposition.

If we adopt that we reach the important object, that we have a judge, although elected by a judicial circuit, resident in each one of the counties of the State. Looking to it in that light, I prefer the report as originally presented to this convention. This whole question about the cost and the expenditure, and who shall pay the cost of this judicial system, is one in which I think the whole State of Maryland is equally concerned, one section as much as another. So far as any effort is concerned to confine the payment of the expenditures of this system to the locality, I think it is unjust to the whole State and particularly to the city of Baltimore. The citizens of Baltimore will see that their interests are as much involved in the efficient administration of justice in the counties as in their own city. And if they look at it in that light, it seems to me that they will not hesitate on account of the expenditure of a