

thousand of brick for taking the money. So he brought it back and paid it in to the credit of the State. Whether he is entitled to any particular credit for that, I do not say.

Now, so far as I was myself concerned, I was in the same fix. My people came down on me, too, like a thousand of brick. So I came down to Baltimore and paid the hundred dollars into the sanitary fair. I acknowledge the corn that I took it, though at the time I took it I did not know it. The legislature had refused to give a certain amount to the poor soldiers; had cut the appropriation down to one-sixth, which I considered an outrage. Therefore when gentlemen come to look at this matter right and properly, I am inclined to think that matters stand about as they ought.

Now in regard to the price of board about which the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Dellinger) has spoken, I know I paid ten dollars a week last winter, and when I came back here last spring, the same man offered to board me for eight dollars. And I do not know of a single gentleman now who pays as much board as last winter. I know one gentleman who paid seventeen or eighteen dollars a week last winter, and I know no gentleman who pays over fourteen or fifteen now.

Mr. SCOTT. I hope the members of this convention will take warning from the dilemma in which the members of the general assembly got themselves, requiring so much explanation before the people, and compelling those who took the money to disgorge, in order to put themselves right on the record. I hope members here will avoid getting into the same trouble.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I wish to disclaim having disgorged anything. I never asked the question how it would affect my popularity, and what is more, I do not care.

Mr. SCOTT. My remark applied more properly to the gentleman from Carroll (Mr. Ecker.)

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. No complaints were ever made until made here. I do not care whether my constituents were in favor of it or not.

Mr. ECKER. The gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Scott) is the member who, upon the first day of the session, proposed that each member of the convention be furnished with a gold pen. I disclaim any disgorging.

Mr. SCOTT. I have always been accustomed to using a gold pen myself. I do abominate a pen that will not write; it invariably puts me in a bad humor. And as the legislature had set the example, I thought we might as well have good pens as they. In regard to disgorging, the gentleman said he spent the money at the sanitary fair, because his neighbors were down on him like a thousand of brick. If that is not disgorging, I do not know what is.

Mr. PURNELL. I should not say a word on this subject but for the reference made by the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Dellinger) to the action upon the proposition before the senate. The resolution originated in the house of delegates, a co-ordinate branch of the government; it passed that body, I do not recollect by what majority; I have never had occasion to refer to the journal to satisfy myself in regard to the vote. It went to the senate, at all events, with the high indorsement of the house of delegates, and the senate with that sort of courtesy that distinguishes that body, passed it very quickly. There was a proposition made there to increase the compensation of members of the convention from five to ten dollars a day. My recollection does not bear me out in that fact fully. I do not think anything was said upon that subject. The question was put and decided very quietly. So far as receiving the hundred was concerned, I received it, and had no compunctions of conscience in doing so. I received it under what I supposed to be the action of the general assembly, and considered myself entitled to it. I have seen no cause to regret it since. Without indicating what my action on this proposition will be, I will say that I did not then have, nor have I since had occasion to feel under the necessity of disgorging it, in order to purge myself of any iniquity. My constituents have never called me to account. I am ready at any time to vindicate my vote.

Mr. DARR. I merely desire to express the opinion that it is perfectly competent for the committee on accounts, without any action of this body, to allow the members of this convention the same amount of mileage which was allowed the members of the last general assembly. The last legislature passed the convention bill and fixed the mileage of members of this convention at the same as they received themselves; and they authorized the payment of a certain per diem. With that view I believe that the committee on accounts are competent to make the allowance without any action by this body.

Mr. DELLINGER. I can assure every member of this convention that I have been influenced by no improper motives in bringing this subject before this house. Having consulted with some legal gentleman upon the subject, and having been assured by them that the law of the last legislature calling this convention together gives us this one hundred dollars additional mileage; I then consulted with several other members of this body, and they agreed to support the proposition if it was introduced here. I then concluded I would introduce it. And if it be a duty, I have discharged that duty here. Whether this convention shall adopt this order or not, I am free to confess is a matter of perfect indifference to me. If they shall adopt it, I shall take the mileage most unquestion-