

# DEBATES OF THE CONVENTION

ANNAPOLIS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1867.

This being the day appointed for the assembling of the Convention to form a new constitution and form of government, to be submitted to the people of the State of Maryland, the ancient city has presented an unusually lively appearance. The cars and boats poured in their living freight, and long before the hour of noon the State House was crowded with the delegates, (who were nearly all present,) visitors from Baltimore and elsewhere, and large numbers of applicants for the positions in the gift of the Convention. The latter pretty much monopolized the attention of the delegates. The Convention met in the hall of the House of Delegates, and at 12 o'clock Hon. Isaac D. Jones, of Somerset, ascended to the Speaker's desk, and spoke as follows:

Gentlemen of the Convention:—We have assembled here, in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, and by the election of the people of Maryland, as a Convention to form a new constitution for the State of Maryland. I propose for the purpose of a temporary organization, to call to the chair Col. John F. Dent, of St. Mary's county.

The motion of Mr. Jones was unanimously agreed to.

Col. Dent then took the chair, and addressed the Convention, as follows:

Gentlemen of the Convention:—It is unnecessary, upon a temporary organization, that I should say more than briefly to thank you for the compliment you have shown me in appointing me to this position. I appreciate it highly, and until there shall be a permanent organization will endeavor to discharge, with your assistance and confidence, all the duties that may devolve upon me, hoping that there will not be much delay between the present and final organization of the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Jones, James R. Howison, of Anne