

FRIDAY, January 17th, 1851.

to be misunderstood. He concluded with stating some further objections to the amendment, and his intention to vote against it.

A long interlocutory discussion followed, between Mr. SOLLERS and Mr. BOWIE, directed to the point whether the latter gentleman had, or had not, voted for a Registry Law. Mr. SOLLERS asserted that Mr. BOWIE had voted for a stringent bill of that character, and appealed to the journals to sustain the fact. Mr. BOWIE asserted that he did not vote for the Registry Bill which became a law, and could not so have voted, because he was absent from his seat in the Legislature at the time.

Mr. SOLLERS rejoined that, the Registry Bill for which Mr. BOWIE voted, did become a law, having passed both branches of the Legislature; but that afterwards, in consequence of imperfections in the law, another bill was introduced by Mr. SOLLERS, on which bill Mr. BOWIE did not vote because he was not in his seat.

Mr. BOWIE said he thought his friend was mistaken in supposing that the Registry Law, for which he (Mr. B.) had voted, ever became a law. The law for which he (Mr. B.) had voted, was not the one which subsequently became a law, but was one which was much milder in its provisions, and under certain circumstances, allowed every man to vote, whether his name was registered or not.

Mr. SOLLERS referred his statements to the decision of the journal.

The discussion was conducted, generally, in good temper, and both gentlemen resumed their seats satisfied, apparently, with the issue of the controversy.

Mr. BROWN said he was aware that it was the custom of all deliberative bodies to allow great latitude of debate, but in that respect, he thought this body differed from any that had ever assembled in the State of Maryland for seventy-four years. His own opinion was, that no remarks should be indulged in, in committee of the whole, that were not applicable to the question under consideration. Here we had had an elaborate history of the personal cause of votes of gentlemen upon a particular question long since decided. He gave notice of his intention to move, in Convention, an order discharging the committee of the whole from the further consideration of the bill, unless the necessity for that cause should be obviated by a general consent that the question should be taken. He would move that the committee rise.

[Cries of "question."]

Mr. TUCK expressed his desire to occupy some fifteen minutes of the time of the Convention, and would, he said, either proceed now, or in the morning, as gentlemen might prefer.

The usual hour having passed, and the committee indicating its desire to rise,

Mr. TUCK yielded the floor.

The committee thereupon rose and reported progress. And the Convention adjourned.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Grauff.

The roll was called, and the Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

HOUR OF MEETING, &c.

Mr. RIDGELY rose, he said, to submit a motion.

Mr. CHAMBERS of Kent, desired to be informed whether reports from committees were now in order?

The President said reports of committees would regularly be in order. But the floor had been obtained by the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. RIDGELY.)

Mr. RIDGELY said his object in rising was to move that the daily hour of the meeting of the Convention be 11 o'clock, instead of ten.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I second the motion.

Mr. BOWIE. And I.

Mr. RIDGELY said that although the Convention had once or twice before refused to adopt this proposition, yet he had again presented it from a conviction that it was idle to hope for the accomplishment of any good result by meeting as early as ten o'clock. He trusted that, in consideration not only of the length of the daily sessions, but of the absolute necessity of some time for relaxation, the motion he had made would be agreed to.

The first hour of the day was generally spent in the consideration of unimportant business. It frequently happened that no quorum was present, until one half of the first hour had passed. The Convention might meet at the hour of eleven, and might immediately, if it should think proper, pass to the Orders of the Day, and thus accomplish the same object that was at present accomplished by meeting at ten. He thought he had shown by his course in this body, that he had evinced as strong a disposition as any other member, to expedite the completion of the business for which it had been called together. He had never interposed any obstacle, or countenanced any delay in the disposition of its business; and he submitted this proposition now, only because he believed it would facilitate, and not retard, the discharge of their duties. The Convention sat here from ten to three, or half-past three; night overtook them very soon after they had adjourned, and by ten o'clock the following morning, they were again to be in their seats; having no interval for ordinary and proper relaxation, to say nothing of the additional duties imposed upon them by the meetings of the Committees.

Another reason for the change was to be found in the fact that the Convention had engaged a Reporter, to furnish reports of its debates; and he referred to this point without any authority or suggestion, on the part of that gentleman. It was known that he, (Mr. R.) had opposed that measure with all the energy he possessed. But as the Convention had, by its deliberate vote, decided to adopt an order that its debates should be reported, it was due to the person whom they had assigned to that duty, that he should