

Mr McLANE. That will answer my purpose. After some conversation on a point of order, between Mr. Chambers, of Kent, and the President, the question was taken and the consideration of the report was postponed.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

The PRESIDENT announced that the next in the orders of the day was the report of Mr. MERRICK from the committee on representation.

The pending question was on the amendment offered by Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, to the amendment prepared by Mr. SPENCER, to re-commit the Report with instructions.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I fear that this question is going to lead to a very long and tedious debate. I think that such a discussion can result in no practical good, and I therefore move that the whole subject be laid upon the table.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Will the gentleman oblige me by withdrawing the motion for a few minutes? I am desirous of saying a very few words on the motion of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer,) as proposed to be amended by the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. If I withdraw the motion, will the gentleman renew it.

Mr. BUCHANAN. If the gentleman requires me to do so, I will renew it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I withdraw the motion.

So the question recurred on the amendment of Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, to the amendment proposed by Mr. SPENCER to re-commit the report with instructions.

Mr. BUCHANAN said he had no opportunity on Friday or Saturday last to present his views upon the questions pending; but he had felt as acutely as any member of the Convention could feel, that some things had occurred in the course of this debate which ought not to pass by, and which he was not disposed to pass by without notice. He should vote against the proposition of the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers.) He should vote for the proposition of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer) not because he (Mr. B.) altogether concurred in it, but because it would in part effect the object which he had in view—delay in respect to this question of representation. His impression was that no conceivable good could grow out of its discussion at this stage of the business of the Convention. It would swallow up all other matters, and the Convention would not take one forward step from the time it was taken up, until, perhaps it was too late to do any thing in the way of forming a constitution.

But his main object in rising was, to say a few words in reply to the very distinguished gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas,) whom he (Mr. B.) regretted not to see in his seat. That gentleman in endeavoring to effect a postponement of this question had thought proper, in the course of his remarks, to refer to the neglect, (for the charge amounted to that,) on the part of the Convention to do the work which the Convention had assembled here to do. In other words, the Convention had, to use the gentleman's own emphasis-

ed and expressive language, been here "eight long tedious weeks,"—and, done nothing. Sir, continued Mr. B., we have been here *twelve* long, tedious weeks and done *much*, and I call upon gentlemen who have been here with us week after week and month after month, steadily discharging the duties which have devolved upon us, to bear me witness when I say that we *have* done much. These statements thus made here, echoed by the people and published by the newspapers, are doing this Convention essential and serious wrong. Talk only—debate only—nothing more than that! By what warrant does the gentleman say it? Has *he* been here? Has *he* been amongst us? Is *he* now with us? How does *he* know that the whole time of this body has been passed away in mere talk? I point him to the works which have been done here, and then let him answer to his constituents and to mine, and say, whether these works are not extremely important.

Mr. B., to sustain this position, recapitulated the various measures which had been prepared for the action of the Convention, and asked, by what right the gentleman took his seat here, and before the people of the State, told this Convention that they had been here all the time doing nothing—that they were false to their duty and faithless to their trust? He [Mr. B.] would submit to such a charge from no man. He had given up home, occupation, interest, every thing to the service of the State; and having done so, he was to be told that he was reckless of his duty and false to his trust.

He had now a word to say to his excellent friend from Kent, [Mr. Chambers] whom he, [Mr. B.,] confessed he approached with proper caution; for that gentleman, when he undertook to do execution upon those who might be so unfortunate as to invoke his wrath, did not kill them with the stroke of a cleaver or a broad-axe, but put them to death in the most delicate manner, by piercing them through and through with a well-polished small-sword.

Mr. B. then proceeded to refer to the remarks made by Mr. Chambers on a former day, in which the latter gentleman had called upon the Convention to meet this question of representation, and had declared that it was not to be "shyed"—as if, [Mr. B. said,] we were running away from it. He was actuated by the kindest feelings towards the gentleman, [Mr. Chambers,] because he was the first man who had made a report in part, and upon which the Convention had been zealously and laboriously engaged week after week. And now that they were ready to act upon that question, another exciting subject came in, and all that had been done was to go for naught. He, [Mr. B.,] had desired to aid that gentleman who had hewn out and polished the first block upon which was to rest the glorious fabric of the Constitution. He, [Mr. B.,] did not wish to see it cast aside—he wanted to protect the gentleman against himself—he desired that his work should be made perfect. The original report of his honorable friend was in itself of the highest importance, and the gentleman from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Dorsey,] not satisfied with what had