

or Monday next. If any committee should report to-morrow, its report would have to lie over until the next day. It can only be read on the first day; and then we should have nothing in the world to do.

Mr. STIRLING. I rose to suggest precisely what the gentleman has suggested. I will move to amend the motion of the gentleman from Kent, so as to postpone so much of the bill of rights as is contained in the 4th and 23d sections until Friday next at 12 o'clock.

Mr. CHAMBERS accepted the amendment.

Mr. MILLER desired the 22d section to be also postponed.

Mr. STIRLING. Certainly.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I should greatly prefer that the whole of these subjects should be postponed. I understood the gentleman from Prince George's to say that some fifteen members of this Convention must necessarily be absent in attendance upon the Episcopal Convention in Baltimore. We have the assurance of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Daniel) that there are some committees ready to report, and that there will be no doubt of our being fully occupied the two days that intervene. It is of very great importance that we should all be here on the consideration of the 4th and 23d articles, but there are some other articles I should be unwilling to decide upon in the absence of so many members.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I withdraw my acceptance of the amendment.

Mr. STIRLING withdrew his amendment.

Mr. HEBB. I will renew it.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I will state my objection, that there are other questions here upon which there will be debate, and upon which votes will be required. I give notice that there will be a question upon the 36th section; and the fifteen votes of the gentlemen absent at the Convention in Baltimore, when that question is raised, may be very important. Certainly it is very desirable to have them here in the argument and in the decision of that question. The 36th section is as follows:

Art. 36. That no other test or qualification ought to be required on admission to any office, of trust or profit, than such oath of office as may be prescribed by this Constitution, or by the laws of the State, and a declaration in the belief of the christian religion; and if the party shall profess to be a Jew, the declaration shall be of his belief in a future state of rewards and punishments.

If no other member makes the motion, I shall move to strike out all that relates to the professing to be a Jew, so as to make it general, that it shall be a declaration of belief in the Christian religion, and in a future state of rewards and punishments. There are other articles that will be discussed; and among others an alteration of the Magna Charta,

which I find in this report. I hope that the motion, as originally proposed, will be adopted, and that the whole question will lie over.

Mr. HEBB stated his motion in this form: that the debate on the Declaration of Rights be postponed until Friday next, at 1 o'clock, as to articles 4th, 23d and 36th of the report of the committee.

Mr. MILLER asked that article 22 be included.

Mr. MARBURY. I wish the 39th article also to be included. I wish to move the amendment, to add "as well in time of war as in time of peace," to the provision that the liberty of the press shall be inviolably preserved.

Mr. BELT. There are several minor alterations made by the committee in their report, rendered necessary by the great change embodied in the 23d section. A great many sections in the old bill of rights expressly refer to a state of domestic slavery then existing among us. The 23d section of the new bill of rights proposes to abolish that system, and renders it necessary to change these expressions in a great many instances. We cannot therefore logically and properly act upon these sections of the bill of rights until we shall have voted upon article 23d. I suggest this as another difficulty.

Mr. ABBOTT. I hope the Convention will vote down this postponement. I consider our duties here as obligatory upon every member. I feel that I have no higher duty on earth than to be in my seat here every day and attend to the business of the Convention. But members have been going here and there, and the Convention has done nothing. I think it is time that we should go to work; and I rise to give notice that I shall vote against all postponement.

Mr. SCHLEY. The requests made here indicate the desire upon the part of members not only to postpone the consideration of the two sections objected to by the minority, but by interpolating other sections in this amendment, to postpone other portions of the Declaration of Rights. I for one, was perfectly willing to acquiesce in the original proposition, to except the articles that would be mainly contested; out of courtesy to the gentlemen who desire to attend the Episcopal Convention at Baltimore. It was only as a courtesy. I think it a bad precedent even to do that for courtesy, and for my own part I will go no further. I do not suppose that any gentleman here desires to consume or waste the time of the Convention, by proposing sundry articles to be voted upon or by unnecessary debate, but they will have that tendency and effect. While therefore I am willing to support the amendment as offered by the gentleman from Allegany, I shall oppose any further interpolations in it, and shall also oppose the original proposition to