the body. He would, therefore, move that the time for the report be extended to 10 o'clock on Thursday morning.

Col. Hughes, Secretary, announced that he had received a communication from a meeting of the citizens of Baltimore, and leave being granted, it was read. The document was in attestation of the fact that a public meeting had been held for the purpose of appointing delegates to the Convention, and that the following persons had been duly appointed delegates: Francis Neale, S. D. Coulbourn, J. W. Luckett, Beale H. Richardson, H. R. Robins, James McConkey, Lemuel W. Gosnell, E. B. Dallam and John F. Richards.

Upon the reading of the communication, Mr. Nathaniel Duke inquired if a real *bona fide* meeting had been held, or whether it was only the action of a few self constituted individuals who had assembled and chosen the delegates. If the latter was the case, he, for one, would refuse to receive them. The city of Baltimore had received sufficient time—at least six months notice to act in the case, and there was no excuse for hasty action in the matter.

The Chair reminded the speaker that unless there was some special or distinct protest against the reception of the Baltimore delegation that they must needs be received. No question had been raised as to other delegations in attendance, and he considered it wise and prudent not to make any in the case of the gentlemen from Baltimore.

Mr. Duke stated that he acquiesced in the decision of the chair, nevertheless he must renew the motion he submitted in the morning, to the effect that the Convention adjourn to meet in Frederick in order to the more effectual accomplishment of the objects which had assembled the Convention.

The Secretary arose and stated that to his personal knowledge, the meeting had been regularly called; and that the delegation was composed of responsible gentlemen, and that they appeared in the Convention duly authenticated. In reply to several questions as to what was before the House, the chair stated that the question was to allow the committee on resolutions further time to submit their report. Dr. Risteau, of Baltimore county, hoped that the Convention would acquiesce in the requirement of the committee, and allow them to have further time. He would remind the members of the Convention of the importance of the questions involved in their deliberations. For one, he was unwilling to have a gag put in his throat, debating such a question. He desired to hear the voice of the people of the State, and proceeded to show his views on the subject with considerable earnestness and at some length.

The Chair announced that he had appointed Mr. E. B. Dallam, of Baltimore city, as a member of the Committee on Resolutions.

Col. Hughes moved that the Committee on Resolutions be granted a further time for the preparation of their report, and that in the meantime the members of the Convention should be allowed a free and unrestricted expression of opinion upon the questions to come before the House. He was well aware of its great importance, and that it deserved and had received the serious consideration of the best minds in the State. When the report of the committee had been submitted, the members could come together understandingly, and would be able to act more definitely upon the objects of the Convention.

Col. J. T. Earle, of Queen Anne's county, hoped that no present discussion would take place. He considered it best first to hear the report of the Committee, and acknowledged the great importance of the subject involved.

Col. Hughes considered it his duty to respond to the remarks of his

friend. He believed that a discussion was unavoidable—it could not be crushed out, and he hoped the body would remain in session for the express purpose of hearing the debate. He did not like to while away the day and to defer an expression of feeling until to-morrow. Whilst he had the fullest confidence in the gentlemen composing the Committee—he knew the men personally—he wanted to hear from the delegates. Some present had statistics and other information, and were ready to communicate the same to the Convention.

Mr. Richey, of Frederick, considered it necessary that the committee should receive the suggestions and ideas of the members before they drew up the resolutions. He did not care for the pressure outside of the State, and he hoped that not a single member would allow himself to be intimidated. (Great applause.) In conclusion, he would speak of the disadvantages of receiving an unsatisfactory report from the committee. He had the greatest respect for the gentlemen composing the committee, but he hoped that they would hear the various opinions and sentiments of the Convention, and he trusted that the entire body would be actuated by a high and enlightened sense of duty. Indeed, there was no other mode by which the committee would be able to reach the sense of the Convention. In the case of many delegations, there had not been a single interchange of opinion. He would move to amend the resolution of the gentleman from Anne Arundel county, to the effect "that the committee be allowed until 10 o'clock to report, and that they be requested to receive such suggestions as ought to be proposed either by vote or speech."

Mr. Marcus Duvall, of Prince George's county, was decidedly in favor of a free expression of opinion, and imputed a remark about "sitting with closed doors," to Col. Earle, which that gentleman promptly disclaimed.

Col. Earle assured the speaker that he had entirely misapprehended his remarks. He was in favor of each and every member of the Convention being heard, but he would remind the gentlemen that by its own action in the morning, the Convention had tied its own hands. What subjects, he would inquire, were before the house? There was no question whatever to be discussed. The body must be content to await its time; did the members desire to fight the air? He was certain that a debate at the present time would result in no good, and be productive of evil. He would beg his particular friend from Anne Arundel county (Col. Hughes) to withdraw his motion.

Col. Hughes responded briefly; he would simply call up his motion that the committee be allowed to withdraw, and that the discussion take place. "Let it" said he, "take place to-day instead of to-morrow. The question was bound to be discussed some time, and it had better take place at once."

At this juncture great confusion prevailed throughout the house, which the President found impossible to subdue. At least one-fourth of the members arose upon the floor, and it was quite difficult to hear the many propositions and motions made. Judge Mason was at last heard, and moved that when the Convention adjourn, it would stand adjourned until 10 o'clock Thursday morning, and then cried out "let us talk it out, Mr. President." The motion prevailed, and many of the members, under the impression that the house had adjourned, were about retiring, when they were called to order.

Mr. Schriver, of Frederick county, renewed the motion to adjourn, but was prevailed on to withdraw, at the request of Judge Mason.

Mr. John Contee arose and opposed the motion to adjourn. "Mr. President," said he, "in the name of Prince George's county, I call for a division on the question."

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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