

postponed until Monday next, and gentlemen would keep in mind that it was then to be taken up, and would be here prepared to go into the discussion, he should be much gratified.

Mr. SCHLEY expressed a hope that the consideration of this subject would not be postponed till Monday. From the beginning of the session, with the exception of a single day, he had not been absent from his seat in the Convention. But he and two of his colleagues would be compelled to go home to-morrow evening, to be present at the term of the Washington county court, which is about to commence. Rather than postpone the subject, he suggested that it would be the better course to take up the report now, when he and his colleagues might, perhaps, be enabled to participate in the debate upon it, and to cast their votes on some of the questions embraced in it. He trusted that this course would be taken and that the subject would not be postponed.

Mr. MERRICK said he would make no objection to taking up the subject for consideration at this time, if the House was full. But it was for the Convention to decide. He repeated that yesterday was the day assigned by the Convention for taking up the reports in relation to representation. He had been compelled to be absent on business of importance to himself, but he had returned to his seat before he had brought his business to a close, in the expectation that the subject would be before the Convention. He was ready now, as far as he was concerned, to take up the matter. He knew that a good many of his friends are still absent under the belief that no question could be taken on any of the questions embraced in this report before next week, and he presumed that they would not be here before that time. Everybody, he hoped, would make an effort to be here when the question should come up. He hoped, that taking all these matters into view, the Convention would agree to postpone the subject until Monday.

Mr. BOWIE expressed his hope that the subject would not be postponed another hour. He hoped it would be taken up at once. No one could expect that a vote would be taken to-day or to-morrow.

Mr. MORGAN here raised a point order, which led to a very brief conversation between him and Mr. BOWIE, when

Mr. BOWIE resumed. He repeated his desire that the consideration of these reports should not be postponed. Until the Convention went to work on this subject, there would be no full attendance of members. Let it be taken up, and the House will begin to fill. He did not anticipate that any question would be taken before Monday or Tuesday, as there were many gentlemen who would desire to be heard before any important vote was taken. Let us then go to work. Let gentlemen who have prepared speeches, deliver themselves. He was very anxious that this great question should be no longer postponed, but that it should be settled without delay. No matter to what heat of discussion it may lead, no matter to what extent our feelings may be stirred up in the zeal of argument, let us meet it, and

go through with it. He hoped we should proceed to the consideration of the subject, and listen to the opinions of such gentlemen as were prepared to express them. If a great battle was to be fought on this question, the sooner it commenced the better. He, for one, was ready to meet the consequences of an engagement, whatever the result might be.

Mr. JENIFER questioned the propriety of a postponement, unless it could be to a time when nothing was likely to interfere with taking up the subject at the period designated. Now there are five or six different matters in the way. The Bill of Rights, the Elective Franchise, the Legislative, the Executive, and other reports are all as yet unfinished. He thought the wisest course would be to come to some final disposition of these reports, before we go on with any other. That was the proper way to expedite our business. If we are to go on thus, leaving subjects to be taken up again, and reconsidered and re-discussed. Some gentlemen will have forgotten the speeches they made when the subject was up at an earlier period of the session, and may fall into the danger of making them over again. As for the subject of the basis of representation, he cared little how it was settled; he cared little in what shape the report was finally agreed on; unless there was some thing very extraordinary and exceptionable in it, he would vote for the Constitution. He did not see why the gentleman from Prince George's should anticipate a heated discussion. He, (Mr. J.,) hoped every gentleman would go into its consideration with calmness and a sincere disposition to bring the debate to a satisfactory conclusion.

There were several projects before the Convention upon the subject of representation, some of which approximated very nearly to his views upon the subject, and although he believed that his immediate constituents were generally satisfied with the present system, still if an increase of the number of delegates were required for a proper discharge of duties and the protection of the interests of the city of Baltimore, he, (Mr. J.,) in a spirit of compromise, would give them ten, provided the basis at present existing, as regarded the Senate (which he would make a *sine qua non*) was preserved.

He did not see that any of the propositions were founded on any fixed principle. They were all more or less arbitrary in the apportionment. It has been settled by a decisive vote of the Convention, that representation based on population could not be entertained; so also as regards federal numbers. There were different interests though not necessarily conflicting in different sections of the State—the only means to secure each, and for the good of the whole, is to enter upon the question in a spirit of compromise; with that much good may be done; without it no satisfactory result can be expected. The city of Baltimore and the larger and Western counties must yield some of their extreme positions; so should the smaller and tide-water counties. This may be done without a sacrifice of principle, and in such an effort, Mr. J. said, his cordial co-operation might be calculated on.