

the fact that in the old articles of confederation the States were named. In the Constitution of the United States, in the preamble which is said to be the key of the whole instrument, instead of the States being named, is the expression: "We, the people of the United States." It is admitted, as I understand, by all the gentlemen who have made arguments upon this occasion, and I think it is admitted by Mr. Webster himself, that if you once admit the fact that the States formed this government, it follows as a logical conclusion that the States have the right to exercise their judgment as to when that government acts grievously and oppressively upon them. I think Mr. Webster said that would follow as a logical conclusion. Now what is the reason that in the preamble to the Constitution of the United States, the names of the respective States were left out? It was simply because the Convention which framed that Constitution required that it should be ratified by nine States, and they did not know which of the thirteen States would ratify it. If they had known that, they would have put all nine of them into the Constitution by name. So that so far from the expression "We, the people of the United States" being an argument to show that they had relinquished the recognition of the fact that the States had formed the instrument, the history of its formation goes to show the very reverse.

I do not desire to fatigue the Convention, which is no doubt already fatigued with this subject. I will not review the authorities which I had arranged, and which I should have liked to refer to. I am rejoiced that I am relieved from that labor. But I would appeal to this Convention to cling to this Constitution as the palladium of their liberties. I mean this old Constitution of the United States which our fathers made; and that they bring no one man power, no despotic influences, between the people of the United States and the Constitution. If we look at the eagle that sits over the old Senate Chamber, we see what it is intended to represent. It sits there with its talons stretched around separate and distinct States. And when that eagle grasped in its talons the rugged shafts of power, and taught that one people could be sheltered under one great Constitution, I consider that the destiny of republican liberty was ascertained. Those armorial bearings have been to the United States what the sacred talisman was to the men of old—a charm against all attacks. I appeal to you, then, to cling to that instrument as the palladium of your liberties, as the embodiment of all that has ever been said or written upon this subject, and let us resolve that if we leave for posterity no other inheritance, we will at least leave them the inheritance of free principles, and the example of a free, manly, independent and constitutional defence of them.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. We were here this morning for five hours, from ten o'clock to very near three o'clock; and I think we have been here a sufficient length of time this afternoon. I do not see the necessity of staying here unless some gentleman desires to occupy the attention of the Convention. As no one seems inclined further to argue the pending question, I move that we adjourn.

The motion was rejected—ayes 23, noes 30.

Mr. CUSHING. Cannot we informally pass over this article, and take up the amendment proposed by the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr. Abbott,) or any other amendment that gentlemen may desire to offer to the bill of rights?

The PRESIDENT. It was the understanding that all the other articles should be disposed of before that of the gentleman from Baltimore city should be offered.

Mr. ABBOTT. During your absence there was a different arrangement; and the article has been placed upon the journal. But inasmuch as there are some principles in that amendment which are involved in the twenty-third article, I should prefer that that should be acted upon first.

Mr. DANIEL. I move that we take up the report of the Committee on Civil Officers not otherwise provided for.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. The Chairman of that committee is not here.

Mr. DANIEL. Then I withdraw that motion, and move that we take up the article on future amendments to the Constitution. Is the chairman of that committee present?

The motion was rejected.

Mr. SCOTT. I hope we shall adhere to one thing at a time. We are now upon the Declaration of Rights, and I hope we shall finish that before taking up any other article. If no other gentleman wishes to speak, I move that the chairman of the committee now proceed to make his closing speech on this article.

The PRESIDENT. That would be in violation of the order adopted by the House.

Mr. DUVAL moved that the Convention adjourn.

The motion was rejected—ayes 28, noes 29.

Mr. DANIEL moved to reconsider the order fixing the time for closing the debate on this article.

The PRESIDENT. The Declaration of Rights is still pending before the Convention.

Mr. STIRLING moved that the further consideration of the Declaration of Rights be postponed until to-morrow morning.

The motion was agreed to—ayes 34, noes not counted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. ABBOTT submitted the following order: *Ordered*. That the President be authorized to direct the Sergeant-at-Arms to attend at the railroad station and at the steamboat landing