

and do not understand the oath as being one of paramount allegiance to the Government of the United States; but one to support the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. RIDGELY. I desire to say that I am merely giving my construction, expressing my own opinions, suggesting that according to my judgment, no gentleman in this Convention, no advocate of State rights, could object to the incorporation of this article in the Constitution, if the word "obedience" was substituted for the word "allegiance." And in point of fact it is only the term employed which gives to it that degree of disagreeable aspect which has awakened so strong and earnest an opposition to its adoption. I contend that this is nothing more nor less than the Constitution of the United States as it now exists; and that the deduction which the committee have put into the article is the necessary *sequitur* from the premises. That if the Constitution and the laws passed pursuant thereto, are the supreme law, and all interposing obstacles in the way of conflicting laws must disappear, then it is necessarily the paramount law. If it is supreme law, then supreme obedience is due to it, and if supreme obedience, then paramount obedience.

These, sir, are my views, hastily and perhaps incoherently expressed. I had not purposed to enter into this debate at all; but had intended to sit here as a listener only. But an honored friend on the other side of the house, came to me and spurred me into these remarks. I owe the house an apology for thus occupying their time without proper preparation.

On motion of Mr. DANIEL—

The Convention then took a recess until half-past four P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention reassembled at 4½ o'clock, P. M.

The roll was called and the following members answered to their names:

Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Baker, Billingsley, Blackiston, Briscoe, Brown, Chambers, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Duvall, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Farrow, Gale, Galloway, Greene, Harwood, Hebb, Hoffman, Hollyday, Hopper, Horsey, Jones, of Somerset, Keefer, King, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, McComas, Mitchell, Miller, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Purnell, Robinette, Russell, Sands, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Swope, Sykes, Todd, Turner, Valliant, Wickard, Wooden—59.

ORDERS.

On motion of Mr. SCOTT, the following order was adopted:

Ordered, That the use of this Hall be given to Captain Calhoun on Friday evening, for the purpose of delivering a lecture on the subject of prison life among the Rebels.

On motion of Mr. WICKARD, the following order was adopted:

Ordered, That the various Standing Committees be requested to report on the subjects they may have under consideration, at as early a day as practicable.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS—ALLEGIANCE.

The Convention then resumed the consideration of the order of the day, being the report of the Committee on the Declaration of Rights, which was on its second reading.

The 4th article, declaring the paramount allegiance of every citizen to the Government of the United States, was under consideration.

The pending question was upon the motion of Mr. BRISCOE, to strike out the word "paramount."

Mr. SCOTT said: It is useless, Mr. President, to attempt to disguise the fact that a sort of languor pervades this Hall, particularly after dinner. It may be the effect of good eating—I do not know what else it can be.

Nothing certainly was more foreign to my intention when this article was reported from the committee, than that I should say one word upon it, except to record my vote upon its final passage. I have however, thought it due, not only to myself, but to the people whom I have the honor in part to represent here, to do something more than record my vote; particularly if a lull occurred in the storm of debate so that my voice could be heard without interfering with or in any way retarding the business of the Convention. And as that lull appears to have come upon us, I will occupy a very brief period of time in the consideration of the subject now pending before this body.

We are now making history, Mr. President, and our acts here will be read in the light of different times. And when our acts here are read by the people of Cecil county and those who know their history, they might be disposed to question whether Cecil county was represented upon this floor; or, if represented, who he could be who could hear such heresies advocated here without one word of reply.

I have no prepared speech. Since this morning's session I have jotted down a few points which I thought I might make if opportunity was given me. And I propose to address myself to them as briefly as possible. I come from a section of country where, in the sense in which it is understood here, we have no afternoon. Nurtured among the woods, the forests and hills, and accustomed to toil in the fields and in the mills, amid the clashing and clangor of wheels and machinery, the afternoon is as important to us as the forenoon. And consequently if I do not fa-