

afternoon. I understand there are several gentlemen who desire to make speeches upon the subject now under consideration.

Mr. STIRLING. I move the Convention now take a recess until half-past seven o'clock this evening.

The question was upon the longest time—the motion to take a recess until half-past seven o'clock.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. I would say that the opposition, among whom, I class the honorable gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling,) have been so exceedingly courteous, so exceedingly liberal, that I do really think we ought to adjourn until to-morrow; for if their own feelings and pleasure be consulted, I am sure they would rather not address the Convention this evening. We are all more or less exhausted by the labors of this morning, and consequently would not form so appreciative an audience this evening as we would to-morrow morning. I merely throw this out for their benefit, to show that we are at least as liberal in every respect as the gentlemen of the majority of this body.

Mr. ABBOTT. I understand that some of the members here are anxious to have a recess for a week or ten days, to attend to their harvesting. And others are anxious that this question shall be settled before that recess is taken. In order to give all the gentlemen who desire to speak upon this subject ample opportunity to put themselves upon the record, I submitted this motion for a recess until half-past four o'clock, hoping that it will be carried, and that we will resume evening sessions for a few days.

Mr. STIRLING. I agree with what the gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Billingsley) says, so far as it is applicable to the motion of my colleague (Mr. Abbott.) I really do think we have sat here long enough for one session; and I think we have had sufficient experience in the past to satisfy us that it is not advisable for us to meet here in the afternoon. But as we have nothing to do in the evening, I think we may as well spend an hour or two here as anywhere else. Many of the members come here in the evening any way.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. I merely made the suggestion out of compliment to the other side. I am perfectly willing myself to come here this evening at three o'clock, or five o'clock, or seven o'clock.

Mr. SANDS. If we take a recess until half-past seven o'clock, we would have to meet here by gas-light, and perhaps with mosquitoes, which would be very unpleasant. I think the best hour would be half-past four o'clock.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. We have been here now since ten o'clock this morning, engaged in the duties of this Convention. I think the labors of the day have sufficiently fatigued us to render it advisable

to adjourn until to-morrow morning. I have no doubt that we can accomplish all that is desired during this week. The contemplated recess is not to take place until the latter part of the week, and if that be so, I am sure we will have ample time, with five hours' session each day, to allow every gentleman in the Convention who desires, to express his opinions, and to put themselves upon record, as the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Abbott) says. It is very warm here now, more particularly in the afternoon; and we have recently had some experience in afternoon sessions. I think that we got barely a quorum but once or twice during the whole period we had afternoon sessions. Nothing was accomplished, scarcely a speech was made upon the pending question. There was not that interest manifested at the afternoon sessions that should be manifested in the discussion of this question. I hope, therefore, that the Convention will adjourn until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. We came here to labor, but we did not come here to devote all our time day and night to this Convention. Most of us have to prepare ourselves for these questions that are coming up for discussion. Most of us want time for reflection and preparation, so that we may come here and speak understandingly upon the subjects under consideration. I hope, therefore, this Convention will adjourn until to-morrow, as I do not see any good to result from these evening sessions.

Mr. SCOTT. I would say, in explanation of our want of success heretofore in holding evening sessions, that we met here under unfavorable circumstances. We had agreed to terminate the discussion and take final action upon the fourth article at a particular time, and there was a disposition manifested to take up no other business. Had it not been for that order, limiting the debate to a certain day and hour, we could have forced gentlemen to speak, however reluctant they might be to do so, by putting the article upon its final passage. We could have put it through at the afternoon session, whether with or without speaking.

Mr. BOND. If these afternoon sessions are to be pressed in order to get through with this question before we take a recess for a few days, then I would remind gentlemen that if there is to be a recess so as to enable the agricultural portion of this Convention to look after their harvests, it must be taken within a day or two, or it will be too late; the harvest will be over before they can get home. If there is to be such a recess, it ought to take place some day this week; within a day or two, I think.

The PRESIDENT. That question is not now before this Convention.

Mr. BOND. I understand that. But I speak of it as a reason against these afternoon sessions; or rather I refer to it to show