

became evident that the known objections to certain provisions in the constitution would prevent its acceptance by the majority of the convention. Finding that the constitution would not be adopted as a whole, an order was passed that when each separate part of the document had been passed, the whole should be signed by the president and secretary. To further these purposes a day was set on which all must be finished; whether ready or not the convention must close. The committee on revision sat in the senate chamber, and as fast as a defect or omission was discovered, sent in one of their members to have it corrected by the convention. The last scene would have been amusing, had the occasion not been a grave one. At two in the morning the committee on revision, headed by its chairman, with an assembly partly excited and partly asleep, was presenting as the constitution a bunch of paper only fit to be offered at the counter of a rag merchant. Some asked for a needle and thread to stitch the constitution.

Our author concludes as follows: "If the law-loving and dignified men, who framed the constitution of 1776, were permitted to revisit the scenes of their former glory, they would have bowed their heads with shame at the degeneracy of their posterity."⁹⁰

Frequently the convention was unable to transact business for want of a quorum. The *Baltimore Sun* in an editorial May 7, 1851, said that, "It is clear to every dispassionate observer that the people were either remiss in their selections of men as reformers; were governed in the matter by *party* rather than by *political* considerations, or were unprepared to appreciate the quality and character of a bold and searching reform. Instead of a convention of men acting under an exalted sense of great responsibility, we have seen on the part of many of them a constant display of factious opposition, originating in sectional interests, and party prejudice."

⁹⁰ Baltimore American, May 19, 1851.