

Still, in order to avoid any squabble hereafter about the construction of Rule 49, I moved to except Rule 43 from its operation. But upon the explanation of the gentleman over the way, (Mr. Clarke,) I withdrew my amendment.

Mr. PUGH. I do not doubt the statement of the gentleman; I know that was what occurred. But I also know that some members who voted against amending the 43d Rule, did so upon the ground that it could be suspended by a vote of the majority present.

Mr. HEBB. I suppose if any member who voted in the negative upon the proposition of my colleague (Mr. Thruston,) yesterday, will move a reconsideration of that vote, this matter can then be reached.

Mr. KENNARD. Upon a review of this Rule 49, I really must confess that I do not myself see the necessity of it, considering the provisions we have adopted in previous rules in regard to their suspension. For instance, the rules provide for separate readings of reports and resolutions, unless otherwise ordered, I therefore do not see the necessity of this rule, unless it is understood to apply only to the order of business. It might be modified to read thus: "Any rule in relation to the order of business may be suspended when demanded by three-fifths of the members present." It would not then conflict with the other standing rules of the Convention. I did not myself contemplate, when reporting this rule, that it should relate to any substantial rule of this Convention.

The PRESIDENT. The Convention having refused to reconsider, there is no motion before the House, and therefore debate is not in order. Of course this subject will be left to the determination of the President, when it comes up properly for his decision.

The question was then stated to be upon ordering the report of the Committee on Rules, as amended, to be printed and engrossed for a third reading, which was ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The PRESIDENT stated that the next subject in order was the report of the Committee on the Bill of Rights, which came up as the order of the day.

Mr. CUSHING moved that the order of the day be postponed until to-morrow, and made the order of the day for one o'clock.

Mr. BARRON moved that it be postponed until Monday next, and made the order of the day for that day at one o'clock.

Mr. DANIEL. I do not see the necessity for any motion to postpone. If we adjourn now it will come up to-morrow as unfinished business, after we shall have got through the other regular business. I therefore move that this Convention now adjourn.

The motion to adjourn was withdrawn at the request of

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE, who said: I shall move to-morrow morning to reconsider the vote of the Convention this morning directing a payment to be made to a certain page named. I desire merely to give notice now, in order that no action may be taken under that vote.

Mr. VALLIANT. I have a report to make from the Committee on Reporting and Printing, accompanied by a few orders. I am uninformed as to when it is the proper time to send that report up to the desk of the Secretary. I endeavored two or three times yesterday to present it, but it never was in order. I would ask if it would now be in order for me to make this report.

The PRESIDENT. That report is not now in order. The report of the Committee on the Bill of Rights is now before the Convention, and some disposition of it must be made, before any other subject will be in order.

On motion of Mr. DANIEL,
The Convention adjourned.

SIXTEENTH DAY.

SATURDAY, May 21, 1864.

The Convention met at 12 M.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Owen.

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

Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Berry of Prince George's, Billingsley, Blackiston, Briscoe, Brown, Carter, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Cushing, Daniel, Dellinger, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Gale, Golloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Hoffman, Hollyday, Hopkins, Hopper, Jones of Somerset, Keefer, King, Lee, Marbury, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Miller, Morgan, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Robinette, Russell, Schley, Schlosser, Scott, Smith of Carroll, Sneary, Stockbridge, Swope, Thomas, Thruston, Todd, Valliant, Wickard, Wilmer, Wooden—63.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

IMMIGRATION OF FREE NEGROES AND MULATTOES.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the following order, submitted by Mr. Clarke, on yesterday:

Ordered, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of inserting the following articles in the Constitution:

1. No free negro or free mulatto shall come into or settle in this State after the adoption of this Constitution.

2. All contracts made with any free negro or free mulatto coming into the State contrary to the provisions of the foregoing section, shall be null and void; and any person who shall employ such free negro or free mulatto, or otherwise encourage him or her to remain in the State, shall be fined in a sum not less than fifty dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars for each offence.