

(Mr. Stirling) prevails, the Convention will act upon a grave matter without having received any information of what preparations have been made for the reception of the Convention, and without knowing whether we shall be better accommodated in the city of Baltimore than here. Are we to take a vote upon the question of moving from the seat of government the Convention for the formation of the organic law of the State, to a distant city without knowing what preparations will be made for us, or whether we shall be as comfortable there as here? Our State Library is here; our Governor is here; our Treasurer is here; and all will be absent from the city of Baltimore. If it is the will of the majority of the Convention to move to Baltimore city, let us be first informed, before we act, what preparations have been made there for our convenience and accommodation. If the question is acted upon to-morrow, the amendment of my friend being adopted, we shall be without any information, and without any official communication from the Mayor or City Council of Baltimore on the subject. We shall be acting in the dark; and it may be that we shall have to reconsider the vote that we take to-morrow if the amendment prevails. I think then that we ought to postpone it for a sufficient length of time to get all this information, and to give an opportunity to all the absent members of the Convention to be present when the vote shall be taken upon the order.

Mr. CUSHING. The desire of the City Council that the Convention should go to Baltimore may amount to nothing at all. I do not know that of their own motion they ever dreamed of inviting the Convention there. I think it is an empty courtesy; if we want to go, they would be glad to have us; so far as the statement in the paper goes, I think myself that it is eminently fitting that the Convention should stay where it is. So far as my knowledge goes, there is no place in the city of Baltimore where the Convention could hold its sessions as comfortably, and in which the members could have the same facilities for the discharge of their duties that they have here. In order to test the sense of the Convention upon the proposition, I move that it lie upon the table.

The motion was not seconded.

Mr. BARRON. I desire to make an explanation, called for by the remarks of my colleague who has just taken his seat. The resolution inviting this Convention to the city of Baltimore was passed in good faith. I do not think there was a gentleman in either branch of that City Council that voted for it for the purpose of offering to this Convention an empty invitation. They met for the purpose of inviting them to the city of Baltimore with the intention of procuring for them the best hall in the city of Baltimore. The gentleman has intimated that we have no place suitable

for the sessions of this Convention. We have the Odd Fellows' Hall, with 180 seats in it, desks and all, complete, that we can get. Temperance Hall, we can get. Rechabite Hall, we can get. We have plenty of them; as many as we could ask for. I assure you that that invitation was not extended as an empty courtesy.

Mr. SCHLEY. There has been no information given in response to my inquiry; but I find in the newspapers the information which was published; and I have no doubt of its authenticity. Nor do I doubt that the action was in good faith, nor as to the ability of the city authorities of Baltimore to provide a proper place. I will not enter here into the discussion whether it is advisable or not for us to accept the invitation when it comes to us in form. That is a matter which I presume the Convention will determine upon in due time. But I see appended to the resolutions themselves the statement that Messrs. Dukehart, Wayson and Lamdin, of the First Branch, and Messrs. Evans, Markland and Wilmot, of the Second Branch, were appointed as a committee to carry the resolutions into effect, to tender the invitation, &c. I supposed that this committee were here in form to present this invitation. Certainly I should be exceedingly reluctant to take any action whatever on a naked invitation contained merely in a newspaper paragraph. It is true that this Convention have not inquired of the city of Baltimore whether they would receive us, or whether they would entertain us there, or anything of the sort. I regard this as having emanated from the city authorities themselves; and I am happy to hear the member from Baltimore city, himself a member of the City Council, (Mr. Barron) remark that it has been tendered in good faith. As to the suitability of the Hall, the advantages of the transfer, &c., they are matters for subsequent consideration. For one, whatever may be my opinion as to the propriety of the removal, I am unwilling now to vote upon any such resolutions until they are officially presented, or until official notice of them is given to this Convention. I shall therefore vote either for a motion to lay upon the table or to postpone it until some future day when an official communication shall be made.

Mr. BERRY of Baltimore county. I renew the motion to lay the order on the table for the reason that at any time after to-day it can be brought up; and to-morrow or any subsequent day the Convention can consider the question. I understand that the committee are not in the city of Annapolis, but that they will probably be here this evening.

Mr. RIDGELY. It is proper perhaps, in view of the remarks that fell from the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling,) that I should make a statement. We have learned that a newspaper copy of the resolutions tendering the invitation to this body is in the