

Legislature meets and where the Governor resides, and where the archives are deposited:—all of which combine to enjoin upon us that we should here meet and continue our sessions at the capital of the State unless there can be shown some great controlling necessity, for removing. If there were a military necessity, for instance, I should have no objection in the world to moving to another point, and least of all should I have any objection to moving to Baltimore city.

In conclusion, allow me to make a suggestion upon one point to which the gentleman from Anne Arundel has not adverted, but which I wish he had alluded to; and it is this: I do not profess to be so intimately acquainted with the laws regulating the municipal affairs of Baltimore city as to be able to determine the powers of the City Council. But reasoning from analogy, I do not presume that the City Council have any authority to expend money for outside purposes any more than the local authorities of the counties have. The State has gone to work and at great expense has fitted up a State House, and has rendered it the equal of most such structures in the country, and provided for us here every necessary convenience, with the obvious intent that it should be used for all appropriate State purposes. Our removal will necessitate the abandonment of this building, and involve a large and useless expenditure for accommodations in Baltimore.

If we move to Baltimore, is there any gentleman in this Convention that is willing to let the people of Baltimore city be taxed for a necessary State expense to be incurred by our removing there? We, of Prince George's, do not wish to be excused from bearing our share of the burden of taxation for any expenses which this Convention shall think advisable and necessary for the people of this State to defray. If we go there at all, it seems to me that we ought to go there upon the idea that it is necessary, and not because we are invited. In my judgment it would seriously detract from our dignity were we to consent to remove to Baltimore, in the exercise of a doubtful power, merely because the city offers to rid other sections of the State of their share of the just expense to be incurred by the removal. Certainly, if the action of the City Council is unwarranted by law, in taxing the citizens of Baltimore for our benefit, the Constitutional Convention, sitting at the very foundation of all law, ought to be the last body to excuse and abate that action on the part of the City Council. We should protect the tax payers of the city against the generosity of their own Council.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. I would like to ask, in answer to the invitation which has been extended to this Convention by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, if a hall has been obtained, and if so, where and what hall?

Mr. EVANS, (chairman of committee.) A hall has not yet been actually obtained. The hall to which we have directed our attention is Odd Fellows' Hall, situated in Gay street, not very far north of Baltimore street. We have no doubt about getting that, although formal application has not been made. If unexpectedly we should fail there, we could get a hall in the Law Buildings, in which the Superior Court of Baltimore County holds its sessions, which has three rooms attached to it, and which can be fitted up, I understand, quite as well as this room. Or the New Assembly Rooms could be got I suppose; but probably would not be so convenient as either of the others, not being so well supplied with committee rooms.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. I shall oppose the removal of this Convention from the city of Annapolis to any place in the State of Maryland, although I am thankful for the courtesy which has been extended to the Convention by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. In answer to the question which I put, whether a hall had been obtained, and if so where, and what, I understand the statement to be that none has been obtained. It is expected that Odd Fellows' Hall can be obtained. I wish that my colleague who sits on my left were present today (Mr. Ridgeley;) he would satisfy this Convention that under no circumstances can Odd Fellows' Hall be obtained. There is a standing law which precludes any body excepting those connected with the Odd Fellows from using that hall. My information is from my colleague, who is Grand Secretary in the Grand Lodge of the United States of Odd Fellows. So much for Odd Fellows' Hall.

In regard to the Law Buildings, it is such a small and poor place that no one attempts to call an assembly there unless driven to it by necessity. It has no conveniences. It is a small concert room. It is not as capable of answering the wants and requirements of this Convention as this beautiful Hall.

The Assembly Rooms, the gentleman informs us, may possibly be obtained, but probably not. If the possibility should overcome the probability, it is a most noisy place, and would not suit the Convention.

I do not discover, therefore, that the invitation which has been extended to us is anything more than, as my friend remarked the other evening, formal.

The points which have been attempted to be made by gentlemen on this floor, have been accommodation and convenience, against inconvenience and expense. We yet have no knowledge that we can have any accommodation in Baltimore. We yet have no knowledge that we can have any convenience there. Now what is the inconvenience of this place? A convention of the people assembled here in the year 1850. I had the honor in 1858 to