

declares that the executive and legislative departments should be kept distinct, would not be disregarded, nor invaded.

The abolition of the council would, of course, destroy the office, now known to the constitution, of Clerk to the Council. In his stead, a Secretary of State would be necessary; and to him might be confided the archives of the State; and he might also be entrusted with the performance of various and important duties. Such an officer is known to the laws of several States—and, it is believed, with great convenience.

In relation to the Judicial Department, your committee have no alterations to propose. In the wholesome and regular administration of the laws, the public are deeply and vitally concerned. Any inroad upon a well established system, is fraught with danger, and should not rashly be attempted. Jurists may differ in their opinions as to the relative merits of one judicial system, in comparison with another; but every jurist should deprecate an attempt, to break down one system, well established and well administered, merely to substitute another, upon a different plan of organization. Innovation is the mania of our day. Fancied improvements are proposed, without always considering the possible mischief that may ensue. But it well becomes those, who have the power in their hands, to forbear its exercise, in doubtful cases; and in determining to abandon one system for the adoption of another, to be well assured, in every case, that the preferred system will combine all the advantages of the rejected one; and that it will not only be free from its defects, but be also free from any elements of mischief.

Your committee do not mean to say, that there can be any objection to a limitation of the term of tenure of certain officers. But, at present, they do not mean to report in respect of that subject. It is their purpose, at this time, to suggest alterations of the constitution in relation to the Executive Department as hereinbefore stated, and in relation to the two Houses of Assembly—and they have instructed their chairman to prepare several bills, and report them to the Senate for consideration. In those bills, provision will be made for the case of vacancy, in the office of Governor, by death or otherwise; and vari-