participated in its labors, of the embarrassment thrown around the session of the last Legislature from the effect of this very biennial policy; and if he had rightly heard and understood, it had been clearly intimated, that the proposition to recommend the call of an extra session, had been gravely, if not publicly argued by many of that eminent and distinguished body.

Mr. Brown remarked that he believed the Governor was in favor of the call of an extra session.

Mr. Chambers, of Kent, was understood to inquire whether the Governor was in favor of getting the Legislature to recommend the call, or of calling it himself.

Mr. Brown said, he had understood that the Governor was inclined to the call, if the Legislature thought proper to recommend it.

Mr. Gwinn desired to say, in behalf of a gentleman who was not here to speak for himself, that there were some matters pending before the last Legislature which were believed to be of serious importance. But he (Mr. G.) had never understood that the Governor either desired, or recommended to any set of individuals, that an extra session should be called. The Governor thought that there would be a moral justification for the step in the Legislature, and was prepared to act upon its recommendation; but he had never in any manner interfered, or counseled, or influenced the Legislature in regard to it.

Mr. Dirickson resumed. He believed he had properly understood and correctly stated the expressions to which he had alluded—and the moral which the declarations and avowal taught him, was that it might be dangerous to give this power to such a body as this amendment proposed. Had this provision have existed in the present Constitution an extra session might, at this very moment, be holding its sittings and fearfully increasing the already enormous expenditure of the State. Neither the necessities of the times, nor the wants of the community, rendered essential such additional outlay of the common treasure for such a purpose. The power is by the existing Constitution already vested in the Executive—why had it not been exercised. The distinguished officer who then occupied the gubernatorial chair was incapable of shrinking from the discharge of any moral or legal duty imposed by that exalted position, and the irresistible inference is forced upon all that no such extra session was in reality demanded. Sir, we should be careful how we vest this extreme authority in that department of the Government, which from its very numbers cannot by possibility feel that direct responsibility necessarily requisite to its wise and wholesome exercise. Let it remain, as provided by a future section of this report, in the hands where it had been placed by our fathers, to be used only when some high and unusual crisis justified its employment. From the constant mutability and very uncertainty of all things earthly, it must be lodged somewhere, to be wielded in the hour of emergency for the security, the protection, and the prosperity of all. Great and unexpected financial embarrassments might come suddenly upon us—war, with its horrors, menace our liberties—pestilence and famine invade our borders, and insurrection with gory head rear itself in our midst. If such a time should ever come, then would the crisis have arrived when the wisdom and patriotism of the land should be summoned to these, our council chambers; then might this power work the great and legitimate object for which it was properly and wisely designed. With such views and sentiments he could not lend his sanction to the amendment to which he had last alluded. He could not aid in trampling under foot a measure which had been ordained by the people themselves. He could not consent to take a step backward in the great onward march of reform now going on every where within and around us. He wished to see Maryland in the very van of those States that, upon the ruins of old fabrics, were rearing better, purer, and more *economical* governments. That was the kind of reform desired by the people whom he had the honor in part to represent. He believed he knew their wishes and their interests, and in accordance with his constant and earnest aim, he should endeavor at all times, honestly, and faithfully to cling to and sustain them.

Mr. Tuck said:

That he had stated, when advocating the publication of the debates, that he would trouble the Convention as little as any of the speaking profession to which he belonged, and he believed he had been true to his promise.

It would appear, from what his friend from Worcester had said, that the State had been actually convulsed from the Allegany mountains to the ocean, on the subject of biennial sessions.

Mr. T. rather suspected, that in this instance his friend had taken Worcester county for the State. If the excitement spoken of, had swept over the State, it had not reached the lower counties on the Western Shore as far as he was informed. It is true that Prince George's county gave a majority for biennial sessions. But there was no excitement or agitation of the subject before the election, as far as he, [Mr. T.,] knew, or had heard. It so happened, that he participated actively in the canvass of 1846, though not a candidate; and he did not remember to have heard the subject mentioned, and he knew that many persons had not considered the matter at all before they were asked the question at the polls. He knows this, because he heard many say so at the time—and many declined voting on that question for this reason. His county gave a majority for the biennial act; but not more than one thousand, two hundred and fifty voters passed on the question, out of about one thousand five hundred or more, that were polled.

If he, (Mr. T.,) thought that this question were deemed of paramount importance by his constituents—that it was above all others affecting their rights and interests, and had been recently settled by the vote at the polls, he would not now vote for annual sessions. He acknowledged the right of instruction, and the duty of obedience.