

sending for authorities by the loss of time in procuring the same by inexperienced librarians, who were constantly being changed by the Legislature.

Mr. Stoddert argued against the amendment of Mr. Watkins.

Mr. Garey said the Democratic party, in its reforms, by making nearly all the offices elective by the people, had done much to demoralize them, and he charged that this action of the party had done much to cause the present condition of the country. The desire for office which had been begot by this action had so taken hold of the people that it weaned many of them from their occupations and caused great sorrow and trouble. We were now suffering under the rule of a tyrannical majority of the people, for it was a majority, and the Democratic party was to blame for it by committing so much to the people. In 1851 the Governor had been almost entirely stripped of his power; in 1864 the power to appoint justices of the peace had been given back to that officer, and it had worked well. The people did not want to elect so many officers; they were satisfied now, and did not ask for the exercise of any more power. Without any necessity whatever it had been provided, the other day, that the clerk of the Court of Appeals should be elected by the people. It was time to return to the old constitutional landmarks.

Mr. Jones agreed in the main with the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr. Garey.) The experience not only of our own but of all the other States had proved that the policy of electing so many small officers by the people was most injudicious. The Hon. A. H. H. Stuart had sent him a pamphlet containing the report of a committee just after the secession of Virginia, proposing amendments to the constitution doing away with the provisions for the election of all these small offices.

Mr. Peters said he was under the impression that the amendments had been voted down, and that Governor Letcher had made it the subject of a congratulatory message.

Mr. Watkins advocated his amendment.

Mr. Syester said the other day, while the great magnates were out refreshing themselves with a glass of royal