

mine, though many writers of authority seem to rank such breaches of the fundamental parts of a government, among the inevitable causes of its dissolution.

Certain it is, however, that we got over it without any difficulty—If it was a fault, it was committed against ourselves, and we thought proper to forgive it.

The consequence has been that the same omission has happened every year since, and probably may for many to come.

It seems very clear that the framers of our constitution did not foresee any probability of such an event.

They left a sufficient time between the day appointed for the meeting of the Assembly, and that for the election of a Governor, for all the members to have repaired to the seat of government; they likewise put an end to the powers of the Governor on the day preceding the new election, so that there has been no distinct executive power, in the intervals occasioned by this neglect; whereas justices and some other officers, though annually appointed, continue to exercise their powers till they are reelected or otherwise removed from their seats.

The House of Delegates now applied to the former committees for bringing forward the various propositions of the public business, with a degree of orderliness and dispatch, that seemed to promise a much shorter continuance of the session, than we find has in fact continued.

On the 17th the Senate and the Assembly proceeded to the election of a Governor—Major General Matthew Smallwood, and Daniel Robinson, Esquire, of Annapolis, were put in nomination, and on each side the ballots, the numbers appeared to be nearly equal; but the majority for General Smallwood, who was accordingly declared Governor of Maryland.

This majority, though sufficiently decisive, was not very agreeable to many of the leading members, who would have been the General Assembly unanimous in their votes, as an honorable mark of distinction, for an officer who is to bear a claim to the gratitude and affection of his country.

On the 18th the Assembly elected for the ensuing year Messrs. J. T. Chase, J. Lind, G. Davall, J. Keady, and S. T. Wright, were elected.

On the same day a petition was read from the Mayor and Governors, and the Assembly, for founding a college on the