

bernatorial district. This division is geographically convenient and natural; and although the population of the several districts is not precisely equipollent, it is not strikingly unequal. In each of the districts, as thus proposed to be divided, gentlemen of intelligence, of virtue and honor may always be found, entirely competent to fill the highest executive office of our State, with dignity and public usefulness; and by confining the selection at each election, to a particular district, but giving to all the citizens a vote in his selection, not only are the just pretensions, of each portion of the State, consulted and respected; but the right of every voter is fully secured and maintained. Another consideration might be urged, in favor of the adoption of these districts. It would prevent the distraction that might otherwise arise, from the nomination of numerous candidates, in various parts of the State; and the consequent generation of partizan feelings, dependent, not on principle, but on mere locality.

Your committee unanimously concur in the opinion, that the Council to the Governor may well be abolished. The framers of the constitution considered it unsafe and inexpedient to confide to any man, however exalted, the uncontrolled and absolute power of conferring all the executive appointments. In this sentiment, your committee fully concur. But experience has shown, that the same check to executive independency may be found in the action of the Senate; by requiring, that all appointments shall be made, by and with their advice and consent. When acting upon executive business, they would be sitting as a council to the Governor; and not in the exercise of legislative functions. And by clothing Senators with this new capacity, the Bill of Rights, which 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.