

clause inserted in the legislative department is intended to prevent the corruptions which exist; this is wise and proper, but this veto power will produce a far greater effect. The most efficacious way of preventing unwise, and even corrupt legislation is to place this power in the hands of the Governor, and a majority of two-thirds of all the members should be necessary to overrule it.

Mr. Gill argued the subject at some length.

Mr. Wickes said the veto power had never been granted to any Governor of Maryland since the framing of the first constitution, and there must have existed good and sufficient reasons for the withholding of this prerogative. This was a grave matter, to which members should give the most serious attention. Arguments had been made as to the great necessity of this power in the administration of the federal government, but there was a great difference between the States and the federal government. In 1787, when this matter was under discussion, great doubts were entertained as to the expediency of inserting it in the federal constitution. There was no analogy between the federal government and the States. The federal government was composed of communities distinct in their political organization and different in their interests, and this veto power might be necessary; but our interests are identical, and appertain to the whole State

He would ask the question, how would this operate in the legislation of Maryland? Would it produce good or evil? Would it be used to promote the purity of the government, or to be held as a rod over the Legislature, and to defeat the popular will? He believed that it would be used as the latter. He did not wish to call up unpleasant reminiscences, but would ask how many times in the last fifteen years had there been Governors in Maryland who did not represent even a decent minority of the people and who would have taken care to thwart the will of the people if they had had this power. Was it not a fact that the Governor for the last fifteen years had been elected by the majorities sent up from the city of Baltimore, which majorities had been fraudulently obtained in the interest of the factions which controlled that city?

He would ask the gentlemen from Baltimore, when they