

After some debate, in which Messrs. Kilbourne, Wickes, McKaig, Archer and Maulsby participated, the motion was rejected.

The question was then announced as on the amendment of Mr. Rider to strike out fifteen and insert twelve; which was disagreed to.

Mr. Brewer, of Baltimore city, moved to insert ten in place of fifteen; which was negatived.

Mr. Cunningham moved an amendment that the term shall be fifteen years, and the judge then be ineligible for the fifteen years succeeding; which was disagreed to.

Mr. Gill took the floor in support of the section as reported by the committee, and drew a parallel between that and the pending amendment, which he said would inaugurate the worst system that it was possible for the wit of man to devise. He had looked at the independence of the judiciary as the corner-stone of the jurisprudence of the country, as the surest safeguard for their liberties. He had hoped that when this Convention came here it would look at this matter, not through party spectacles, but solely with a view to the best interests of the people. He had hoped that they would give the best system to the people which it was possible for them to do with their limited opportunities.

The system of appointing the judges had always been dear to his heart, and the whole experience of his life had confirmed him in his views. This, however, could not be accomplished with any hope of success as circumstances now existed, but to secure all possible benefits, the tenure should be during good behavior. He had an amendment which he had prepared to offer at the proper time, making it incumbent on the clerks and registers of wills to transmit at each session of the General Assembly the number of cases decided, tried, and undisposed of by the judge, and the number of days in which the court sat, which information shall be referred to a joint committee. The judges were thus entirely within the control of the Legislature, and could be removed at any time, no matter what their age was or how long or short a time they had been in office, for incompetency or misdemeanor. He asked where this could be improved.