

Lane,) who is at the head of the Committee on the Treasury Department, proposes to create a new officer as Comptroller of the Treasury, with a salary of three thousand dollars a year. The no less distinguished and talented gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Jeniffer,) Chairman of what is familiarly called, here the omnibus committee, has reported in favor of a board of public works at an annual cost of some six or eight thousand dollars a year. But where, he would again ask, are the provisions for retrenching the public expenses? He did not now intend to argue these reports.

Mr. P. said he intended to express at this time no opinion upon any one of these propositions. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." At the proper time and in the proper place, he expected to be able to give a reason for the hope that was within him.

Again, Mr. President, we have heard much said about the great and exceeding expensiveness of our Judiciary system. This has been a fruitful source of animadversion by politicians and especially reformers for many years past; and the cry has been loud and long for retrenchment in this Department of the Government. On yesterday the equally distinguished gentleman at the head of the Judiciary Committee, (Mr. Bowie,) presented his report, and this morning we find it upon our desks. He had had only time to give this report a very hasty glance. He found, however, it proposed one Judge for each county in the State, at a salary of two thousand dollars a year, and six other Judges for the city of Baltimore, with salaries varying from fifteen hundred dollars to twenty-five hundred dollars a year. Also an independent Court of Appeals to consist of three members, with salaries of twenty-five hundred dollars each. Now, Mr. President, according to this report we shall have twenty-nine Judges in Maryland, with an average annual salary of over two thousand a dollars a year, making an annual demand upon the Treasury for this department of the Government of some sixty thousand dollars. Mr. P. said he had not time to pursue this subject further, he would leave that matter to the especial friends of retrenchment and reform upon this floor. He would remark, however, that by an examination of the Treasury report, the annual expenses under the Constitution, under the biennial system, was about eighty-nine thousand dollars, and if these various propositions be incorporated in the new Constitution, the annual demands upon the Treasury, under the Constitution, will not be short of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. So far, Mr. President, from the public expenditures being diminished by this Convention, the probability now is, they will be increased some sixty thousand dollars annually.

He said, let him in sober earnestness, ask the reform party here, and especially those from the smaller counties, who have all to lose upon the representation question, how they will account for their stewardship here, when summoned before the bar of public opinion? How do you propose to answer for these increased public expen-

ditures? Where shall we look for the practical effects of your retrenchment principles? We see no trace of them in these halls. They are gone—forever gone.

Our labors on this floor, Mr. President, must be submitted to the sober judgment of an enlightened and far-seeing constituency, and the effects it may be, will be felt and judged of by posterity itself. We shall, doubtless, be judged by a righteous judgment. He would forbear saying more.

Mr. JENIFFER submitted that the fact of making the sessions of the Legislature biennial, would not relieve the Legislature from the applications for acts of incorporation and of divorce, upon which the gentleman from Dorchester, (Mr. Phelps,) had laid so much stress. The gentleman had asked whether any petitions had been presented here, calling for a return to annual sessions. He, (Mr. J.,) might, with equal force, ask whether petitions had been presented here, asking for any thing in relation to the judiciary—the executive—or any other department? The people had sent this Convention here, to act according to their best judgment, and to recommend to their adoption, such provisions as might be deemed best suited to their interests and necessities.

His colleague, (Mr. Merrick,) had very properly stated why there ought to be frequent elections, and especially at the present time, in view of the finances of the State, when millions of dollars came into the treasury to be expended, and when, for a period of two years, under the present system, the offices were left without public accountability.

The gentleman from Dorchester, (Mr. Phelps,) in the remarks he had submitted, had traveled beyond the legitimate ground. He had referred to the different reports of committees, and amongst other things, to the proposed increase of the salary of the Governor. That question had been a matter of grave consideration, and the committee had come unanimously to the conclusion, that the salary should be raised. They had been guided by the true Democratic principle, that the office was one open to the humblest citizen of the State, and that a salary ought to be attached to it, which would be commensurate with its importance.

The gentleman had talked a great deal about expense. The question for the Convention was, whether a few thousand dollars, more or less, were to be brought in conflict with the interests and the exigencies of a whole people. If it was supposed that the length of the sessions would be an obstacle in the way of annual meetings of the Legislature, it would be easy to remove that difficulty by limiting their duration.

He, (Mr. J.,) hoped, therefore, that no such prohibition would, at present, at least, be adopted.

Mr. DONALDSON said, that he was one of that majority at the polls, to which the gentleman from Dorchester, (Mr. Phelps,) had alluded as having four years and more ago, settled by the popular voice, that the sessions of the Legisla-