

Maryland, he would do it in the most humane manner by sending them to the Maryland colony in Liberia.

He concluded, by expressing his belief, that if the question were submitted to the people of Maryland, they would be found almost unanimously against the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore.

ERRATA.—In page one hundred, bottom of first column, in the speech of Mr. DAVIS, instead of "1,000,000" as by a typographical error it is printed, read "0,000,000," the cypher being intended to show the amount of legislative encouragement given to agriculture.

In page forty-seven, column two, line thirty, of the sketch of Mr. BLAKISTONE's remarks, instead of "design" read "offspring."

In page ninety, on the amendment of Mr. RINGELY to thirtieth article of the Bill of Rights, adding the words "political trust or employment of any kind whatever"—the word "rejected" should read "adopted."

In pages ninety-six and ninety-seven, insert the name of Mr. CHANDLER (as moving to strike out the thirty-fourth article of the Bill of Rights.) instead of Mr. BLAKISTONE.

THURSDAY, February 13, 1851.

The Convention met at eleven o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRAUFF.

The roll was called, and the journal of yesterday was read and approved.

MR. J. U. DENNIS.

On motion of Mr. JOHN DENNIS, it was

"Ordered, That it be entered upon the journal that Mr. JAMES U. DENNIS, is detained from his seat in the Convention by the illness of a member of his family."

There being no reports of committees, motions, resolutions, or notices,

The PRESIDENT, *pro tem.*, announced the unfinished business of yesterday.

#### THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The Convention then resumed the consideration of the special order of the day, being the report heretofore submitted by Mr. JOHNSON, chairman of the committee on the legislative department of the government.

The second section of the report was under consideration as follows:

"Section 2. The Senators shall be elected by the qualified voters, for the term of four years, and the Delegates for the term of \_\_\_\_\_ from the day of the general election."

#### SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

And the pending question was on the motion of Mr. MERRICK, to amend the said second section, by filling the blank in the second line, with the words "one year."

Mr. PHELPS rose to a question of order. He had yesterday, he said, submitted an amendment, by way of substitute for the whole section. He desired to know whether the motion of the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Merrick,) to fill the blank in the second section of the report, took precedence over his, [Mr. P's,] motion to strike out.

The PRESIDENT, *pro tem.*, said, that the motion to fill the blank, would take precedence over the motion to strike out and insert, because the friends of the original section had the right in the first instance to perfect it.

Mr. DORSEY gave notice that when the question should be taken on the motion of the gentleman from Dorchester, [Mr. Phelps,] he, [Mr. D.,] desired a division of the question, first on striking out, and then on inserting.

Mr. BRENT, of Charles, said, he found himself in a position which was at all times unpleasant to his feelings. He found himself upon this question, differing with his colleagues. For their judgment and opinions, he always entertained the highest respect and esteem; and it was always, therefore, with the greatest diffidence, that he differed from them.

He considered the question now under consideration, as one of grave importance. But important as it was, he would not have troubled the Convention with any remarks, but for the fact of the difference of opinion which he had stated.

He regarded the question of annual or biennial sessions as a financial measure. In that light he should argue it. He believed that a proper principle of economy should lie at the foundation of all governments; and that it was the duty of the representatives of the people upon every occasion so to economise the public expenditures, as to secure the advantages of good government, at as little cost as possible to the public treasury.

The question of biennial sessions was not a new question in this country. Some of the States of the confederacy had engrafted the principle upon their governments, so far back as the year 1818. And in ten or more of the States that principle had long been in successful operation. In the State of Kentucky, where the Convention called to remodel the organic law, had terminated its labors within some twelve or eighteen months, the principle of biennial sessions had been adopted even without an argument. Under the old Constitution of that State, he believed the sessions of the legislature had been annual. He had referred to the policy of other States, with a view to gather from their experience lights for his own guidance; because he believed it was always the part of true wisdom to avail itself of the experience of others, and engraft it upon its own.

Mr. B. now proceeded to refer to the direct vote which had been given by the people at the ballot box upon this question of biennial sessions, and to the decision which they had made in favor of such a change.

Here then, he said, was the voice of the people of the State of Maryland. He considered himself as their agent—whose duty it was to carry