

that of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Grason.) It seemed to him that the Convention should not make odious distinctions between naturalized and native-born citizens, which were unnecessary. He was, therefore, in favor of the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Buchanan.) He thought that restrictions enough would be imposed by that amendment. No discriminations, he thought, should be drawn except such as might be required by the interests of the people, or important objects of public policy. He thought there was no such object in the present case, and he should therefore vote for the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county.

Mr. BROWN gave notice, that when in order, he would move to strike out, in the second line, the words "been for ten years," and insert the word "be," [so as to permit any man who had been a resident of the State for seven years to be eligible.]

Mr. SPENCER. Say ten years.

Mr. BROWN. It will shut out native Americans—those who are here in the country, coming from another State into Maryland.

Mr. SPENCER. No! at all.

Mr. BROWN, [resuming.] A foreigner, then, cannot be elected Governor, unless he has been a resident of the State for ten years. I think that is enough.

Mr. SPENCER gave notice that at the proper time, he should offer the following amendment, strike out in sixth section, from the word "year," in the second line, to the word "and," in the fourth line, and insert these words, "and been for ten years a resident citizen of this State."

Mr. GRASON thought, that practically, it was a matter of very little importance whether the Convention decided upon the term of ten, seven or five years. It was not probable that any foreigner would ever be nominated or elected Governor of the State of Maryland. Still, he thought it was their duty to show to the people that this Convention was not making a provision with the express object of bringing in a man who had not been for ten years a citizen of the United States. He had, in the first instance, designated the period of ten years, but, upon subsequent reflection, had thought it better to designate seven. At the same time, he repeated, that so far as the practical operation of the section was concerned, he was indifferent as to the term.

Mr. CHAMBERS said, he must express his regret at these unceasing, persevering efforts to shape our Constitution, as if we were in an especial manner providing for a particular class of persons—a class of foreigners and strangers. The current seemed continually to become deeper and wider as we proceeded. This instance exemplified the remark. An intelligent committee in the calm quiet of their committee room, had unanimously reported these restrictions. They had deemed it proper to require of foreigners a reasonable period of time for a residence amongst us, to enable them to acquire a knowledge of our peculiar institutions, and to undergo a probation before they could be admitted to the chief execu-

tive office, but the continually growing demand for the privileges of these people, the accession of new advocates and the defeat of opposition to them, was now leading the Convention to overrule the well considered caution of the committee. He thought it time to call a halt in this progress.

He had yet to learn that in any State in this Union, a foreigner had been made Governor. Why should Maryland desire to go ahead of the rest of the American world in this respect? Was it to invite foreigners to come amongst us? It could scarcely be supposed they could propose to themselves such a motive for their emigration. He supposed no man here expected, that he or his children or his children's children, would live to see the day when a foreigner, in ten years after his coming into the country, would be made chief magistrate of the State.

He was willing to pay any just tribute to the merits of foreigners, but such a provision as is now advocated, is an indirect imputation of incompetency, upon our own citizens. Had there every been a dearth of our own people, that we must invite foreigners to fill this station? Certainly there was no evidence of scarcity in native material at present, nor any prospect of a future diminution. He preferred the proposition reported by the committee, and as no advantage could result from any high bidding on the one side or the other, he hoped the house would not consent to change it. There being neither necessity nor advantage to recommend it, why change it for the mere sake of change?

Mr. BROWN read the fourth section of the second article of the Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania, in the words following:

"He, [the Governor.] shall be at least thirty years of age, and have been a citizen and an inhabitant of this State, seven years next before his election; unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the United States, or of this State."

Mr. BUCHANAN said he did not know what the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) meant by "high bids." He was unable to say whether the gentleman intended to apply his remarks to his venerable colleague, (Mr. Dorsey,) who had favored the amendment offered by him, (Mr. B.,) or to some other person.

I can only say, continued Mr. B., that however disconcerted the gentleman from Kent may feel at the undoubted indications of a liberal tendency on the part of the gentleman from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Dorsey,] we who desire to advocate liberal doctrines here, are altogether satisfied with his position on this question, and welcome his advent with pleasure. The grounds assumed by the honorable gentleman from Anne Arundel, in his argument just submitted to the Convention, are liberal, equitable, and patriotic. He is opposed to odious and ungenerous distinction between the native born and the naturalized citizen. And this we hold to be the true doctrine.

Although, said Mr. B., this remark of "high bids" was made by the gentleman from Kent,