

Mr. MITCHELL wished to give a reason for his vote. He came here with a view to the retrenchment of unnecessary expenditures. He was a reformer. He had heard it said that the first gentleman in the United States is Millard Fillmore. Now he wished to make the Governor of Maryland a gentleman of the first class. He would therefore give him a high salary that he may be so.

Mr. DIRICKSON withdrew the second branch of his amendment, and moved to amend the twenty-first section by striking out the words "four thousand," and inserting in lieu of them, the words "two thousand."

Mr. CRISFIELD asked for a division of the question and that it be first taken on striking out.

Mr. DORSEY moved to amend the twenty-first section by inserting after the word "government," in the first line, the following words, "during the sessions of the General Assembly, and in the recess thereof, shall be in the city of Annapolis during the first week of every other month of his term."

Mr. JENIFER said it would be necessary, he presumed, in order to comply with this provision, that the Governor should carry a reporter about with him to make a record and report of all his movements.

Mr. DORSEY replied that the amendment gives public notice of the times at which it is the duty of the Governor to be at the seat of government. It did not appear to him to be necessary that the Governor should always reside at the seat of government. From the foundation of our State government in 1776 until 1836, he was not compelled to have his residence here. But in the year 1836, this new duty was unnecessarily imposed on him. The Governor needs not to be always at Annapolis. He did not wish, in the least degree to detract from the manner in which the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Grason,) had performed his duty while he was Governor. But the executive chamber was a warm, comfortable room, well supplied with the newspapers, books and documents, and had always a good fire in it, and he thought that the walk to it every morning was but necessary exercise, and to sit there a few hours daily, was no great sacrifice, and that the daily visits to it by the Governor, would have been paid if business did not require them. As to what was said by the gentleman from Baltimore about the murder in Kent county, he, (Mr. D.) thought the delay and trouble of getting a proclamation issued might be as great, in cases of this kind, if the Governor, though required to reside here constantly, but is occasionally absent, or if he is only here at stated intervals. He knew it was the opinion of some that the Governor should be always on the spot. But what would be the great inconvenience if the business was sent, or persons had to go, to Frederick, where the home of the present Governor is, or to Easton, where the ex-Governor lived. The only object is, that the people might know where he is to be found, then no inconvenience can result.

It is said there are many accounts which require to be examined daily. This statement, he

apprehended, must be received with many grains of allowance, nor are they so numerous as to make it necessary to give an increased salary, and to require a constant residence here, in order that the Governor may be enabled to perform this duty. He could not understand, what great number of accounts there could be. There can be no money drawn from the treasury, unless it has been previously appropriated by law, and if the Governor has other accounts to pay, which are not the subjects of specific appropriation, but are paid out of the contingent fund—the fewer they are the better. But if there are these accounts to settle, it is better that they should not be paid too hastily; but that they should be subjected to as much delay as is necessary for their full and deliberate examination. Applications, in the absence of the Governor, may be always sent to the Secretary of State, or may be forwarded to the Governor himself, and he can direct the Secretary of State to pay attention to them. And as to the individual who traveled from Allegany bare-footed to see the Governor, there would be no new difficulty thrown, in the way of such persons, by the adoption of this amendment, which would only require of the person a change in the time, or direction of his journey.

In relation to the public debt, he desired to say, that from information which had come to his knowledge since that subject was discussed here, he had reason to believe that the debt will not be paid off so soon as some gentlemen seem to have imagined. Their calculations were based on the assumption, that the debt could be all bought up at par. But the gentleman from Carroll, told us that the debt could only be purchased at a premium, and such was unquestionably the fact. In that case the money in the treasury will not be sufficient to pay the debt at the time anticipated. And if we, with this fact before our eyes, sitting here as a Convention to form a Constitution, increase the salaries of our public officers, we shall still further protect the payment of the debt. He had about as much southern feeling as he desired to have, but he had no wish to expend the public money, for the mere purpose of showing our ostentatious hospitality. If the Governor thinks it proper to give entertainments, he can pay for them out of his salary. But it would be wrong for this Convention, by sanctioning this practice, to hold out encouragement to extravagance. He liked to see the Governor hospitable; and he had no doubt that his friends from Baltimore, where money was plentiful, and he supposed easily acquired, as a thousand dollars was no more thought of than as many cents are in the country, would be ready enough to vote him the largest salary, as the means of keeping up expensive hospitalities. But it ought to be remembered, that throughout the country, at present, there is a great amount of poverty and distress. He did not know, if salaries were to be increased, why the increase should be confined to the Governor. The judges have as good a claim to share in the benefit of the operation. The judges of the courts of appeals have far more incessant labor to endure—more responsible duties to perform. For every thing that could elevate the value of