

their services, their claims to adequate salary, are not inferior to those of your Governors, yet the clamor of your self-sacrificing, patriotic electioneering politicians, has been that the expense of your judiciary is exorbitantly high and ought to be reduced for the sake of the "dear people."

The Legislature are the peculiar guardians of the public purse. They come here biennially from the people, and return to them again, for the most part for re-election. They bring with them the views and wishes of the people, and return to them responsible for their conduct. We, on the other hand, never expect to come here to another Convention; therefore we stand, in a measure, independent of and not responsible to the people. He would rather leave it to the Legislature to fix the amount of salaries. The salary of the Governor was raised by the Legislature to \$4200. But afterwards, when the attention of the people was called to the subject, it was reduced to the sum of \$2000. For aught that he knew, it might be the wish of the people that it should so remain, and to them only belongs the right to change it. He was disposed, therefore, to leave the salary to be fixed by the Legislature, who were far more economical and mindful of the wishes and interests of the people, than this Convention, of which he had the honor to be a member.

In reply to the disparaging remarks made of the New England States Mr. D. spoke in terms of the highest eulogy of the condition of the New England States, and described the impressions made upon him, by an observance of their wealth, their superior intellectual acquirements, their refinement and habits mingled with a system of economy, their morality, their commercial enterprise their system of common schools and the immense number of their churches, in 1807, when he traveled through that country on horseback, for the benefit of his health; and during his slow and entire journey, from Marblehead to Baltimore, he never saw a drunken man, and gave his opinion that the people there were in advance of us in intelligence, in morality, and in all the conveniences and comforts of life at least—being a century ahead of the people of the South, and even of those of old Maryland.

Mr. SOLLERS asked if this happy condition of New England, resulted from the abolition of slavery?

Mr. DORSEY said he believed not.

Mr. SOLLERS. The northern people say so.

Mr. DORSEY supposed that the gentleman from Calvert, did not intend to endorse all northern opinions. He then proceeded to remark on the attacks which had been made on the judiciary, on account of their extravagance. He had heard that a distinguished politician on the Eastern Shore, had declared that five hundred dollars was salary enough for any man. He had heard that a gentleman, a member of this body, not very far from him, had asserted that the judges are now paid too much. We shall make a bad beginning of our reforms, if we raise the salary of the Governor. It may be, however, that he is

entitled to it, if it be true, as is said of him here, that he represents the people of Maryland, more fully than the General Assembly. He was against trusting to much power in the hands of a single individual, or idolatrously worshipping or eulogising him because he was Governor, or for the purpose of obtaining an office. He would much rather trust to the General Assembly, the fixing of the salaries of all public officers. He thought that under his amendment, the Governor may live more economically, and that we may obtain better men, who will consent to take the office when they are not bound to live during the whole term in this city. As the sessions of the Legislature are not to extend beyond sixty days, the Governor will not be compelled to be in Annapolis but a short time, and therefore his salary may be reduced below what it is in the report, without injury to him.

Mr. BUONNS said, that he had never heard the salaries of the judges complained of. He had been attacked for voting to raise the salary of the Governor; and a person had come to him, and offered to do it for \$1600 a year. The people of his county did not wish to interfere with the salaries of the judges. Their desires ran in another direction. They only asked that the judges may be elected by the people. They were opposed, as he was, to all life offices.

Mr. DORSEY said if the people of Carroll were not sensitive, at the time the gentleman referred to, on the subject of the salaries of the judges, they have become so since, if the information he had on the subject was correct.

Mr. GRASON would state the reasons which induced the committee to fix the salary of the Governor at four thousand dollars. He had yesterday spoken of the necessity for the residence of the Governor at Annapolis. The gentleman from Anne Arundel has replied, and he, (Mr. G.) would say a few words in answer to what had been said by that gentleman. Formerly, in consequence of the continued absence of the Governor, a steward was employed, at a salary of two hundred dollars, to take charge of the Governor's house and furniture. But notwithstanding this, it was found that many things were lost in consequence of the negligence of the steward or the depredations of other persons. On this account, as much would be lost by the absence of the Governor as would be saved by a reduction of his salary. It was admitted by all, that the salary ought to be sufficient for the dignity of the station. The committee wished to allow a liberal compensation, not for the purpose of encouraging extravagance, as many supposed, but to enable the Governor to pass through his term of office without impairing his private resources. The salaries in Wisconsin and Indiana had been referred to as the proper standard, but what might be sufficient in those remote States, where living was cheap, would be inadequate in Maryland, where it had always been the custom to extend the hospitality of the Government House to visitors from every part of the State as well as from foreign countries. This custom has existed too long to be disregarded; and if the gentleman from Washington, who wishes to reduce the