

to one thousand dollars. He thought that less than fifteen hundred dollars would not be sufficient to induce a competent person, with a family, to accept the appointment. Other public officers, who have lighter duties to perform, receive a higher rate of compensation. By fixing the salary at one thousand dollars, a competent person will be prevented from filling the office.

Mr. JENIFER entirely agreed with the gentleman from Queen Anne's, that it will be impossible to find a competent man here all the year, without giving him an adequate salary. He would, hereafter, have additional duties to perform, and he ought to be properly paid. He would withdraw his motion to insert twelve hundred and would vote for fifteen hundred dollars.

Mr. CHAMBERS had no wish to be illiberal. He was not a Governor, never was Governor, and was never likely to be Governor. He knew no more of these matters than he learned from the laws prescribing the duties of the Secretary, but he was not aware of any very important or responsible duties which devolved upon him.

Mr. JENIFER interrupted. Keeper of the records.

Mr. CHAMBERS. By the Constitution as amended in 1836, the Secretary of State would succeed the Governor in the event of a vacancy during the recess of the Legislature, but now it will not be so, and he is but the keeper of the records. The present salary is one thousand dollars, and no difficulty had been found in obtaining the services of competent persons. The duties of the office did not materially interfere with the pursuit of professional or other duties. Why then this increase?

He was an advocate for liberal but not profuse salaries. A vast deal had been heard about reform and retrenchment, but he found, when a practical occasion arose here, he was about as near the mark as those who claimed to be *par excellence*, the elite of this retrenchment party. He did not mean those who preferred such claims here, but out of doors. It was quite a different affair to play this game before the dear people, quite another to act it out in this Convention.

As to the duties of the Governor, which he might get the Secretary to perform for him, he would only remark, that the Governor's salary was designed as a fair compensation for all his duties, and if he chose to relieve himself of any portion of them by putting them on the Secretary, it would be a proper subject of arrangement and contract. If he performs a part of the Governor's duties, let the Governor pay him a part of his salary. The State is not to pay twice for it.

Mr. JENIFER put an interrogatory to the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) which, with the reply, could not be heard.

Mr. GRASON said that any one acquainted with the facts, knows that there are many duties which the Governor is not required to perform. This officer is not the Governor's secretary, but the Secretary of the State. He, (Mr G.,) could not undertake to enumerate all the duties which he had to perform, but he knew that they were nu-

merous and important. He was satisfied that the gentleman from Kent was disposed to give a proper salary, and that he would, on a little reflection, be willing to allow more than a thousand dollars. The Secretary of State was obliged to live here. When he, (Mr. G.) came into the office of Governor, the salary of the Secretary of State was two thousand dollars. And with that salary, Mr. Cornelius McLane, one of the most competent men in the State, was willing to accept it; but if the compensation were fixed at one thousand dollars, he believed the office would be generally held by incompetent persons.

Mr. CHAMBERS desired to ask the gentleman from Queen Anne's a single question. Was it not formerly the practice to charge a fee on every military commission which issued from the Governor? And when copies of records are required, is not a fee demanded for the copies?

Mr. GRASON replied that when he was in office, no charge was made for copying papers or for issuing commissions.

Mr. DASHIELL stated that when it was in order he intended to move a substitute for the section.

Mr. DORSEY said the Secretary ought to be the confidential friend of the Governor. The gentleman from Queen Anne's had not stated the present emoluments of the office. The gentleman from Kent, thinks there are none but those arising from military commissions. He did not know how that was. But he knew there was no difficulty in getting a Secretary of State. But if we are to look for a distinguished man who would take the office on the calculation of a contingency by which he might become Governor we shall not be very likely to find one. He knew the gentleman who filled the office, was fully competent. He is a surveyor in Frederick county, of high reputation for his intelligence and business habits. The duties of the office do not entirely prevent the Secretary from pursuing any other avocation. He can practice law, and he, (Mr. D.,) knew that this had been done. We have had very good Secretaries for a thousand dollars; and he thought the duties of the office would hereafter be less, unless the Governor inappropriately impose some of his own duties upon the Secretary. He will indeed be a mere clerk to the Governor. We can get just as good an officer for one thousand dollars, as we can for fifteen hundred dollars; and if he ever becomes Governor, he will receive the Governor's salary. The State is still struggling with the weight of her public debt, and there is no necessity to give a higher salary. He thought it ought to be fixed at a thousand dollars.

Mr. LEE asked for the ayes and noes on the motion of Mr. McHENRY, and they were ordered.

The question was then put on the motion of Mr. McHENRY, to insert \$1500, and it was decided as follows:

Affirmative. — Messrs. Wells, Randall, Kent, Sollers, Jenifer, Howard, Buchanan, Hicks, Hodson, Grason, McHenry, Magraw, Brent of Baltimore city, Pressman, Ware, Kilgour and Hollyday—17.