

the abandonment of home and pursuits, not inconsistent with the duties and the dignity of the post, why should the useless and unnecessary sacrifice be required? However gentlemen might characterize such a policy as penny-wise, he believed it to be sound in all its features, and such as would meet with the approbation of the people. Whilst he desired at all times to exhibit a spirit of proper liberality, he nevertheless regarded extravagance as the worst of follies, and he invoked this body of reformers, to begin at once, and at the very fountain-head, this great work of retrenchment for which we are assembled.

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

*Remarks of Mr. DIRICKSON, Thursday March 13.*

MR. DIRICKSON then moved to strike out the twenty-second section, [abolishing the office of Secretary of State ]

MR. DIRICKSON said,

That he had made the motion to strike out the section of the report just read; because, after the gravest reflection, he believed that no such officer was essential to the faithful and full administration of the government. With great pleasure and with entire attention, he had listened to the distinguished gentleman from the county of Queen Anne's whilst speaking of the duties and importance of this officer, and yet, frankness compelled him to say, that he had heard no argument which had removed the settled conviction that this official position was utterly and entirely useless. Maryland was in no condition longer to cherish and sustain more *sine cures*. The time had arrived when gentlemen should cease to cling to old establishments simply because they were old, unless it could, at the same time, be clearly shown that they were wise and useful. It had been said, that this officer, with all his high sounding title, was often but little else than a mere clerk to the Executive, and was constantly and busily employed in the issuing of military commissions and in the preparation of such other documents as his Excellency might direct. Sir, but yesterday this Convention fixed the salary of the Governor upon the most liberal if not exorbitant scale, and surely, with such a compensation, it was not requisite to employ others to do the labors that seemed properly to belong to the executive chamber. Let our chief executive officer, as in other States, become a working Governor. Let every department be pruned of the *sine cures* that have so long been fastened to them, and then will the calls of the tax-gatherer become lighter and lighter, and then will all begin to feel and realise the beneficial effects of this Convention.

He had no desire, at any time, "to read a lecture" to the body of which he was a member, but no remarks could deter him from urging upon their consideration the necessity of wielding the blade of retrenchment, wherever consistent with the public interests it might, with propriety, be applied. The honorable gentleman from the county of Frederick, had been pleased, in the discussion, to allude to the vote which he had

given in the beginning of the session to effect the complete organization of the Convention; however foreign such an allusion might be to the present subject of debate, he desired briefly to reply, that he had given that vote believing that the officers then selected were essential to the despatch of the business we are here to perform, and it was proper to add, that the belief was sanctioned by the judgments and the votes of many of the most eminent and experienced of the body. It was also true, as had been said, that he had been excused from serving upon "the committee to enquire into the expediency of dispensing with certain officers," but he little thought he should ever have been called upon, here or elsewhere, to defend himself from such a charge. Prompted by the highest sense of propriety, he had asked to be relieved from the committee, and, at the time, avowed his views to be purely and solely upon the ground of the delicacy of his position. One of those officers was from his own county—his personal friend—he had stated it frankly, and the Convention had readily and cheerfully excused him from a situation the delicacy of which, all at once saw and appreciated. He did not desire to say more—nay, should not have said thus much, but that the charge of inconsistency having gone forth, 'twas proper the reply should bear it company. He was entirely willing that an impartial community, in view of all the facts, should decide the issue.

In conclusion, he again urged the importance of the motion to strike out, now before them. He begged reformers to aid him with their votes and to stand by him in the great work of retrenchment.

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APPOINTMENTS TO OFFICE.

*Remarks of Mr. Crisfield in reply to Mr. Brent, of Baltimore city, March 13.*

MR. CRISFIELD stated in reply, that his object in amending the section was to prevent the Senate from being deprived of their share in making the appointments. As the section stood previous to that amendment, he thought it capable of a construction which would have diminished the power of the Senate in relation to appointments; and he desired that the Senate should have their full share in all appointments. He was not aware of the difficulty which the gentleman from Baltimore had pointed out. But if it really existed to such an extent, as to place the Executive in difficulty and embarrass the public convenience it ought to be remedied, and he should interpose no objection.

THE CHAIR, (Mr. Tuck,) said the notice should be entered on the journal, and the motion could then stand over until to-morrow. The substitute would also be printed on the journal.

MR. CRISFIELD, in reply to the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer,) explained the object of the amendment, and added that if the Senate failed to perform its duty, it was responsible to the people of the State. There was no danger, in his opinion, of such failure; but if it should fail, the force of public opinion was a sufficient corrective. As to the failure of the Legis-