

ject was economy, which he denominated the platform of the Convention—that economy was the great basis upon which the Convention was called. He (Mr J.) would admit this was one object, and if they would examine the different bills reported, they would find that it had been carried out as far as it could go. With all the bills reported, economy had been the order of the day. But this was not the only object of the Convention. Its object was also to take away the life tenure of the offices of the judges and others. This was one great complaint of the people—it was also to restrain within proper limits the legislative and Executive departments of the Government.

In regard to economy, how was it? It was provided by the substitutes of the gentleman from Cecil and of the gentleman from Worcester, that the Governor should employ an officer whenever he might think proper. Consequently, the person employed must have a salary, or other compensation.

Suppose it should become necessary that the Governor should employ counsel to the Supreme Court of the United States to go to New York, to Pennsylvania or anywhere else, for the purpose of arguing a case; for each and every case the counsel must be paid, and he is not limited to one counsel, he may employ half a dozen at one time, or at different times. Another case may arise, and another, until the compensation allowed would exceed the amount the Legislature would give an Attorney General. The enormous amount paid the Attorney General had been referred to. He ventured to say, that that amount would be very great economy compared with the appointments of counsel by the Governor, unlimited as to the amount of compensation they were to receive, except by the amount of the contingent fund at his disposal.

It had been said, that at the present time it was not necessary to have an Attorney General. If at any time from the formation of the Government, to the present time, that necessity had existed—now was the time to have a law officer to protect the great interests of the State.

The gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer,) had referred to the fugitive slave case in New York. Mr. J. thought that the Attorney General should, very properly, go there and argue the case. The State would not then have additional expenses to pay, except such as might be provided for by law—the compensation should be liberal but defined.

Why not say that the Attorney General should have a proper salary, and make it his duty to go when called on by the Governor. In regard to economy, they would see that if they gave the Attorney General \$2500 or \$2000 per annum, for which the best talent might be engaged, having State's attorneys throughout all the counties, economy would be better accomplished and they would have a law officer respected, whenever duty called him, as the law officer of the State.

In regard to the mode of appointment, he agreed with the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Bowie,) that the appointment should be

made by the Governor, and for four years. Mr. J. was of the opinion that the officer should be responsible to the State for the duty performed, but if the power should be given to the Governor alone, he did not see that there would be any responsibility upon the part of the individual employed, because he would not be recognised by law.

As to the mode of appointment, some gentlemen were in favor of election by the people. He ventured to say, that throughout the counties it had scarcely been heard of. He had never heard it mentioned before he came to the Convention. This bill provided that there should be a State Attorney in each county, to be elected by the people of the county. He believed that this power should be placed in the hands of the Governor and Senate.

He had seen it published throughout the papers, that a certain party desired to take from the Governor all responsibility and patronage. And it had been charged upon gentlemen of the lower counties and the Whig party. He said it was a little remarkable, as far as he had seen by the votes and in discussion, that it was the Democratic party who were afraid to trust the Governor with power, and were for curtailing it most. He disavowed for himself being of either party in this great question of reform, and was in favor of placing confidence in the Governor whom the people elected, and also in the Senate. He did not desire to force upon the people what he believed they did not require. He was for appointment by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; the compensation to be regulated either by the Convention or by the Legislature, as might be deemed most expedient. If it should be decided that the Attorney General should not be appointed by the Governor he would take the other alternative, and have him elected by the people. He believed that the manner in which it was proposed to regulate the compensation of this officer by the amendment of the gentleman from Somerset, [Mr. Crisfield,] was a good one, as it would prevent cavil hereafter.

The importance of an Attorney General at the present time had been referred to by the gentleman from Queen Anne's, not only in the case of New York, but in the case of Philadelphia also. The legislature of Ohio had lately passed a law which might bring up great and important questions, for the consideration of the legislature of Maryland, and the opinions of her State officers. That State had passed a law expressly nullifying a law of Congress, by making it a penalty to assist in capturing fugitive slaves. He knew it had been said that the Governor could employ the best counsel to go to these places; but the consequence would be a much larger expense. Therefore, with regard to economy and the great interests of the State, he believed there should be an Attorney General, whose duty it should be to guard the interests of the State at home, and in the Supreme court of the United States, and elsewhere, whenever his services should be required. He would give him a liberal