tion, the same year with the election of a judge; and the same reason which would apply to the election of a judge, would also apply to the election of a prosecuting attorney.

Mr. PHELPS said:

He agreed in sentiment to many of the remarks which had just fallen from the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer,) but could not vote for his amendment. He deprecated the idea of Prosecuting Attorneys and judicial station being dependent upon mere party services. But the amendment, if adopted, could not and would not prevent it. The mere fact of electing this class of officers upon a separate day from that assigned for the election of all other officers of the State, he felt quite sure, would prove no panacea for this evil.

He asked what was the present condition of things in Maryland? If a vacancy occur in the judiciary, the appointment is always made upon party grounds, and this remark applies with equal force to both the great parties of the country—Whigs and Democrats. The gentleman says Prosecuting Attorneys should not be chosen upon party grounds. This is beautiful in theory but is not quite borne out in practice. What, sir, has transpired upon this subject in this State within the last few weeks. He would answer, the Attorney General now in his eye, had, within that time, removed, he believed every Whig deputy in Maryland and appointed Democrats in their stead. Of this it was not his purpose to complain, but he alluded to the fact to prove the fallacy of the gentleman's position. It is said, "coming events cast their shadows before," and in the same spirit he would say that the past has overshadowed the future. The only way parties exist, always have existed and ever would exist, was by taking care to provide for their political friends. And, although the elections might take place in May, September, October or any other time, and whether distinctly held for this class of officers or upon the day of the general election, judges and district attorneys would ever be run into these positions upon party grounds. He deprecated such a proceeding, for he knew it to be an evil—he knew it to be, to use a common expression, "a crying evil," but the practice could not be changed unless the foundations of government were uprooted and the human passions and feelings upturned and overthrown, and made to take a totally different direction.

He believed an important subject of reform was to have as few elections as is consistent with the public safety and the principles of civil liberty. Every body knew, here and elsewhere, the demoralising and injurious effects of never-ending and never-ceasing political agitation and strife. Apart from religious considerations, and apart from the expense of these frequent elections, the social effects upon society itself is highly injurious. This Convention has already determined upon biennial sessions of the Legislature, and looking to that fact, have fixed the term of service of the Governor to four years. He hoped in the further progress of the deliberations of this body, that this same principle will prevail in fixing the term of service of each and every officer of the State, and for all time to come we shall have but one general election, and that one in every alternate year. Let at least one year in every two be appropriated to the tranquil and quiet pursuits of private life. He hoped the amendment would not prevail.

Mr. SPENCER replied. His remarks will appear hereafter.

Mr. DIRICKSON moved as a substitute for said amendment, to strike out in said section the words "first Monday of October," and insert in lieu thereof the words "the Tuesday after the first Monday of November."

Mr. D. said, he made this motion because it was the Presidential election day.

Mr. D. asked the yeas and nays which were ordered, and being taken, resulted as follows:

Affirmative—Messrs. Morgan, Lee, Chambers of Kent, Dorsey, Wells, Kent, Brent of Charles, Merrick, Jenifer, Crisfield, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Bowie, Sprigg, McCubbin, Dirickson, McMaster, John Newcomer, Waters, and Smith—24.

Negative—Messrs. Buchanan, Pres't., *pro tem.*, Donaldson, Sellman, Howard, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Lloyd, Dickinson, Sherwood of Talbot, Chambers of Cecil, McCullough, Miller, McLane, George, Wright, Shriver, Biser, Sappington, McHenry, Magraw, Nelson, Stewart of Caroline, Hardcastle, Gwinn, Stewart of Baltimore city, Brent of Baltimore city, Ware, Schley, Fiery, Neill, Harbine, Brewer, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Parke, Shower, and Cockey—39.

So the amendment was rejected.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. SHRIVER.

Mr. SHRIVER withdrew it for the present.

Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER moved to amend said seventh section by striking out in the second line the words "first Wednesday of October next," and inserting in lieu thereof "second Wednesday of October, 1852."

Mr. SPENCER moved as a substitute for said amendment, to strike out in said section the words "first Monday of October next," and insert "first Monday of May 1852."

Mr. WELLS expressed his views in opposition to the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer.) He thought the District Attorneys ought to be elected at an early day.

Mr. SPENCER made some remarks, which will be published hereafter.

Mr. BOWIE observed that he did not see any necessity for changing the fifth section of the Constitution, as reported by the committee. It provided for the election of county attorneys on the first Wednesday in October next, and there had been a motion made that their election should take place at the same time as the Presidential election, but it was voted down by a large majority of the Convention. But are gentlemen aware that every election of Maryland costs the people five or six thousand dollars. His friend from St. Mary's, [Mr. Morgan] the other day, went through the expenses attending all elections