

in this State, showing the per d'em of the judges and clerks, &c. Why should there be a difference among gentlemen here? And why should the prosecuting attorneys be elected at the spring elections? He would say with his friend from Anne Arundel, that men may remain in office too long; but why not let these officers come in at the same time with the judges? Why change the time? He [Mr. B.] preferred that it should remain as it was reported by the committee.—The next spring was too long, and October was about the right time. He was unwilling to burden the people with frequent elections, especially in matters so small as those relating to prosecuting attorneys. He hoped that the Convention would vote down all the pending propositions on the subject, and support the one embraced in the bill.

Mr. JENIFER considered the fixing of the day of election as particularly important to gentlemen who reside in the country. A time should be selected that would not be inconvenient to them. He would suggest to the gentleman from Queen Anne's, to make the period such as not to incommode the grain growers, the planters and others having their crops to look after. He believed the month of May would not be a convenient or favorable time.

He was of opinion that the election for State's Attorneys, should not take place until after the meeting of the next Legislature; thus affording this body an opportunity of regulating the fees of office, and carrying out other provisions of the new Constitution. Surely gentlemen need not be afraid to trust that limited power where it now rests, until that period. He could speak for himself and say that if all the appointments made by the new Attorney General were of a similar character as that in his county, he was willing to postpone to a still longer period.

Mr. J. believed next to the late District Attorney, whose ability and zeal in the discharge of his duties, made all regret that he should have been displaced, no member of the bar could have been selected, whose appointment would give greater satisfaction than his successor. Let the election take place after the meeting of the Legislature, and at the time of other elections, thus saving trouble and expense in the election of those officers.

Mr. CHAMBERS understood the previous action of the Convention to have decided this question. They had by a former vote determined to have an election for State officers, on a different day from that of the presidential election. Though both elections were for political officers, it had been resolved not to mix up State politics and national politics in the same election. There certainly could be no less propriety in separating an election for party politicians, from an election for judicial officers. But if it must take place on the day of electing political officers for the State, or on the day of the presidential election, why should the former be preferred? With which party were these officers—State's Attorneys—most likely to be closely connected—that which had respect to State and county officers, or that

which related to the President? Why every body must admit that party politics were more rife and political excitement and political combinations greater on the day of State elections. The personal interest added to political feeling would necessarily produce that result. He should vote on this question with much interest, because he desired to see every election for an officer in any degree connected with the administration of the law, every incident to the judiciary, conducted so as to avoid the influence of party politics. To anticipate the State election by a very few days, did not seem to afford the smallest prospect of effecting his purpose. The heated passions, the excited feelings, the party animosities and prejudices, or the violations of moral purity, were not the creations of the day of the election. These were brought about by primary meetings, nominations, addresses to the voters and all the various exciting machinery employed during the canvass.

The proposition now made was said to be intended to avoid these objectionable accompaniments of a political election, and to select a time when the passions and excitement produced by them shall have passed away. This was certainly most desirable, but he suggested that the object would be more effectually accomplished by putting this period further from that of any political election, say in the spring or early part of the summer. It was our duty as far as legislation could accomplish such an object, to keep every thing connected with the judiciary free from any influence or control of party political feeling. The expense to a county of a separate election, would be admirably devoted, if it accomplished such a purpose in any considerable degree. He had on a former occasion urged the propriety of holding the election for all political officers on one and the same day, for one reason amongst others, that it would avoid unnecessary expense. The Convention then did not regard the expense as a consideration of sufficient importance to outweigh certain political advantages. How much less then ought the expense to be considered as an objection sufficient to resist the manifest advantages growing out of a separation of the administration of justice from all injurious influence of party politics and other disturbing motives.

He supposed it was scarcely to be expected that the first election could be held at so early a day as had been suggested by the gentleman from Anne Arundel. He supposed it impossible that the new Constitution, if adopted, could go into operation before the termination of the next succeeding session of the Legislature. We are enacting general principles and rules. We are now laying a foundation. This was the legitimate character and office of a Constitution. But it must be manifest that these general principles must be developed into detail by legislative enactments in correspondence to them. The practical machinery must be supplied by the Legislature. He had not supposed there was an individual within these walls who contemplated the possibility of providing the necessary details to the principles of the new Constitution until at