

ernor shall continue in office. In that section, it was provided that he should continue in office during the term for which he was elected, and, as a necessary consequence, that the first election of Governor, under the new constitution, should take place in the year 1853; and that the election of Governor and President should never be held at the same time.

Mr. PHELPS said, it was always with extreme reluctance that he differed with the distinguished gentleman from [Queen Anne's, (Mr. GRASON,) and especially so on this occasion, as he was chairman of the committee which reported this bill. But he could not consent to co-operate with the evident disposition evinced upon this floor to multiply elections. With regard to the objection urged by the honorable chairman of the committee to the election being held in November, upon the ground of the days being shorter than in October, all he had to say in reply to that branch of his argument was, that the Presidential election occurred upon the day and month proposed by this amendment, and at these elections the largest vote was always cast; and as far as he knew, no inconvenience had ever occurred for want of time. Indeed, this was the first time in his whole life he had ever heard such an objection urged as this from any source. The fact of the Presidential election being held in November without inconvenience, and allowing ample time for all to deposit their ballots, in his estimation, must set aside at once the objections urged to this proposition. For himself, he was free to declare most emphatically, in the advocacy of this amendment he was wholly uninfluenced by political considerations. The great and leading object he had in view was to concentrate all the elections in Maryland upon one and the same day. He was utterly opposed to this never-ceasing and never-ending political strife.

The term of the Governor was already enlarged to four years, with the avowed object of making his election correspond with the triennial elections of the Legislature. According to the Judiciary report, your Judges would be elected for ten years, your Clerks and Registers for six, and so on. In fact, as far as the past could foreshadow the future, all the officers in Maryland were designed to serve an even number of years, and therefore this Convention can with perfect convenience as well as propriety concentrate all the elections throughout the whole State upon every alternate year. And this, too, can be accomplished in accordance with the Presidential elections. This proposition being self-evident, he would respectfully ask gentlemen if the public interest did not require it should be done? Is it not our bounden duty to accomplish it? Will not the people of Maryland expect and demand it at our hands? For one, he felt determined to use his humble efforts to consummate this object. Others could do as they pleased.

Gentlemen seem to forget their own platform, and that retrenchment was the paramount consideration with reformers throughout Maryland but a few months ago. The prevailing argument, by virtue of which we have been assembled within

these Halls, was the reduction of the public expenditures. Five long and tedious months have already passed by since our labors commenced here, and no step as yet—no, sir, not one—has been taken to accomplish this great and important object. The concentration of all the elections upon one and the same day would certainly accomplish something in this way. But, Mr. President, this is not all—another object of still higher importance would be attained. The moral sense of the community would be promoted by it. The cause of morality and religion would be advanced by the consummation of this object. Every one at all conversant with political life must know and confess that the effect of a heated political campaign is always injurious in its consequences. The very foundations of society itself were disturbed by these continued agitations and dissensions and ill feeling often spread broad-cast throughout the land.

It was to attain these objects that, in his estimation, elections should be as few and occur as seldom as possible, so as to be consistent with civil liberty and with the rights of individuals. He had risen merely for the purpose of expressing his objections to the proposition of the honorable gentleman from Queen Anne's.

Mr. GRASON said that the gentleman from Dorset (Mr. Phelps) had remarked, that no inconvenience had been experienced in casting votes for President in November; but it must be remembered that there was a great difference between voting for Presidential Electors alone, and voting for State and Federal officers at the same time. Congress had the power of appointing a day for the election of President, and the Convention, in providing for the election of Governor, ought to fix a day which could not be controlled by the General Government.

The gentleman had suggested that it was important that the election of Governor and President should take place on the same day, because there would then always be a full vote; but it was evident that the election of Governor and Delegates was sufficient to induce the voters to attend the polls. Indeed, according to the representations of the gentleman's colleague, not only did our own citizens generally turn out on such occasions but the vote was increased by volunteers from Delaware.

Mr. PHELPS rose to explain, and said the whole object of his remarks was to urge the propriety of having all the elections upon one day. He desired to see the President of the United States, the Governor of Maryland, and each and every State officers elected at one and the same time. He admitted that had he advocated the election of the President upon one day, and of our State officers upon another, there would have been little or no force in his remarks. Whilst up he would take the liberty to say, he saw but little force, in a part at least, of the argument of the gentleman from Queen Anne's. The gentleman stated that the Presidential election could be consummated in November, if the days were short, because there was only one man to be voted for. He would ask how much more time would be