

One of the objects of the Convention was reform, and one of the great principles of reform, which lay at the bottom of every thing, was the reform of corruption in elections. It had been contended that if they deprived the Governor of the State of his patronage, this would go further towards preventing corruptions of elections than any thing else. He believed it was the number of persons dependent upon the Governor for political power and influence, which ceased before the election, combinations to be made of money to be expended to aid in elevating a particular candidate, in order that, by and through him, they or their friends might be gratified. It was this which produced these great corruptions in Maryland, and which produced all the evils which had been so much complained of. He held and believed that if the appointments of all these officers should be taken from the Governor, he would no longer be the candidate he had hitherto been in the State. When it was found that there was no favor to depend upon his selection, when it was found that no aspirants were to be gratified, then cupidity would not come into the canvass, and then corrupting means would not be resorted to, to elect him. He would then become the Governor of the State, and nothing else. He intended, in every vote he should give, to separate the Governor in every way he could, from political influences and combinations. If he could, and if he was certain that the popular vote would be drawn out, he would prefer, (and he did not hesitate to say it,) that he should be elected clear and free of any kind of public excitement. He, therefore, apprehended and felt that if they threw their Governor into the field of national politics, the only man that could be elected as a candidate, would be the man who had the greatest power of speech, the greatest force of forensic elocution. The man that could pass through the country, and who could most charm the populace by the powers of oratory, would be the man who would be the candidate selected and elected. He wished to see candidates for Governor selected from men of every profession and every situation in life. He wished to see men selected who were not to come alone from one profession, and he did not say this from any political feeling, he did not wish to see the candidates for Governor confined to one exclusive profession; that of law. He wished to see a man selected as candidate for Governor without making it necessary for him to traverse the State. If connected with national politics, he would be selected to give strength to the electoral ticket by his powers of oratory.

Again: If gentlemen could succeed in their propositions, to have the State elections take place on the same day as the election of President of the United States, every man would know and must know, that the greater the number of influences, the greater the combinations. Wherever the combinations were greatest, there was the most corruption. Throw into national politics, State politics, and the election of all the State officers of every description, and they

would combine all these powers, and thereby confine all these different means by which the elections of the State were to be corrupted.

The gentleman from Kent had said that his great object in submitting this proposition, was that the majority could and ought to rule; that this was an abstract principle that could not be controverted, and that it lay at the foundation of the Government, and every man, being of that majority, was bound to vote. He (Mr. S.) subscribed to this; but he would ask the gentleman if he had ever known the majority of the people of the State to fail to express themselves at a State election? Had the gentleman ever known, in any election for Governor, or members of the Legislature, an occasion where the people of the State of Maryland had been backward in expressing their rights, and in exercising that right which belonged to the majority? He had never known such a thing. He had always found, in every instance, that the people were ready to turn out, and had always turned out.

But in reference to the question of cost of the frequency of elections, he had shown that these elections must take place biennially. What was the matter of cost to the counties holding these elections, as contrasted with the evils they wished to avoid, with the excitement and corruption of which they wished to get clear? Mr. S. then enumerated the expenses of holding an election in the county which he represented, which he stated was composed of five districts, the total amount of expense he said would be about one hundred and fifty dollars, and he thought that this was nothing to a people desiring to preserve the purity of the elective franchise.

Mr. Tuck said that he purposed to discuss both of the propositions which were pending before the Convention. The first argument of the gentleman from Queen Anne's was predicated upon the idea that they had already adopted a certain amendment fixing the election for members to the Legislature. He called the gentleman's attention to the fact that that section was still open for consideration, and if it had not been laid over, it would be a very easy matter to receive it.

It seemed to him that a good deal of the rest of the argument of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer,) might be very successfully turned against him. He had said that one of the great objects of the Convention was reform, and among other things a casting out of the corruption which attended elections. Well, suppose this was so; he might say to his friends that coming there with that purpose in view, he had certainly lent a very heavy hand towards preventing the accomplishment of the object. He (Mr. T.) believed the gentleman had uniformly voted against every restriction upon the elective franchise,—against all provisions sought to be engrafted to protect the elective franchise, and to prevent this corruption and fraud.

He knew that the gentleman differed with the friends of those measures as to their efficacy. But he offered nothing better. He was willing to let the old state of things continue, although