

chise them? He could not do it. He looked upon the whole thing as a wrong, and should vote against it.

Mr. THOMAS said that there was not a member here who had not occupied public stations other than this, who had not been a public man. He saw gentlemen around him who had been in public office for twenty odd years. Was it to be said that it was discreditable to any man who believed that the public interest would be promoted by his personal aspirations, to seek office? Why, if this was so, there was no man of high-toned patriotism, and of self respect in this entire body. Some of them had been in the Legislature of the State, some in Congress, some in the Senate of the United States, some judges—they had, perhaps, held various offices. Did not the gentleman at once see that his proposition reflected upon all their past life? If they who were framing a Constitution could not hold offices under it, lest any imputation should be cast upon them, why could honorable men hold offices under the old Constitution, without similar imputations? Could it not be said of them with as much propriety? Gentlemen who hold offices under the old Constitution, he did not believe were unmindful of the benefits the people should derive from the new Constitution.—He disclaimed such sentiments for all parts of this Convention. Where that man was to be found in society, seeking station for its emoluments only, without desiring to gratify the interests of the community, of which he was one, the finger of scorn was pointed at him wherever he was known. And why? Because he was an exception to the general class of men. There was no class of public men, who made so heavy a sacrifice for public interests, as those who held civil stations generally under the government. Those who enlisted in the army to fight the battles of the country, the government rewarded by pensions and honors, and took care of them when wounded. How was it with many civilians, who toiled night and day, for the great interests of the country; and who fed the midnight lamp with drops of their heart's blood—goaded their intellects to the verge of madness, that they might bring to the consideration of great public questions, some little of the fruits of previous meditation and research? How many distinguished men of that character had they seen, growing in old age, to want and poverty, because they had given up the maturity of manhood to their country's services. With these spectacles around them, were they to sit here without repelling these imputations, and having it said that he who aspired to public station, did an act which would have a tendency to place him in scorn and contempt among his fellow men?

He was surprised to see this question considered. He was surprised, too, at the remark of the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Tuck,) that all nominating Conventions were sinks of putrefaction and iniquity. If so, they had all been wallowing in slime from boyhood to manhood. He felt personally, that he had never

committed that act in private or public life, which was dishonest or dishonorable. He had never contributed sordid means of any kind, not even to the amount of one single cent, for his public promotion. Having these feelings, he never had felt that the origins of his appointment or the appointments themselves, reflected upon his integrity. He was surprised that his friend from Anne Arundel, should be so sensitive of these criticisms about seeking for offices. But that gentleman had not been in public office so long as he had been. If he would look at the source of the criticisms, he would feel an utter and proud contempt for their cause and origin. Those men who raised a cry about office seeking in others, were those men who would make the greatest efforts to get them for themselves. He had no doubt, as had been remarked by the gentleman from Calvert, (and he spoke with all respect to the gentleman from Anne Arundel,) that they could not well pass a mere proposition more acceptable to office-seekers outside of this house, than that of disfranchising this whole body, because it would take competitors out of the way. He would not pander to such a sentiment. He would put his foot upon, and despised it. No man in the Convention was less interested than himself, in the offices created by this Constitution, whether Executive, Legislative, judicial, or in any other branch of government. As to these imputations, the very men who indulged in them, were the very men who grasped at the offices. He was not speaking in reference to gentlemen of the Convention, but he was speaking of the influences outside the hall, to show that this opinion was manufactured, and that it should not influence their conduct here. Most all of these criticisms about office, were from the class of which the honorable gentleman had spoken. Swift had said he had met in society many individuals, who denounced as low, mean and contemptible the power to make a pun; but he had discovered that in all his observation of mankind, he had never seen a man who could make a pun but what would do it. He, (Mr. T.) never saw one of these croakers against office-seeking, that could get an office, but that would accept it. He hoped they had done so in sincerity, believing that the public interests could be benefitted thereby. He boldly declared, with the gentleman from Calvert, that he would not pay respect to that manufactured opinion out of doors, which had not in its origin either justice or a sense of propriety.

Mr. RANDALL remarked that he had not supposed that members of the Convention were influenced by any other than the purest motives. He only asked that by their votes upon this question, they should prove that they did not desire office.

Mr. SOLLERS withdrew his amendment, and the question recurred upon the adoption of the amendment moved by Mr. HICKS.

Mr. HICKS demanded the yeas and nays, which were ordered; and being taken, resulted—yeas 25, nays 35, as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Morgan, Chambers, of