

—the effect that the proper management of the public works would have upon the prosperity of the citizens of Maryland, entitled this subject to a serious consideration, and a place among the provisions of the new Constitution. It was said that leaving the election of these commissioners to the people would create more political excitement, and therefore, it was argued that they ought not to be entrusted with the power. Now he had no fears on that subject. The people were just as able—nay, more able to select proper officers to manage their interests than their agents in the legislature were able to select for them.

Take them as a mass, and they were more honest and felt a deeper interest in these things, although of course, he imputed nothing to any gentleman who had been a member of that body. But if the fact, that by electing these officers political excitement would be created, was an argument against their election, he would ask whether the same argument might not apply to the election of every officer under our government?

Certainly it would, for the election of each one creates excitement, and hence he supposed the inference would be, that none of them ought to be elected. Gentlemen were certainly not prepared to go that far, yet it was the legitimate conclusion to be drawn from their argument.—The people could be trusted in the matter. Judging from elections of a character much more excitable than he thought these would be, no danger whatever need be apprehended. We had long since become used to the excitement, confusion and turmoil of elections, and they had so little weight against elections with him, that in his humble judgment there was no class of public officers that should not be elected by the people.

But it was also said, that these officers would be elected by politicians—their election would depend upon their politics, and it would be made strictly a party matter. Now, he would ask if it was worth while to answer that argument, when it was well known that the legislature was as much governed by party feeling as the people ever were, and he supposed unless this proposition passed, that the legislature by a concurrent vote of both Houses, would still continue to elect the State's agents.

If party is to be divided, the system now in operation, must be changed. Who that wished to avoid it, would not sooner have these officers elected by the people than by the bitter partisans and political wire-workers of the General Assembly? The people were much more conservative in politics than their law-makers, and much less liable to use power for party purposes. Now he was somewhat surprised at the remarks which had been made by his colleague, [Mr. Schley.] As a political man, he [Mr. H.,] had no feeling on this subject. He was a member of the democratic party, but really did not look upon this question in a political point of view. No one acquainted with the history of legislation for our internal improvements, but knew that party feeling had its influence in the Legislature, and that

influence had been used for the furtherance of party purposes. But the proposition of the gentleman from Frederick county did not look to party purposes as he had, when up before, endeavored to show, and if adopted, would neither give the whigs or democrats the ascendancy. There would be a balance of power with the Treasurer to decide between them, and he was about as likely to be on the one side as the other. If that officer was elected by the Legislature, the chances for the whigs would, in his opinion, preponderate, for even under the new apportionment, they would generally have a majority on joint ballot. That gentleman also found fault because, in case of a tie between two candidates for the office of Commissioner in the same district, the Governor had power to commission either one, and if he doubted the result or legality of an election, was empowered to give the whole subject over to the House of Delegates. Was there anything wrong in that? If the Governor entertained doubts, they would not be mere whims of fancy, but doubts founded on solid and substantial reasons, and certainly it would be well in such cases to let the matter go to the popular branch of the General Assembly, and they could investigate, hear testimony, and determine the rights of parties. There was no danger to apprehend an abuse of this power by the Executive. A century might pass before an instance would occur, and when it did, if it were not a very plain one, he would no doubt very willingly turn it over to that branch of the Legislature contemplated. He confessed that if the objection had any force, he could not perceive it. His colleague had been pleased to say that his (Mr. H's.,) remarks were intended "for effect elsewhere." In thus speaking, injustice was done him, and that gentleman had taken upon himself the prerogative of sitting in judgment on his motives. In reply, he would say that those gentlemen "who live in glass houses ought not to throw stones." He was perfectly willing that the people and the Convention should judge between himself and his colleague, and say which one was most likely to be influenced by improper motives, that gentleman who holds an office under the present State's agents, or himself, holding none. He did not fear the issue, come when it might.

Mr. SCHLEY observed that his colleague from Washington (Mr. Harbinc,) had misunderstood him. That gentleman, in the course of his remarks, had alluded to what had taken place in discussion before the people of Washington county, in regard to the election of all officers by the people. In the remarks which he (Mr. T.,) had submitted, he had said nothing on this subject. It had been introduced by his colleague, and had no reference, in his judgment, to the subject now under consideration, as these agents were officers unknown to the Constitution, and therefore not embraced by the term *officers*. He could, therefore, imagine no reason for its introduction into this discussion, unless designed for "effect elsewhere," and by that phrase, he meant that he supposed the object of his colleague had been to create an issue between him (Mr. S.,)