

the founder of an overwhelming party, which required him to put himself at its head, and like a patriot he had yielded to the call. Now, sir, a new party may be formed in exact accordance with the peculiar views of the gentleman from Frederick; he too, may be called upon by a confiding party; possibly to fill the distinguished station which General Jackson had occupied in exchange for the privacy of his "Hermitage," and I must be left at liberty, to believe it possible, the gentleman would follow the lead of that distinguished Hero.

Sir, I hold that no man has the right to gratify his private and personal feelings on such occasions, when a community regards his services as necessary or useful to the public interest.

Mr. THOMAS had nothing to do with such speculations as the gentleman from Kent, had indulged in. He wished to add a few words upon other matters. He wished to say, that in the very nature of things, to call this a partizan movement, and to raise the tocsin of alarm on that account, would have a tendency to disturb the equanimity with which they would otherwise approve the consideration of such a question as this, and he could see no good to result from it.

He wished also to reiterate that he had never desired in any way whatever, to impute that degree of inconsistency to gentlemen who had voted on this question silently, which he would impute to those who had spoken against the proposition to fix the lower amount of salary upon the ground that for that salary, men could not be obtained who would be competent to serve; and who had afterwards voted for that very salary. As to those gentlemen who had remained silent, they appeared to acquiesce in the argument, and at least, had not protested against the argument at the time.

Mr. SPENCER said that he had indicated yesterday, and again this morning, his indisposition to continue the discussion of this question. He had hoped that the discussion would have terminated; but he had been disappointed. He had been desirous from the first, to state his reasons for the vote which he would give upon the various propositions submitted upon this general subject. He had forborne in the hope that the vote would be taken. He had voted to lay this proposition upon the table, because he believed it had been fully discussed. He was amazed that there should have been an attempt to bring party considerations to bear upon this question. He had not heard it whispered until the remarks of the gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) on yesterday had explained it, and disabused the Convention of the idea that this, at least, was not considered as a party question. If there was in the State one objection stronger than other, to the public works of the State, it was the fear that they might be made instruments of political corruption. That fear had resulted from the consideration that they would always remain in the hands of the party in the ascendant. If there was any measure calculated to disarm that fear, it was this bill which took the whole question out of the field of politics.

Hitherto these works had been solely under the control of the party in the ascendant, and by act of Legislature was permanently secured to that party, because it required the concurrent vote of both branches of the Legislature, to remove the officers, and to appoint others. By this bill, such a state of things would be avoided. No one could suppose that either party would have the management of these works. There would always be upon the board two from the weaker party to see that there was no corruption.

But he had heard a remark from the gentleman from Kent, at which he was surprised. That gentleman had said that he hoped to keep the present Commissioners in.

If he, (Mr. C.) meant that this would influence his vote, he (Mr. S.) was surprised at it; not that he was surprised at his being friendly to the present commissioners, but that he should legislate with such a view. For himself he would vote to keep no man in office, and to turn no man out of office. He had voted for what he believed would be for the interests of the entire people of the State; and whatever might be the effect of his votes, it would not result from any intention upon his part to keep one man in or turn another out.

The only way in which the present incumbents could be retained, was to stand by the present action of the legislature upon the subject. If that was the intention of the gentleman from Kent, with what propriety could that gentleman undertake to lecture or to advise any portion of this Convention against the abandonment of their principles of reform? Had not the action of the legislature upon this subject been wholly partizan?

Yet the gentleman from Kent, sitting in a Convention to frame a Constitution and to give a government to the State, would stand by a system of legislation wholly and exclusively partizan. He would appeal to that gentleman—to this body, and through this body to the people of the State, whether by this course the gentleman from Kent did not manifest an intention to adhere to the strictest possible party lines?

Mr. CHAMBERS would explain. If any thing I have said, Mr. President, can by any interpretation bear the semblance of an inference that I would on this floor consult the interests of a party, when in collision with the interests of the State, or that I would forbear to give any vote required by the interest of the State because that vote might operate injuriously upon any party, then I say it is no index, in that sense, of my meaning. I repudiate any such interpretation and all such inferences. I am here to aid in making such a Constitution for the State as in my best judgment will best promote the welfare and happiness of her citizens, and best secure to the people—the whole people—the great ends of all government. That duty I will perform, whatever it may cost party interests, or however it may affect any relations personal, social or political. These minor interests must all yield.

But, sir, when I perceive, as I think I now perceive, no benefit or advantage to the State which