

Jenifer, Howard, Buchanan, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Lloyd, Sherwood of Talbot, Colston, Goldsborough, Constable, Miller, McLane, Tuck, Bowling, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Thomas, Shriver, Johnson, Biser, Annan, Sappington, McHenry, Magraw, Nelson, Carter, Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Hardcastle, Gwinn, Stewart of Baltimore city, Brent of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Ware, Neill, John Newcomer, Harbine, Waters, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Fitzpatrick, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown—59.

So the amendment was not adopted.

Mr. THOMAS moved the previous question, and being seconded,

The question was put on the adoption of the first article of said report as amended; and

Determined in the affirmative.

The second article was then read and adopted.

The third article was then read,

Mr. DORSEY moved to amend the article by striking out in the sixth and seventh lines these words, "upon warrants issued by the Comptroller, he shall make arrangements for the payment of interests of the public debt."

Mr. DORSEY wished to call attention to the situation in which this provision placed the Treasurer. He knew nothing of the commercial world, and could not distinguish a good bill of exchange from a bad one. It would be a miracle if he did not lose a large portion of the money expended in their purchase. He must confide in the broker whom he employed to buy them. If he went himself to purchase them in the large cities, his business would necessarily be neglected during his absence. The Legislature had decided in 1834, that the commissioner of loans was the proper person to transact this business. The very commissions paid to brokers would be over \$50,000; but the commissioner of loans, being the President of a bank, would be able to furnish them without this expense. The broker would buy the bills as low as possible, and dispose of them to the State as high as possible, taking a commission from both parties; and perhaps furnishing bills which he could sell to no one else. If the Convention did not arrest this dangerous power, he would not raise his voice again upon any question whatever.

Mr. DONALDSON said, that he was somewhat astonished by the suggestions of his venerable friend and colleague, (Mr. Dorsey.) The Treasurer could neither receive nor pay out money without the knowledge of the comptroller. The comptroller could not pay the interest of the public debt, because he was never to have the handling of a cent of the money. The only way in which the interest could be paid, would be by the Treasurer upon the warrants of the Comptroller. The Treasurer would go to Baltimore and ascertain the rate of Exchange in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston; and would then procure a bill of Exchange payable in London at such a date for so much. No fraud could be committed. The intervention of no broker was required. If the Treasurer could not buy bills of Exchange at the current rate, he would

not be competent for his station. But how would the commissioner of loans buy it? He would be the President of a bank and interested in these very rates of Exchange. He might charge a premium above the market rate, if he had them himself to dispose of, while the Treasurer could have no other interest than the interest of the State.

Mr. McLANE regarded this feature of the bill as providing the most essential security for the State. If this provision had one object more than any other, it was to keep the Treasury out of the hands of the broker. It was now in the hands of the president of a bank—a broker, professionally, dealing day after day in bills of exchange. This was the most profitable branch of banking operations. The banks could raise or depress the rate of exchange, at their pleasure. The bank of the United States, when in operation, could raise or depress the rate of exchange as much as five per cent. at pleasure. The question now was whether the Treasurer should go into the market and procure the bills of exchange at the market rates, or whether a broker should be employed to furnish them at such rates as he thought proper to charge. If the Treasurer, with a salary of \$2500 a year, was not able to buy a bill of exchange, he must be exceedingly incompetent. And it was to be remembered, that while this president of a bank assisted in fixing the rate of exchange, his power to affect that price would be increased by placing in his hands one or two hundred thousand dollars of State funds to operate with. He regarded this feature of the bill as indispensable. If there were no Comptroller, he should still constitute the Treasurer the purchaser of bills of exchange.

Mr. TUCK said that there seemed to be two erroneous ideas in the minds of gentlemen who opposed the plan of the committee: first, that because the Treasurers heretofore had been honest men, they would therefore of necessity continue to be so in all time to come; and second, that because the Treasurer was honest, every body else was dishonest. The gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Dorsey,) seemed unable to understand how, by any possibility, an honest man could be found to be Comptroller. The system of accounts adopted by the Convention, was very perfect and well managed. They had a paying clerk, and a committee on accounts, while the President of the Convention was a check upon both. The payment of the interest of the public debt had been spoken of; but how was the principle to be paid? It was by the sinking fund, and that whole fund was under the control of one officer, the present Treasurer. He gloried that Maryland had produced such a man for such a place; but he might be succeeded by one who was incompetent or dishonest. The best of Governors could not act as a complete check upon him. His bank book would show what he had deposited, but it would not show what he had received.

He (Mr. T.) was unwilling to place the sinking fund under the control of any single individual. He trusted that the Convention would not neglect these mutual checks and balances which were