

tion on whose recommendations the appointments for St. Mary's county were made by the Executive—

I would respectfully state that I do not think the "public interest" would be in any way advanced by communicating the information desired, and it might properly be construed as a violation of "private confidence."

The Governor, in making the numerous local appointments throughout the State, must necessarily be unacquainted with the character and qualifications of many of those seeking appointments. He has, therefore, to rely greatly upon such information as he can obtain from those acquainted with the parties, persons in whom he has confidence, and who, when appealed to, or when volunteering information and advice, naturally do not expect or desire publicity to be given either to their statements or their names. In many cases even the applicants for office themselves would dislike it.

I will state that in all cases where charges have been made against the character or qualifications of any such applicants, I have required the charges to be made in writing, signed by the parties making them, if I had reason to believe there was the slightest foundation for the charge.

I would further state that the nominations of "local officers for St. Mary's county," sent to the Senate, were made up entirely from lists furnished me by the Senator and Delegates from that county, and recommended by the purest and most eminent citizens.

I respectfully decline to comply with the order of the Senate.

ODEN BOWIE.

On motion by Mr. Maddox,

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the nominations (which had been ordered to lie over) for St. Mary' county.

On motion by Mr. Maddox,

The Senate advised and consented to the appointment of A. C. Tension, David Tyler and Francis T. Thomas as Justices of the Peace for the first district of St. Mary's county, agreeably to the nominations of the 17th February, inst.

On motion by Mr. Maddox,

The Senate advised and consented to the appointment of John W. Hebb, Thomas Dent and George M. Bohanan as Justices of the Peace, for the second district of St. Mary's county, agreeably to the nominations of the 17th February instant.