

murderers? None of these crimes have been alleged against them; yet in the opinion of the committee they were guilty of a crime, which should forever disfranchise them as citizens of the State."⁵⁰ Twenty-one states out of the thirty-one in the Union at that time had no proscription measure against the clergy. Mr. Chandler's motion to strike out the section was defeated by a vote of two to one.⁵¹

The report of the committee on the executive department was submitted by ex-Governor Grason, chairman, on the 7th of March. The report provided for the election of the governor by popular vote, for a term of three years. The State was to be divided into three gubernatorial districts. The counties on the Eastern Shore composed one district; and the Western Shore the other two. From each district the governor was to be chosen in rotation. Mr. Dorsey, of Anne Arundel county, moved to amend the report by the election of the governor by an electoral college. This amendment was rejected by a vote of sixty to nine.⁵² Several unsuccessful attempts were made to have the State divided into four gubernatorial districts. The report was amended by making the term of office four years instead of three; and to be eligible to the office the candidate was required to have been a citizen of the United States for five years instead of ten, and a resident of Maryland for five years instead of seven.

The system of districting the State for the election of the governor, was also attempted for the selection of United States senators. In 1809 the legislature passed a law dividing the State into United States senatorial districts of the Eastern and Western Shores.⁵³ A discussion arose in the convention as to its legality. The law of 1809 had always been observed by the General Assembly in selecting United States senators. The question had never come before the

⁵⁰ Debates, vol. i, p. 389.

⁵² Debates, vol. i, p. 455.

⁵¹ Debates, vol. i, p. 394.

⁵³ Act 1809, ch. 22.