

Hagerstown, under the act incorporating said Farmers and Millers Bank.

Mr. Gallagher reported a bill entitled, an act to diminish the expenses of Baltimore city court, and for other purposes ;

Read the first time.

Mr. Buchanan, chairman of the committee on retrenchment, made the following report :

The select committee upon the subject of Retrenchment, beg leave to

REPORT :

That they have given to the subject all the consideration which its importance demanded, and have concluded to submit to the House for its action, several bills, which, in their judgment, if adopted, will save to the State annually, upwards of seventy-six thousand dollars.

A few words in explanation of these bills may not be uncalled for, and may tend to a proper appreciation of the principles upon which they rest.

The first is a bill to amend the Constitution of the State, so as to fix the annual salaries of the Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer of the Western Shore, the Chancellor, and of the Judges ; and whilst it does this, it also makes the salaries hereafter to be allowed to these officers, a matter of constitutional regulation, as are now the salaries of the judges. The reason why the Constitution provides that the salaries of the judges shall not be diminished during their term of service, is to secure the independence of the judiciary. If this were not the case, the judges would at all times be subject to the will of the Legislature. The same reasons which induced this constitutional regulation in favor of the judges, are equally urgent in favor of such a regulation in regard to the executive branch of the government. As at present constituted the Executive is at the mercy of the Legislature. If he is independent in the discharge of his duties, it is scarcely possible that he will not come in conflict with the views of some of the members of the Legislature, who, like other men, are liable to be influenced by passion or prejudice, and who, because of the non-concurrence in opinion with the Executive, on any exciting subject, might be induced to strip him of his salary. Again, the salary of the Executive is now completely under the control of partizan feeling and partizan prejudice. In times of high party excitement the Governor may be of one school of politics, and a majority of the Legislature of another ; and at such a time and under such circumstances, a manly and fearless discharge of his duty, might induce such a reduction of his salary, as would force him to resign, unless he happened to be a man of such abundant means, as would enable him to give his time and services to the State, without remuneration.

The theory of our government is, that the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of it, shall be *separate, distinct and inde-*