

In relation to the Judicial Department, your committee have no alterations to propose. In the wholesome and regular administration of the laws, the public are deeply and vitally concerned. Any inroad upon a well established system, is fraught with danger, and should not rashly be attempted. Jurists may differ in their opinions as to the relative merits of one judicial system, in comparison with another; but every jurist should deprecate an attempt, to break down one system, well established and well administered, merely to substitute another, upon a different plan of organization. Innovation is the mania of our day. Fancied improvements are proposed, without always considering the possible mischief that may ensue. But it well becomes those, who have the power in their hands, to forbear its exercise, in doubtful cases; and in determining to abandon one system for the adoption of another, to be well assured, in every case, that the preferred system will combine all the advantages of the rejected one; and that it will not only be free from its defects, but be also free from any elements of mischief.

Your committee do not mean to say, that there can be any objection to a limitation of the term of tenure of certain offices. But, at present, they do not mean to report in respect of that subject. It is their purpose, at this time, to suggest alterations of the constitution in relation to the Executive Department as hereinbefore stated, and in relation to the two Houses of Assembly—and they have instructed their chairman to prepare several bills, and report them to the Senate for consideration. In those bills, provision will be made for the case of vacancy, in the office of Governor, by death or otherwise; and various details, which it was not deemed necessary to state here, will be exhibited, in relation to the several proposed alterations.

All which, as a report in part, is respectfully submitted.

WM. SCHLEY,

Chairman of the Select Committee on the Constitution.

The clerk of the House of Delegates delivered the following resolutions:

A resolution in favor of James W. Fling, executor of James Fling, and

A resolution in favor of Anne Wright,