He (Mr. B.) liked that provision much better than any he had seen.

The substitute was read.

Some conversation followed.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. BUCHANAN, inserting "five" years,

Mr. BISER asked the yeas and nays, which were ordered, and being taken, resulted as follows:

Affirmative—Messrs. Blakistone, President, *pro tem*, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Lee, Chambers of Kent, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Bond Sollers, Brent of Charles, Jenifer, Buchanan, Bell, Welch, Lloyd, Dickinson, Colston, Crisfield, Dashiell, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Constable, Chambers of Cecil, Mc Lane, Sprigg, McCubbin, Spencer, Grason, Dirickson, McMaster, Fooks, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, Magraw, Nelson, Hardcastle, Gwinn, Ware, Schley, Fiery, Neill, John Newcomer, Michael Newcomer, Davis, Kilgour, Hollyday, Parke, Cockey, and Brown—61.

Negative—Messrs. Miller, McHenry, Stewart of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Weber and Slicer—6.

So the amendment was agreed to, and the blank was filled with "five."

Mr. GRASON moved to amend said section, by striking out in the third line the word "seven," and inserting "five," and in the fourth line the word "two," and inserting in lieu thereof "three."

Mr. SPENCER in accordance with the notice given, then moved to amend said sixth section, by striking out from the word "year," in the second line, to the word "and," in the fourth line, and inserting in lieu thereof these words, "and been for ten years a resident citizen of this State."

Some explanatory conversation as to the interpretation of this amendment followed, on the part of Messrs. SPENCER, DORSEY, and SOLLERS.

Mr. GWINN opposed the amendment of Mr. SPENCER.

Mr. GWINN said, that he should vote against the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, [Mr. Spencer.] He could not agree to the necessity of restricting the people of the State in the selection of their chief executive officer. They were not likely to overlook the claims of a native citizen, and to honor with their confidence any individual, recently naturalized, unless there existed strong reasons for the preference. And if there were such, in the superior qualities or services of such an individual, the people should be left at liberty to confer on him what office they pleased. Besides the whole theory of naturalization, as understood in this country is, that it places the foreigner, who has complied with the requirements of the law on the same footing with those who were native-born. And there was, in truth, no reason for departing from the principle which this establishes in the case of our chief magistrate. It was true that there are certain limitations in the Constitution of the United States, which confine the choice of candidates for the Presidency to natural born citizens.—There may be an argument made in favor of this limitation: because the President is, in fact, from the existence of his veto power, one of the co-ordinate branches of the National Legislature; and upon his action may depend the integrity of the whole system. And to prevent a possible, though not probable danger, it was well to affix this single limitation to the office.

Mr. SPENCER said, that after the views presented by the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Gwinn,) he [Mr. S.] wondered that the gentleman did not offer an amendment.

Mr. GWINN said he would do so, and he offered an amendment.

MR. SPENCER suggested that the gentleman's amendment did not sustain his argument.

MR. GWINN indicated the perfect consistency of the two.

MR. DORSEY expressed his dissent from the views of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, [Mr. Spencer,] as well in his construction of his amendment, as on the expediency of its adoption.

Mr. SPENCER modified his amendment, by inserting before the word "citizen" the word "resident" citizen.

An explanatory conversation passed between Mr. SPENCER and Mr. GWINN, on the subject of the amendment proposed by the latter.

Mr. DORSEY dissented both from the law and the argument, of the gentleman from Queen Anne's. He referred to the proceedings of the Convention in an earlier period of the session, when it was decided by an overwhelming majority, that naturalization only conferred civil rights, but did not impart political privileges. In the same way we may give the citizen of another State, residing amongst us, who is a native of the United States, civil rights, but exclude him from political office. We can, if we please, confer all these rights on unnaturalized foreigners, as far as concerns our State government. He would be willing to take the amendment, which made no difference between naturalized foreigners, and the natives of other States of the Union. He would fix the term of five years for residence for each.

Suppose one of our distinguished citizens, of other states, as for example, Clay, Cass, Dickinson, Webster, or any other eminent citizen, should remove into our State, and it became the wish of the people of this State to show their gratitude for noble patriotic public services, and to pay honor to them in their declining years, by placing them in the Gubernatorial chair, would you, by a Constitusional provision, say that they should be ineligible unless they had resided in the State for the term of ten years? He thought the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county could not work any evil, and he believed no one would refuse to honor so distinguished citizen, because he had resided but five instead of ten years in the State.

Mr. WEBER desired to ask a single question. If he understood the amendment, it would re-