

Mr. BISEK moved a call of the House. The salary of the Governor was before the Convention, and when it was formerly under consideration he happened to be absent from his seat; and it had given him so much trouble to explain the reason of his absence, that he was desirous to prevent other gentlemen from having the same trouble.

Mr. SPENCER hoped the gentleman from Fredrick would withdraw the motion, as it would only lead to a useless consumption of time.

Mr. BISEK said he had shown as little disposition as any one to consume the time of the House by useless notions. He then withdrew his motion.

Mr. SPENCER expressed his hope that the Convention would not specify any particular time when the Governor shall be in Annapolis, and thus leave the inference to be made that it may not be necessary for him to be here at all times.

Mr. DORSEY was of opinion that it is necessary for the Governor to be here, while the Legislature is in session. But in the recess of the Legislature, he did not think it necessary. It is known that he has heretofore occasionally been absent for a week, or perhaps a month, at a time, so that his duties do not compel his constant presence, yet you require him to be here at all times ready to discharge his duties. He has to discharge the functions of his office; and whether he performs the duty here or while he is absent from Annapolis, is of no consequence. It is rather to be preferred, that he should not give hasty opinions and decisions, as soon as business is brought before him; but that he should take a little time for deliberation, before he replies to applications, and his replies, if he is absent, can be transmitted through the Secretary of State. There have been complaints, that although the Governor may reside here, he is not to be found at the Government house. It is with a view to relieve him from these complaints, and to fix where and when he may be found that this amendment is offered. He will, perhaps, have fewer duties to attend to after the new Constitution is established. And if he attends here during the first week in every month, after the legislative session terminates, it will be quite sufficient.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city. If a requisition should be made on the Executive by the Governor of another State, is the messenger to be compelled to run all over the State to find him?

Mr. DORSEY. There will be no occasion for that. The mails travel very rapidly. It is not necessary that the Governor should remain here on that account. Sometimes these requisitions call for deliberation, which causes delay. And it often occurs that it is necessary for the Governor to take legal advice upon the subject, and some days may elapse before his opinion can be obtained. He did not think the salary of the Governor should be fixed so high, as to make the office desirable for the sake of the emolument. Therefore he held it to be proper to reduce it.

Mr. GRASON would first consider the question, whether the public interest required the Gov-

ernor to reside at the seat of government. In the commencement of our government, the Governors lived in Annapolis, but in the course of time, they generally remained at their private residences during the recess of the Legislature. This was the custom till the law of December session, 1837, required the Governor to reside at the seat of government. He then enumerated the various duties of the executive. The mere examination of claims and accounts against the State occupies considerable time. While he [Mr. G.] was in office, no account was paid until it received his examination and approval; and he had no doubt that the investigation and rejection of improper claims, had saved more to the State than the whole amount of his salary. A duty of this kind could not be performed by the Governor if he remained at his own residence during the recess of the Legislature.

Mr. BROWN moved the previous question.

Mr. McHENRY asked for the ayes and noes on the motion, and they were ordered.

Mr. BROWN then withdrew his motion.

Mr. DIRICKSON addressed the Convention. His remarks will be published hereafter.

Mr. BRENT of Baltimore city, was opposed to the introduction of Yankee notions into a Maryland Constitution. This is a Southern State, and he never desired to see her Constitution framed with a view to small economy, but to principles. The gentleman from Worcester says he is a reformer, and he calls on all reformers to unite with him in whittling down the salaries of our public officers. But he would tell the gentleman from Worcester, that the people of Maryland want no *penny wise* policy. The issue presented, is non-residence at Annapolis, and low salary, or residence and fair salary; whether the public duties shall be neglected at a small cost, or whether they shall be faithfully performed for adequate compensation. He would suppose that his friend from Worcester should some day be clothed with this honor, and a murder, startling the whole community, like that recently committed in Kent county, had taken place, and it was necessary that a reward should be offered for the detection of the murderer without delay, would he like that the messenger from Kent county should be hunting for him among his friends in Worcester, to issue the proclamation, and in the mean time the murderer should make his escape? Or, if a requisition should be made on him by the Governor of another State, would it be proper to be running all through the State to find the Governor, before any step could be taken? And as he understood the proposition of the gentleman from Worcester, it was to reduce the salary of the Governor to two thousand dollars. Where would the gentleman from Worcester find a competent person to take the labor and responsibility of the office for that sum? He hoped no such proposition would find favor with the Convention.

Mr. DIRICKSON said it would be the very way to get a fit person to take the office.

Mr. SOLLERS did not approve such notions as