

But other highly distinguished gentlemen, would not, under any circumstances, go before the legislature and be compelled to resort to log-rolling and intrigue, in order to obtain a suitable fee. The services of such men would be lost to the government, by the amendment.

He was entirely opposed to the abolition of the office of Attorney General. He fully agreed with the sentiments of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Brent,) and would vote for such a proposition, to allow the people of Maryland to elect their own local officers for their local business.

He regarded the office of Attorney General with the same high opinion as the gentleman from Prince George's. (Mr. Bowie.) He wished the salary to be fixed and certain. He believed that the State would save by the adoption of this course. If there was no Attorney General the Governor would be authorized to employ such counsel as the exigencies might require, or as a resolution of the legislature might direct. The result would be, that in each instance, special counsel would be employed. If the Governor should have occasion at one time to consult a lawyer, A would be employed. In another case, at another time, B would be employed. To try a case in the courts, C would be employed, and to try another, D would be employed. In each case, enormous sums of money would be required.

Without intending to find any fault with the officers of the government, he would say, that during the last year, nearly five thousand dollars had been paid in extraordinary cases. These extraordinary cases were constantly occurring. There was one which would necessarily soon come up, of great interest to the State of Maryland.

At the present moment there were incarcerated in the State prison of Pennsylvania, two individuals for having actually arrested fugitive slaves belonging to a gentleman in Cecil county. By the laws of Pennsylvania, if a female escaped from a slave State, and should give birth to a child in Pennsylvania, the child by its birth would be free. No such doctrine prevailed here, and here was a question to be decided between the States of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

It would have to go to the supreme court of the United States for examination. He mentioned this merely as an instance in which the services of counsel would be required. There would be innumerable cases constantly arising, and many would grow out of the very Constitution which they were framing. If these cases were left to be managed by special counsel to be employed for each case, large sums of money would annually be drawn from the treasury to pay for these services. Instead of this, an Attorney General, with a certain and fixed salary, could try all these cases, as the Attorney General of the United States was required to try all cases in which the United States are concerned. However difficult the task, or however voluminous the documents necessary to consult, when the Attorney General of the United States was

asked for his opinion by the President of the United States, he never received an extra fee for it. Whether the case related to the extreme south, or west, or north, if the United States were interested, the Attorney General tried it at length without compensation. So it would be with the Attorney General of this State. If his compensation was fixed, he would have to perform all the duties required, while it would be a saving to the State in a financial point of view.

He had no apprehension, in case the election of the Attorney General should be made by general ticket, and in the districts, although they were not required by the Constitution to come from the districts, that the city of Baltimore would be able to command the Attorney General at all times. Strong and powerful as the city was, he did not believe she would ever undertake to do so. If she did, it would be found that the people of the counties would rise, *en masse*, against her. He had never found, in the gubernatorial elections, that when the person selected was not exactly from that city, but was identified with the city, that it had any influence whatever upon the city. He had never found the city of Baltimore undertaking to assume the right to select the public officer, to be voted for by the people. At the same time, he had no objection to the proposition suggested, and if the gubernatorial elections were to be from districts, the same reasons would exist why the Attorney General should be elected in the same way. He would therefore vote for the proposition.

He had not been here yesterday when the gentleman from Anne Arundel [Mr. Dorsey] made some remarks in reference to the claims of Messrs. Carmichael, Dulany and Emory, which had been before the Legislature of Maryland. He considered these remarks, so far as they tended to depreciate this claim, unjust, though he imputed no unkind motive.

Mr. S. here proceeded to explain the claim, and to show that it had not been rejected by the Legislature, and should not be prejudged by the Convention; but on the contrary, it had been in effect acknowledged by the Legislature. He would take occasion further to say, in reference to the claim of Mr. McCullough, in his opinion, the State was as much bound to refuse the judgment of the referees in his favor, as they would be by the opinion of the Court of Appeals. It had been judged by a special Court, who were entitled to as much respect as the Court of Appeals.

Mr. GWINN said that he did not intend to allude to the case of the gentlemen who had acted as arbitrators in the McCullough case. He did not understand that an aspersion had been cast upon their conduct, either by any here, or in the Legislature; and their high character rendered a defence unnecessary. He intended only to make a very brief reply to the argument of the gentleman from Prince Georges, (Mr. Bowie.)

He has criticised the report of the committee as a misapprehension of the true character of the Attorney General, and has said, if we attempt to change his character as an officer of the com-