

What advantages were proposed to counterbalance these? He had heard none suggested. The gentleman from Queen Anne's had spoken in so low a voice that he (Mr. C.) had not heard him if he had suggested any. Without going in pursuit of other reasons, in addition to those urged by his friend from Dorchester, he was at a loss to conceive why we should disregard these. If the arrangement suggested was enforced by considerations of economy both in time and money, as well to the individual voter as to the county, if less pernicious to the morals of the community and more calculated to draw out a full expression of public sentiment, he could not but think it ought to meet with acceptance. He went therefore for the consolidation of the political elections of the State, with the election of President of the United States, in the years when these last would occur, and that the first should be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, 1852.

The PRESIDENT stated that the amendment would be in order after the question had been taken on the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne's.

Mr. SPENCER said that he held in his hand the report of the Legislative Department, as amended by the Convention. He read from it the third section thereof, as follows:

"The first election for Delegates shall take place on the first Wednesday of November, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, and on the same day in every second year for ever thereafter, the general election for Delegates, and for one-half the Senators as nearly as practicable, shall be held."

It had therefore been determined by the Convention, that the sessions of the Legislature should be biennial. The first election would necessarily take place in the fall of this year, 1851. He presumed it was not in the contemplation of any body, that there would not be a meeting of the Legislature for the year 1852. The first meeting of the Legislature must be in January next, 1852, and the election must take place in the fall of 1851. But the sessions were to be biennial, and it therefore followed that the next election which would take place, would be in the fall of 1853, in the fall of 1855, &c., every alternate year thereafter. Now, the question was, will the Convention separate our State elections? Shall we separate the election of our Governor from our Legislative elections and couple it with the national elections? He hoped not. Our Governors had enough with politics now, without any other stimulants. In every other year we will have an election of members for the Legislature. By the manner of their alternation they never can fall on a Presidential election. The gentleman from Kent, instead of electing their Governor at the same time when they elect their Legislature, the popular branch of the Government would seek to associate his election with the President of the United States. This was too strong an encouragement of party.

Mr. CHAMBERS (interposing) said that it was not in his recollection whether they had passed over that section with a view to be acted on.

Mr. SPENCER stated that the third section had been passed over informally.

Mr. CHAMBERS said the gentleman would of course consider it a matter of necessary consequence, if the proposition he advocated should be adopted, that the other elections should be made to compare in point of time. It was no part of his plan to have the election for Governor in one year and the election for Senators and Delegates, in another. There would be no difficulty in making the other bill compare to this, if the amendment prevailed.

Mr. SPENCER said that if they should have the sessions of the Legislature biennially, they must have the first election this fall, and to carry it out, they must have another election in the fall of 1853. They must do this, otherwise they would have their Government without a Legislature for more than two years, or they would not have a session the next year. The Convention had determined—so he thought—that the sessions should be biennial, if so, then he presumed that the first election would take place this fall. He presumed that it was not in the contemplation of any individual here, that there should be no meeting of the Legislature for the next year.

The Convention had declared, by a positive vote, (and he thought the gentleman himself contended for it,) that for the next three years to come, there should not be annual elections. They had also refused that there should be annual sessions of the Legislature for the same length of time, and had determined that the sessions of the Legislature should be biennial, and that for the first two terms they should have unlimited discretion to remain in session as long as they might think necessary, or as long as the public interests might require. Now he asked, if there was any honorable member of that body who was going to vote to procrastinate any session for twelve months or more, and after the ratification of the Constitution? There would be many things left by the Constitution to be carried out by the Legislature in detail, and the public interests required that the Legislature should meet as early as possible, and it would have to meet next winter. He presumed that the ordinary time agreed upon, was the first of January, 1852, and then they would have to vote at the first election under the Constitution, in the fall of 1851. If they should adopt the proposition of the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) they would have to reverse every thing they have done upon Legislative sessions; they would have to control all antecedent action. The first election must necessarily take place in the fall of 1851, and the next in the fall of 1853, &c. And the question, he repeated, was, whether they should have the Governor elected when the Delegates to the Legislature were elected, or whether they would have him elected at the time when the President of the United States is elected.