

it was admitted that frauds had been committed. What will be the effect of his course now? The amendment proposes that the elections for President and Governor shall take place in 1852 and 1856, and on the same day in every fourth year thereafter; and that the Legislature shall be elected in 1852, 1854, and every second year. He says this will increase the corruption of elections, and in the same breath almost he goes for a plan that will bring these elections in different years. If one election produces evil, one would think that the more we have the more evil will follow. But his argument would diminish the corruption by multiplying its sources. The more fountains the smaller will be the stream. This seemed to be the result of the argument. His (Mr. T.'s) experience had been otherwise. If the election of President and Governor were held on the same day the frauds and corruptions—all the evils attending elections would come together—and scarcely more would grow out of both than would attend one: at any rate the alternate year would be one of rest from the turmoil and strife of party contests, in which very few persons found any profit, whatever pleasure they may afford those who participate in them.

The gentleman had said that the candidates for Governor were now usually, and necessarily taken from a particular profession, because required to canvass the state. The proposition of the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers) would meet this view, and gratify the purpose which the gentleman had so much at heart, by relieving the gubernatorial candidates from the necessity of canvassing the state, in which Mr. T. united with the gentleman. He thought the means required to obtain first the nomination and then the election to the office had greatly diminished the dignity of the station, and he was sure no gentleman was willing to undergo what is now necessary to success but for the behests of party, which too few among us are able to resist. He congratulated the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Grason) on having attained the honor of presiding over this State as its chief Executive without having been compelled to resort to the means since employed by other candidates for the same office. If the Governor were elected on the same day with the President, the Electors would canvass the State, and thus do the electioneering for the gubernatorial candidate, for we know that the same issues are generally involved in both elections. In this way a competent merchant, farmer, or other fit person out of the legal profession might be the candidate; and if he were to go over the State for the purpose of seeing the people, there would be no occasion for his addressing them. If the faculty and talent of popular oratory be requisite in a candidate for that high office, none other need ever aspire to it, however eminent his other qualifications. If the Legislature, President and Governor were elected on the same day, there would be less necessity still for a *speaking* Governor.

The gentleman has spoken of executive patronage. The reason is good as far as it applies. But is our governor to have no patronage? If

you take all from him, who is to have it? He (Mr. T.) was on a committee who had under charge some thing connected with executive officers—their appointment, compensation, &c.—Our difficulty has been less about disrobing the governor, than as to the other department to be robbed. We curtailed inspectors, and many others that could be named. We did not see how the governor was to be deprived of all patronage. You may take away a good deal, yet much must necessarily be left where it is.

Mr. T. was of opinion that a majority of the Convention were in favor of electing many officers by the people. He would desire very much to see those civil offices kept clear from the pollution of party contests. It could not be done altogether; but let us do what we can. We can have the political elections on the even years, and the judges and officers connected with the judiciary, such as district attorney, clerks, registers, sheriffs, magistrates, &c., held on the odd years. Then they would be kept separate and distinct from each other. He would not go into the question of the judiciary at this time—sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.

Mr. T. read the 5th section, to show that it would be an easy matter to alter it to conform to the view presented. As to the first elections, he would say there might be one for the year 1851; and in 1852 the biennial elections might commence. If the object be agreeable to the Convention, there can be no difficulty in altering the language of the article, or in framing new sections in the different articles corresponding with the object in view. He made these remarks in view of the fact that his colleague would offer an amendment retaining the present governor in office until the expiration of his term. He had no disposition to displace him before that time.

Mr. CHAMBERS said—one of the chief grounds of objection urged by the gentleman from Queen Anne's was, that the proposed arrangement would conflict with the action of the Convention upon the third section of the legislative bill. He thought there was no difficulty in reconciling any such apprehended difficulty. If gentlemen will turn to their files of the register of debates, page 135, they will find the proceedings of the Convention on this third section, on the 17th of February. It will there be seen that the amendment offered by his friend next him, (Mr. Donaldson,) was prepared expressly in reference to the arrangement now proposed for the election of State officers. No final action was had on that amendment, and the third section of that bill was informally passed over for the express purpose of settling that question in a full house. He read that amendment from page 135, and said it was perfectly obvious that if his suggestion, now before the house, was adopted, they had only to adopt the amendment of his friend, (Mr. Donaldson,) making the same day there as we have here, and entire conformity would be produced. The result would be, that an election for delegates would be held in November, 1851; who, with the present senate, would remain in office till 1852, when the first