

ed to a command to follow that prejudice, if they chose so to term it. It was very natural that they should have this wish.

The history of the State showed that the people would be gratified. Therefore, as far as the argument went, that the connecting of the two elections would supersede the necessity of candidates for Governor going about addressing the people, it seemed to him to have not much force; because, whether they had them on the same day or not, the prejudices of the people required that the candidate for Governor should present himself before them, and explain his views. It was no use to say that this was wrong, and that the people would do well to correct this habit. They could not reason with stubborn prejudices. They knew that they existed, and they must deal with them as facts.

Was there not abstract propriety in separating these two elections? It seemed to him there was. They turned upon different questions altogether; otherwise, how did it happen, as intimated by the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) just now, that the elections went one way in November and another way in October? With the exception of one single instance, this had always been the result. Perhaps the gentleman from Kent was not the less inclined to take November because the November elections had always been favorable to his side.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Very far from it.

Mr. HOWARD desired to know how this fact of the difference in the results of the elections could be explained? The gentleman said that the people did not turn out at the election for Governor; that there was not as full a vote in October as in November. What was it which induced the people to come out at the more disagreeable season of November, rather than in the milder and more agreeable season of October? It was a predominant interest in national politics. The State elections should be kept distinct from the gladiatorial merits of party. By combining the elections, they would open the door to the trading away of votes; and if not this, they would open the door in reference to other opinions upon the merits of State politics, the appointment of State officers, and all these prejudices would tend to disturb the general result.

When they elected their Governor, they knew that the discussion which took place was in relation to their merits, and no discussion took place upon national questions. State affairs, the state of the treasury appealed to, the condition of the finances, the prospect of paying or reducing the public debt, and other matters interesting to the people of the State, were brought into the discussions which preceded the election of Governor, and they had nothing to do with other matters. He hoped, sincerely, that they would keep these elections apart. Let the people, if they chose, sanction or condemn the action of the State agents, without reference to other matters in which the State, as such, had no interest. He concurred in the propriety of separating these elections.

Mr. DORSY concurred with his friend in most of the reasons he had assigned why the numerous elections should be kept separate and distinct; but thought that so far from not electing the Governor at the same time that Electors of President and Vice President of the United States were chosen, the reason urged was most conclusive upon the subject, that they ought to be connected. He believed it had been stated by some distinguished gentleman in this body who had been called upon to state what he knew in relation to the matter, that he never knew an election for Governor, members of the Legislature, &c. in which the general politics of the government, as regarded party, was not the predominating influence which operated upon the election of the Governor of the State, and all other State officers. If there had ever been such a case, he (Mr. D.) had never heard of it. It was true, as his friend (Mr. Howard) had told them, that in the canvass for the election of Governor and members of the Legislature, the discussions were not confined exclusively to National politics, but that State politics were incidentally discussed, but not as the main point on which the election turned. On State topics which for the most part related to the State debt, &c. did the Democratic party take one side, and the Whig party the other? No, they did not; on this subject for the most part both parties concurred.

But the election of the candidate named was urged by his own party on political grounds, and the other party sustained their candidate on the same grounds of party. By connecting the sovereign officer of the State with the sovereign officer of the Union, we, in America, introduced nothing upon the field of election which did not necessarily enter into such connection.

He understood the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer) very differently from his friend, when he supposed that he did not allude to actual corruption, but merely referred to the trading of votes. Now, one of the objects which he (Mr. D.) had in view, in connecting the election of Governor with the election of President, was to prevent this very trading of votes of which his friend had spoken. He (Mr. D.) was satisfied that this practice had long existed, and had existed to a great extent, and the remedy he proposed he conscientiously believed was the sovereign remedy for this trading corruption in the election of Governor. Elect him in the manner and at the time now proposed, and such a thing as trading away a vote for Governor will never be heard of. But connect the election of Governor with that of all our other officers as appears now to be determined on, and votes upon votes for Governor will be changed for votes for Justices of the Peace, County Commissioners, Sheriffs, Delegates, Senators, Judges, &c. This trading away of votes will multiply a hundred fold and annually increase. But as between the President of the United States and the Governor, if they were both to be elected at the same time, and theirs were the only election to be held, he was perfectly satisfied that the idea of trading off votes would never enter into the imagination of any