

and he meant no disrespect to gentlemen—in his opinion, it was “penny wise and pound foolish.”

There was another view of this matter. He was a State's rights man, and perhaps he was a little strenuous in this matter. He was for independent, untrammelled action of the State; and the only way in which they could secure this would be to hold their elections unmixed with the presidential elections. Look at the action of the States of Massachusetts, Ohio, and some of the States in the South. What did they see? That the crisis which they had been watching so long was not yet passed. It was a crisis which was not going to be settled in a day. It might take ten years. The next election would be the great contest. They proposed now, at this crisis, to gain some political advantage by getting out votes. They proposed to tie down Maryland—to put her at the feet of the District of Columbia, where was concentrated capital from all portions of the Union, which could be made to operate upon their elections, so as to make them go for a particular party. At this peculiar crisis, he would go against all connection with federal elections, if there were no other considerations. He hoped very few would go for such a proposition. He was for abiding by the patriotic resolutions which had passed that body, and which had been so highly spoken of by that distinguished man, Daniel Webster.

In his opinion, if they should connect the election of Governor with that of the President of the United States, they would rue it. They would, by such a course, lose character with the other States, who would look upon Maryland as a State bought up with money contributed by other States. So far as he was concerned, (and he said it with sincerity,) he would rather see the opposite party have the government for fifty years than at this peculiar crisis of the government connect themselves with federal politics. There was no man who would look at the subject fully in the face, but would see the situation in which they would be placed. They were a small State, and would be the last subject of temptation in reference to these matters. If it was true that money was raised in Baltimore to carry the State elections, he would ask any man whether, at a reasonable calculation, ten times as much would not be raised in Washington and other places to carry the presidential election? He hoped, therefore, that no State election would take place on the same day as the presidential election.

Mr. THOMAS regretted exceedingly that the motion of the gentleman from Queen Anne's was such as to prevent his voting for it, being so complex as to embarrass members of the Convention, and himself especially, in determining which way to vote. He differed with other gentlemen whom he had heard upon this question, as to the best time for fixing the election of Governor, whether upon the day of the Presidential election, or upon a different day. He would vote against connecting the two, and in favor of having them in different years. He did not attach so much importance to their separa-

tion, however, with other gentlemen who had spoken in favor of it; and for this simple reason. He conceived that the Gubernatorial election of Maryland hereafter, would be one of fourth-rate importance, so far as it would have a tendency to excite the ambition of the great mass of society. He trusted the Convention would not terminate its labors until they should have distributed among the people the largest portion of patronage belonging to the Governor. This would bring into the political arena a clan of functionaries, about whose election there would be a deep interest. Suffer an election to be held for the appointment of clerks in the county courts, registers of wills, judges of our courts, on the same day with the election of Governor, and of members of the Senate and House of Delegates, would not these various objects bring together as large a number of ber of voters as the Presidential election.

He was willing to vote with the mover of this proposition, so as to prevent the election of Governor from being upon the same day with the Presidential election, but he could not vote to have this election in October instead of November. In the county of Frederick there were a great many voters who could not get to the polls without the aid of the owners of horses and carriages. On the day now fixed, in October, almost the whole farming interest would be engaged in the seeding of their grain. He had known many an election lost, because the farmers would not cease their farming operations for the sake of letting their horses be used to convey men to the polls. It would be much better to have the election in November. This would not necessarily bring the election upon the same day with the Presidential election. If the Gubernatorial election be fixed for the odd years, commencing with 1853, it could not interfere with the Presidential election, which must, by the Constitution of the United States, always be held in the even years, the next being in 1852. The former elections occurring at an interval of two years, and the latter at an interval of four years, they could never come together.

There was another reason for deferring the election until November. When the elections were directed to be held in October, the Legislature commenced its sessions in November, and terminated them early in the winter. There was then ample time for the journals to be printed, and for the people to ascertain who of the delegates had voted right and ought to be returned. But if the Legislature should sit as we propose, until the month of March, the journal could not be delivered until late in June, and would not reach the remote counties possibly until August. Before the journals could reach the people, therefore, in numerous instances, candidates would be put in nomination for re-election, and many committals would be made before the conduct of their candidates could be fully inquired into. If the election should be postponed for another month, from October to November, it would give ample time for the

1
30
17
—
48