

previously fixed by the Convention. The gentleman from Frederick had probably misunderstood him.

Mr. THOMAS explained that referred to a general sentiment in the Convention, and not to the gentleman from Queen Anne's.

Mr. GRASON proceeded to say that he had no intention to reverse the decision of the Convention on that subject. He was not present when the legislative bill was under consideration; but was informed, on his return, that the first Wednesday of November had been fixed for the election of delegates. He had therefore named the same day and month for the election of Governor. As he now understood that the time had not been finally fixed for the election of delegates, he would, for the present, withdraw his amendment, and move to fill the blank with 1853, in order that the vote might be taken on that question by itself.

Mr. DORSEY opposed the filling of the blank with 1853, for the reason that when all the other officers were turned out by the adoption of the new Constitution, he could see no motive for allowing the Governor to remain in office for another. He should propose, therefore, that the blank should be filled with 1852, which would have the additional advantage of bringing the election of the Governor upon the same day with the election of President.

Mr. GRASON suggested that the gentleman from Anne Arundel should have gone further, to be consistent, and provided that the Governor should go out in 1851, at the time of the first election.

Mr. DORSEY was willing to allow the Governor to remain in office for another year. The question was not now simply upon one election, but for all future time; and he wished the State and Federal elections to take place upon the same day.

Mr. STEWART, of Baltimore, moved a call of the House, which was ordered. The doorkeeper was sent after the absent members, who, after some time, returned and stated that he had given notice to each that his attendance was desired.

Mr. GRASON said that it had already been decided that the election of delegates would be every other year. The first election would take place in 1851. All the action of the Convention had been upon the supposition that the Governor would be elected at the same time with the Delegates of the General Assembly. All these advantages were now to be given up in order that the President of the United States and the Governor of Maryland should be elected together. From the formation of the Constitution of the United States down to the present time, this was perhaps the first attempt to unite the elections of the State and the general officers. It had heretofore been considered of great importance that the two elections should not coincide. Now, if the plan of the gentleman from Anne Arundel should prevail, not only would the Governor be elected upon the day of the presidential election, but it would be necessary to have the Judges elected at the same time; and any argument which would show the

necessity of electing the Governor upon that day, would be equally valid in respect to the election of Judges upon that day. So that this office, as important as that of Governor, now that the latter was to be deprived of his patronage, would come upon that day.

It had been said that this was a mere party question; that the Democrats wished to keep the elections separate; and that the Whigs wished to blend them together. The advantage of either course would depend altogether upon the candidate for the presidency. Mr. Clay, he supposed to be an exceedingly popular man in Maryland; and it was an advantage to the Whigs during that campaign to have the two elections united. But in 1828, when General Jackson and Mr. Adams were candidates, the advantage of uniting them would have been altogether upon the other side. At one time one party would gain by it, and at another time the other party would gain by it. Independent of party considerations, he preferred that the elections should be kept distinct, that the State interests might not be overshadowed by the absorbing questions connected with the Federal Government.

Mr. DORSEY had been somewhat surprised to hear the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Buchanan) so formally and tauntingly retract every complimentary expression he had made use of yesterday concerning himself, on account of what he (Mr. D.) had said this evening. What had he said that could induce the gentleman to take such a course? Had he said any thing unkind towards that gentleman or towards the city of Baltimore, of which he had so promptly exhibited himself as its champion and avenger? Not a syllable had he uttered that could be tortured into any thing of the kind. There was not a member in this Convention who had a kinder feeling towards that city, or who was more anxious to promote its welfare and prosperity than himself. There was not, either in or out of this body, one who would be more ready to protect it, if its interests were unjustly assailed or its just rights were invaded; in this he was actuated by the same sense of justice and reason as would induce him to extend protection to every other portion of Maryland. All that he had proposed was so to divide the State into gubernatorial districts as to avoid the unnatural separation of the city and county of Baltimore, which by their contiguity, community of interests, daily intercourse and business associations, were so inseparably connected.— He had said, too, that Baltimore would have the control of the elections, and Baltimore county, though it were to be attached to the other counties of the Western Shore, and the result would be that Baltimore city would influence the elections as well within its own limits as in the district of which Baltimore county was a component part. I said I meant nothing derogatory to either city or county. The city of Baltimore is in Maryland, the centre of attraction around which the eminent of all professions and trades from every part of the State more or less congregate. It affords a more eligible field for the