

tem they might adopt. It was his belief, when the people found that they would have, in a given number of years, the power of voting for a Convention: they would submit patiently, cheerfully, to all the inconveniences to which they might be subjected. And, moreover, if they saw beyond that, at approaching intervals, a time when the same right would occur to them, they would not causelessly exercise their right of calling a Convention, but would wait till the recurrence of that second epoch. That was his opinion as to the mode in which the people would act. There was one course of proceeding, however, in which he had faith, and it was this: "that when you are going to trust the people, do it fairly, openly, fully. Show them that you place a generous confidence in their integrity and intelligence." That was, (Mr. H. continued,) the way in which the people should be treated. We placed this right, therefore, unreservedly in their hands. The people of Maryland were united for many purposes, and as they were united, they would decide upon this question one way or the other. What was the effect of the periodical recurrence of the right of changing their agents, and did it bear any analogy to the constantly recurring right of changing their organic law? If they were satisfied with the right which they knew would happen soon, to change their organic law, then to the same extent they were satisfied to obey the laws, because they knew they had the power to change them—the effect would be to tranquillise the public mind. Now, the effect of the right to change their legislature—to act in that sedative way—was, that the people obey a law while it is a law. Why? They knew the power would soon come round to repeal an obnoxious law. If they were not satisfied with the Executive branch of the government, they respected and obeyed him. Why? Because they saw at a little distance ahead, an opportunity would be given them to change that agent. And the result of that was—a tranquillity constantly existing in the public mind. It was an interesting thing to see how that question worked in its great extent. It worked admirably in the Government of the United States, where there was greater power reposed in the President of the United States, than there exists in the Queen of England. She could not carry on the government one month, unless she had a majority in Parliament but the ministry would be immediately dissolved. The Executive branch of the government was completely changed in its course. That was not the case in the United States, where the President could continue to carry on his government from year to year, with a clear majority of both Houses against him, with only a corporal's guard in Congress and a Cabinet, in whom nobody had any confidence.

We knew that that had been the case of one of the Presidents of the United States. The Queen of England, on the contrary, could not have stood twenty-four hours in that situation and yet that President went on to the end of his regular term, and the laws were all obeyed, and the government moved on in entire peace and

the foundation. Why was it so? He, (Mr. Howard,) could not discover any other reason, than that the people of the United States foresaw they would have the power in the ballot box to replace things according to their pleasure. That administration would go out, and another would take its place; and conscious of the possession of that power, they stood tranquil and saw the government managed, year after year, with only a corporal's guard in each House. If, after exhibiting so much patience, wisdom, and obedience to the laws, in that instance, he thought it was fair to suppose that the people of Maryland would evince a like conduct in reference to a change in their organic law. They would submit to all the evils of the Constitution for ten years, till the time occurred for making a change, and that he thought was a reasonable time when the question was to be put. In the meantime they would reason with themselves whether it was worth while to incur the expense of another Convention, to change a form of government, which had, perhaps, better be tried a little longer—another term—even if the evils were great. With regard to the question of the Judiciary, they might choose as to the system. If it was wrong, or didn't work well, they might still conclude to try it a little longer. There was no question that entered so deeply into the organization of society, as that self-same judiciary question. It was the only one which came home daily, to every man's personal interests and prejudices. It was spread all abroad throughout the land and it might not be going too far to say that the great benefit of government, was in its faithful fulfilment, and a due and rigid and economical administration of justice. As to that question, he did not know how this Convention would settle it. But, the people might well pause before they went to the expense of another Convention.

With regard to the fears expressed, that a Governor might be elected who would refuse to issue his proclamation for the call of a Convention, he thought they were ill founded. It was far better, in his opinion, to trust the Governor than the Legislature. He had no idea, that under any conceivable state of things, the people of Maryland would ever elect a Governor so faithless to his duty and to the Constitution, as not to carry the wishes of the people into effect. In his judgment, the most effective way to attain the object, was to make it the duty of the Governor to issue his proclamation, and to fix the responsibility upon him alone. In that way we would carry out the provision of the Constitution, and he hoped we would attain a great and lasting good. Many causes might prevent the Legislature from passing a law to sanction the call of a Convention. Want of time was a real or alleged reason for omitting to pass many laws, and might be so in this case. A difference of opinion between the Senate and House of Delegates, often caused many bills to fail. But if the Governor alone should be clothed with the responsibility of issuing a proclamation, calling upon