

to hold office for the years; but only until the annual election next succeeding the vacancy.

Mr. BROWN. I hope some other word will be put in; for it may be interpreted to mean the next election of clerk; which would make it nearly six years.

Mr. RANDALL. The Committee on Revision, with a view of identifying the election, have used the phraseology—"general election of delegates." A general election is very indefinite. It may be an election of members of Congress; or in the city of Baltimore, of Mayor. We should involve ourselves in great difficulty unless we identify the election in some way.

Mr. SPENCER. I should be unwilling to have special elections for clerks; and I shall also by my votes, endeavor to keep clear of connecting these officers with political contests. There have been one or two suggestions this morning which I do not fully understand. The gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) and the gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Randall,) have spoken of the action of the Committee on Revision. Am I to understand that the Committee on Revision are undertaking to alter the language of sections which have been passed by this body? If they are changing the language, it will re-open the whole matter, and I see no probability that this Convention will ever terminate.

Mr. CHAMBERS. What are our duties?

Mr. SPENCER. I suppose they are to arrange what has been done by the Convention, and to correct any grammatical inaccuracies which may have occurred; but never to change the phraseology of a bill.

Mr. RANDALL. It was my intention, with the bill which I reported this evening from the Committee on Revision, to have offered some suggestions as to the course which that committee considered themselves bound to take—but it was suggested that it was time to proceed to the order of the day. The committee are very anxious to have the action of the Convention upon all they do. In the bill in relation to State's Attornies, there was a clause confining his jurisdiction to such business as should originate in the respective counties. The bill of rights allows the removal of a case; and then there is no Attorney to attend to it; and the party could not be convicted at all. This was merely owing to the want of consideration of that case; and the committee, after consulting with the mover, one of the most considerate members of the Convention, changed the language to remove the inconsistency. When the revised bill shall be read at the desk, the Convention will be informed of every alteration that has been made; in order that every amendment may be sanctioned by them.

Mr. SPENCER. I have no doubt that the committee will do its duty. I have no objection to the course suggested, to report amendments for the action of the Convention when necessary. I merely rose for inquiry.

Mr. McHENRY. I modify my amendment, by also striking out "general," and inserting "an-

nual State." I wish to make it a test question whether this Convention designs to have annual elections, or to give the Governor the power to fill vacancies for a period frequently approaching two years.

The amendment was rejected.

The question then recurred and was put on the adoption of the amendment as offered by Mr. Stephenson; and

Determined in the affirmative.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, moved that the eighteenth section be passed over informally, and the thirtieth section be taken up.

Determined in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent,

The thirtieth section was amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"And in all such elections the person having the greatest number of votes, shall be declared to be elected."

The thirtieth section was then adopted as amended.

The Convention then resumed the consideration of the eighteenth section of the report.

On motion of Mr. MORGAN.

The eighteenth section was amended so as to conform to the thirtieth section just adopted, as amended.

On motion of

Mr. RANDALL, said 18th section was amended by striking out from the word "office" in 5th line, to word "there" in 7th line, and insert "on conviction in a court of law."

Mr. RANDALL having explained that the words stricken out were totally unnecessary.

The 18th section was then adopted as amended.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, then moved to postpone the further consideration of the order of the day, for the purpose of taking up the motion made by him in accordance with the notice given on the 1st of April, to reconsider the vote of the Convention on the section submitted by Mr. GRASON, and adopted in the report of the committee on representation.

Determined in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. BUCHANAN,

The Convention was called, and the Door-keeper sent for the absent members, who after a short time had elapsed, returned and reported that he had notified the absent members that their attendance in the Convention was required.

The Convention then resumed the consideration of the motion of Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, to reconsider the vote of the Convention taken on the section submitted by Mr. GRASON, and adopted on the 1st of April, touching the subject of Representation.

Mr. CHAMBERS made some remarks which will be published hereafter.

Mr. BRENT, of Balt. city. I rise not for the purpose of arguing this question, for it has been fully argued, but to state the reasons which actuate me in the vote I shall give upon this question.