

went, he did not know whether the gentleman from Frederick, was present or not, he recollected that his colleague, [Mr. Bowling,] and the gentleman from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Sellman,] both refused to vote—there was to be no disturbance of the present senatorial election. He understood that the course they took in reference to the Governor, was considered as a compromise, and all gentlemen, of both parties, went in favor of retaining him in office. He felt the power and force of this, and he was glad to see gentlemen meeting on this ground. He desired to pour oil upon the waters of political discord, and he was sorry the gentleman had called up the question again.

Mr. THOMAS contended that the section had not been finished, and that after the word "senators" had been stricken out, the gentleman from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Donaldson,] moved to postpone this section, because it would require further modification to conform to the intention of continuing in senators. Of course, he (Mr. T.) thought the better plan would be to re-elect all the senators. He had only brought this section before the House, that the work began might be finished.

Mr. DONALDSON explained the action of the Convention on this section, and considered that it had been finally disposed of.

Mr. JOHNSON said that the first time he had seen his report since he made it was to-day. It was not made without some thought, and he considered the third section of the original report as perfect, and he would therefore move to substitute that section for the present one. He would leave the Senators as they had left the judges, to be elected by the people. If the gentlemen had proved themselves worthy, the people would elect them, and if they did not deserve the office, it was a very good plan to get rid of them. He did not intend to calculate whether the one party or the other would lose by it, for he had not come here as a politician. He had been consistent and uniform in his course here.

The PRESIDENT stated that the amendment moved by the gentleman would be in order, when

Mr. JOHNSON withdrew said amendment.

Mr. GRASON said that however gentleman might differ with him, he should vote to continue in office the Senators elected in 1850, for they were elected as the Governor was elected, while the question of reform was under consideration. He would not, however, be willing to go back and extend this provision to Senators who were elected some years back, when no particular object was to be accomplished by their election. He was anxious that the people should have an opportunity of electing to the Senate persons who would be interested in carrying out certain measures which were to be submitted to them at the next session. At the same time he had no great objection to keeping them all in, subject to the regulations provided in the new Constitution, for Senators hereafter to be elected.

Mr. BROWN thought that the best way to look at every question would be to look at its practical effect. Every officer who would not be continued by an express provision of the Constitution, would be out of office, if the people should confirm the Constitution; and he thought he could name some gentlemen if he were at liberty to do so, who run for the Senate, expecting that they never would take their seats in that body, because they expected that a new Constitution would be made.

In reference to the Governor, he did not suppose that there was a single gentleman here who did not believe that that officer would have been re-elected by acclamation had they not continued him in office.

In relation to the Senators, he would say that the Constitution would turn them all out, as it would all who held office under the old Constitution. If it should do otherwise, did it not amount to this—that this body would be undertaking to elect senators for the State? Were the senators elected by the people of the State? Not at all. The only civil officer they had was the Governor. The people elected him when they were elected. Could they continue the gentleman from Dorchester if he had not served out his time? What right had the Convention to elect a Senator for Dorchester-county for one or two years.

If the people should adopt the Constitution he would be out of office to all intents and purposes, and if they should continue him, they would elect a senator for that county. He believed that they had a right to continue an officer necessary to carry on the government.

Mr. SPENCER said:

That when he came into this Convention, he determined that he would not be influenced by any party consideration in any vote or act given in this body. He contemplated that there would be no change in the election of senators, and he was determined, that so far as his vote could accomplish it, they should remain as they now were.

He could see no distinction between the office of Senator and that of Governor. The Governor was elected by the people, and so with regard to Senators, and he would allow those who were now in, to remain where they were.

Mr. BOWIE said:

That he had before remarked that he saw no occasion for any further legislation, and he referred to the different sections of the bill to maintain his views.

Mr. CHAMBERS suggested the necessity of some addition to the fourth section. As it now stood, some Senators might be arranged to a class which would serve until a period after that for which they were elected. Some members were going out at every session, but as the bill now stands all are to be classed by lot. This would elongate the periods of service of some and shorten that of others.

Mr. BOWIE thought the gentleman was mistaken in supposing that this was to go into effect at the next session of the legislature. The fourth