

Court of Appeals for four years, and shall be eligible to reappointment."

Mr. MILLER moved to amend the amendment by striking out the words "Judges of the Court of Appeals," and insert the word "Governor."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The librarian has been elected by the legislature for some years past. Will the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller) state what was the law previous to this constitution? How was the librarian appointed, and for what length of time?

Mr. MILLER. By the present constitution of the State, he was appointed by the legislature for two years. The question arose in the Court of Appeals, one of the incumbents having died or resigned his office, and an appointment having been made, whether that appointment was for the unexpired term of the former incumbent, or for two years from the date of his appointment. It was decided by the Court of Appeals, that it was for two years from the date of his appointment. Hence it is that the legislature elect about two years ahead. My motion is not to disturb the present incumbent for the time for which he was elected; for the last section of this article provides for that. It is simply to give the appointing power to the governor. I am in favor, as a general thing, of giving the governor as much of the appointing power as we possibly can.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. My question was, how was he appointed before the present constitution?

Mr. MILLER. By the legislature; by act of assembly.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Why should the governor have this appointment? The governor has not a tithe as much to do with the librarian as the legislature have.

Mr. MILLER. I am in favor of keeping the judges, as far as possible, free from the importunities of men for office.

Mr. CHAMBERS. They appoint their own clerks.

Mr. MILLER. That is immediately connected with their office.

Mr. CHAMBERS. This is also.

Mr. MILLER. I do not think it is so appropriate as to have the governor appoint.

Mr. SANDS. Why not leave it to the legislature to elect?

Mr. DANIEL. The objection to the legislature is that they come here knowing very little about the library. They are elected every year or two, and know very little about the man in the State. Hence, it is one continual nuisance in the legislature from the time they meet until the librarian is elected. The presentation of the rival claims of candidates, &c., causes delay; and there is no possibility of their having an equal knowledge or interest in the library which the Court of Appeals have. I think this is a very good amendment, and I hope it will be

adopted. The Court of Appeals is constantly here; and this library is a law library emphatically. They are certainly more interested in preserving a law library here, and in having it properly taken care of, and in having a proper man who understands the books and who has more knowledge of the qualifications for this office than any other person or persons in the State. It is certainly a great facility to all lawyers and all persons who have anything to do with the books to have a proper librarian selected. As suggested by the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers,) this officer is something like a clerk; the orders come to him for books, and he is in attendance upon the Court of Appeals, and is almost entirely acting very much like a clerk to the Court of Appeals. I think it is a wise provision therefore to give them the appointment.

The amendment of Mr. MILLER was rejected.

The question recurred upon the amendment of Mr. AUDOUN, which was rejected.

Mr. PETER submitted the following amendment:

Strike out all after the word "the," in the first line, and insert the words:

"State librarian shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State on the _____ day of _____ in the year _____, who shall hold his office for the term of six years from the first day of January next after his election. His salary shall be fifteen hundred dollars per annum, and there shall be no other perquisites or fees to his office."

Mr. PETER said: I do not design to interfere with the present incumbent of the office, who will hold the office for the remainder of his unexpired term. Acknowledging as I do the importance of this office, I think it is important that it should be left to the people. Certainly it is more important than the office of commissioner of the land office, if not as important as that of governor or some other officers. In this case, as in conferring the appointment upon the judges of the court of appeals, we certainly free the legislature from any responsibility, or any influence that might be exercised upon them. I think it is but fair and just to the people that they should elect an officer of that kind. In my substitute I propose that he shall have the office for a time sufficient to qualify him fully to perform his duties. At the same time I hold that he ought to be competent for re-election. When we can get a good and proper officer to perform these duties, I submit that it will be for the advantage of the court of appeals, the legislature, and all other departments connected with the State, in the proper performance of their duties to be freed from any of the influences arising from the appointment of this officer. Let him be put in his place by the people; and let him be free and untrammelled by any party influences that might be brought to bear upon the house of