

have very wisely fixed. I think it is wise and proper for us to fix the salary in the constitution, and to say they shall not be altered during their continuance in office. If you do not the legislature will be continually beset by one or another officer wishing his salary to be increased. I think it ought to be fixed in the constitution for the term of the constitution, unless it should be changed by an amendment of the constitution.

I wish to say one word further with reference to the perquisites and additional compensation awarded by the legislature. I learn that that was intended for packing, freight, &c., upon the books sent, and was not intended as an appropriation to the librarian. There was probably a little margin left. The librarian informs me that if all the freight, &c., had been paid, there would have been nothing left. The legislature in making the appropriations did not make them as an additional compensation to him; but they made the estimate as near as they could; and there was some freight which was not charged, or something of that kind, which left a small margin. I think it is due to the librarian to make this explanation. Therefore I think \$1,500 now, little enough under all the circumstances; and I trust the section will be adopted as reported unanimously by the committee.

Mr. VALLIANT. I am willing to vote for \$1,500; but in doing so I am actuated by the consideration that all kinds of merchandise now command a much larger price than a few years ago. But I would not be willing to continue the salary of \$1,500 for all time to come. If \$1,000 was sufficient three or four years ago, the probability is that it will be sufficient three or four years hence, unless this disastrous war continues much longer than any of us now apprehend. I will read my proposition again, which I have modified to have the salary of \$1,500 begin with January 1, 1865, although I should have preferred an earlier date. "The salary of the present incumbent shall be \$1,500 per annum, beginning on the first day of January, 1865, and continued until the close of his present term of office. Thereafter neither he nor his successors shall receive more than \$1,000 unless otherwise determined by the general assembly." I am willing to leave it to the general assembly, believing they will not change it unless it is right and proper.

Mr. PERKINS. I think we ought to fix in the constitution the salaries of all our officers. If we do not, what will be the consequence? During the sessions of the legislature every office-holder will be here asking for an increase of his salary, and take up the whole of the time of the legislature with their applications. I am in favor of giving a fair salary to every man. I would be willing to vote for \$2,000, for I believe every officer ought to have a fair and liberal salary. Let us

fix it honestly and without fear of what our constituents may say hereafter. I think \$1,500 is little enough, if I am rightly informed of the duties of the librarian. We are not merely to consider the services rendered to the legislature or the court of appeals; but we ought to consider that the library requires his constant care, to look after and see to the books and preserve them. It is important that we should have a competent man for the office, and for such a man \$1,500 a year is little enough. As regards the assistant, I believe that a librarian and assistant are little enough to do the work. Let the \$1,500 be in full of everything, and leave no opportunity to the legislature hereafter to increase or diminish his salary. That I think is the correct principle for us to establish here.

Mr. VALLIANT. I would like to mention a little fact of history. At the time the old constitution fixed the salary at \$1,000, the State librarian was intrusted with the charge of this building, for which he also received \$350, making his salary really \$1,350.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Calvert is correct. He had charge of the public grounds.

Mr. KING modified his amendment, so as to read, "the legislature shall pass no laws whereby he shall receive any additional compensation."

Mr. BRISCOE. I believe there is a clause adopted in the legislative article which prohibits that very thing.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The 21st section of the legislative article is:

"Sec. 21. No extra compensation shall be granted or allowed by the general assembly to any public officer, agent, servant or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered or the contract entered into. Nor shall the salary or compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished, during his term of office."

Mr. BRISCOE. That amendment therefore is not necessary; although the legislature has done that same thing in its general appropriation bills for the last twelve or fifteen years. It has been done; but it is entirely unconstitutional.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I beg leave to remark that I think it is an error to suppose that any extra compensation is allowed for the service performed. The appropriation bills all say: "For the expense of distributing bound copies of Maryland Reports to the clerks and registers of wills of this State, \$50," &c. They do not give it to the librarian.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman is mistaken. The librarian always draws for that specific sum.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I am speaking of the law. If an improper sum is drawn by the librarian, I am not responsible for that. It