

and those who would read the law would see that he was justified in the denial, that this substitute of six per cent. bonds, payable in this country, for sterling, was done for the convenience of the State. It was done for the accommodation of the bond-holders, not of the State only as is alleged. This Comptroller, instead of saving money, in his opinion, would lose it. His friend on his left, (Mr. Donaldson,) had stated that the Treasurer had such enormous power that he could make bills for any amount he pleased, that he could make the balance in the State Treasury, usually from \$200,000 to \$400,000 at the end of the year, any thing or nothing as he pleased, and he could not be detected. If any thing was susceptible of demonstration, nobody could doubt the facility of detection, and there was nobody better aware of that than his friend, (Mr. Donaldson.) When these accounts were formed, they were adopted after the most mature deliberation. There was not a man who had examined these accounts, (and they had been examined by persons highly skilled in matters of this description,) but who considered them inferior to none for their clear and explicit character.

In the plan proposed, they were to leave all the State's treasure in the Treasurer's hands, to be paid out by warrants. Suppose he should pay it out without warrants—he could do so, if he was so disposed, for he would have the money in his hand as heretofore. He would not repose one-half the confidence in the Comptroller that he would in the Treasurer. The Treasurer was elected by the Legislature, and did not electioneer for his office. If they should elect the Comptroller by the people, as they designed to do, he would of necessity be an *electioneering politician*, in which class of the community he reposed but little confidence. Such a politician, that when they come to settle up the accounts, they could not tell what sacrifices of the State's interests might not have been perpetrated. He might sacrifice half of its revenue, and there would be no sure means of detecting it. How did the Treasurer proceed? He did not allow one farthing for insolvencies claimed by collectors, &c., until he had first submitted the accounts to the State's attorney of the county where the claims arose, who was obliged to inquire into it, and make his report to the Treasurer of the State of everything that was required to give the Treasurer authority to make the allowance; but in the Comptroller's discharging the duty assigned him, he would best promote his own interest by sacrificing that of the State, and thus secure his own re-election the next or even that year. The Governor, whose duty it was to be as perfect a check upon the Treasurer as was at all necessary—in three days, by studying the accounts, could make himself master of everything that he ought to know. Under an article of the Constitution the Governor was to inspect and carefully examine the Bank Book, and all other books and proceedings of the Treasurer, a really important duty, and of using every necessary protection to the public fiscal interests of the State, and there would be no use

for a Comptroller, except to give a man an office at \$2,500 a year.

The gentleman from Cecil (Mr. McLane,) had referred to the fact that a Comptroller should be appointed, because such officers were in the service of the United States, which never had lost any thing from the treasury. The answer to this argument is that during a much longer period, the State of Maryland has never had a Comptroller, and acting with a Treasurer only, it has never lost a dollar.

He (Mr. D.) had known every man that had been Treasurer of the State since the adoption of the Constitution in 1776, to the present day, and he believed no human being had ever whispered an insinuation that the State had lost any thing by any one of them. They had a good system, and the means of detection were abundant.

Gentlemen had said that by this proposition ten or twelve thousand dollars would be saved every year. He would say there was no foundation but in excited imagination for such an assertion, and that more than fifty thousand would be annually in imminent danger by the proposed change in the treasury department.

The Comptroller might reside on the top of the Allegany mountains, for ought the bill provided. If a man desired to get his stock redeemed, or State bonds changed, he would have to come from Baltimore city to Annapolis, and present his claims to the Comptroller.

They had been told that they would save the salary of the clerk to the Commissioner of Loans. This was not so. They would be as much bound to have a clerk to discharge the transferred duty in the treasury, as in the office of the Commissioner of Loans. They imposed upon the Treasurer, living in Annapolis, the duty of buying up bills of exchange. He would have no means of buying, except by sending to a broker to ask him to buy for him. Then the Treasurer would have to send money, and the broker might cheat the State out of money and exchange too. There was no law requiring money to be transferred to Europe. They required the Treasurer to transfer to the Commissioner six months beforehand, in order that he might buy these bills on the best possible terms. He said he must stop—his time not his subject, being exhausted.

The question was then stated to be on the amendment of Mr. DORSEY.

Mr. BROWN moved the previous question, which was seconded, and the main question ordered, viz. on the amendment of Mr. DORSEY.

Mr. DORSEY moved that the question be taken by yeas and nays, which being ordered, appeared as follows:

Affirmative—Messrs. Ricaud, Lee, Mitchell, Dorsey, Wells, Kent, Sellman, Weems, Dalrymple, John Dennis, Williams, Hicks, Eccleston, Phelps, Bowie, Sprigg, McCubbin, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Gaither, Stephenson, Schley, Michael Newcomer, Kilgour, Brewer and Smith—29.

Negative—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Chambers of Kent, Donaldson, Randall, Brent of Charles, Merrick,