

tion, and had previously been little discussed in the State, if at all.¹³⁵ The minority members of the Committee on the Executive Department had brought in a report against this new office¹³⁶ and although Mr. Smith of Carroll and a few others of the majority members joined with the other political faction in opposing the office as unnecessary, the measure passed without much difficulty or delay.¹³⁷ Those favoring it brought forth as the reasons for their action the fact that the provision gave an additional popular feature to the Constitution by making the people doubly secure of the choice of their chief executive, and brought the Government of Maryland in line with those of a majority of the states of the Union.¹³⁸ A move to abolish the office of Secretary of State and combine its duties with those of the Lieutenant-Governor was quickly defeated.¹³⁹

Another new state office created was that of Attorney-General, which also was to a great extent an idea of the Convention members.¹⁴⁰ This office had existed before 1851, but was abolished by the Constitution of that year.¹⁴¹ The reason for that action, as given by Judge Chambers,¹⁴² who had been a member of the Convention which framed the instrument, was not from any belief that the office was unnecessary, but purely from personal considerations, having relation to an individual who it was supposed was going to obtain the office. There was now practically no opposition in the Convention to its re-establishment, and it was provided¹⁴³ that the Attorney-General be elected by the people for a term of four years, that to be eligible he must have resided and practiced law in the state for at least seven years next preceding his election, and must perform the usual duties required of such an officer. The salary was \$2500 a year. There was no change of any

¹³⁵ Authority of Mr. Joseph M. Cushing.

¹³⁷ Proc., 492-3.

¹³⁸ Deb., ii, 1317-9.

¹⁴⁰ Authority of Mr. Joseph M. Cushing.

¹⁴¹ Art. 3, section 32.

¹⁴² Deb., iii, 1463.

¹³⁶ Proc., 448-9.

¹³⁹ Proc., 493.

¹⁴³ Art. v, secs. 1-6.