

Mr. Roman said the Governor of the State stood in the same relation to this Convention as did the Treasurer and Comptroller. These officers were elected only last winter, they had done everything in their power to facilitate the calling of this Convention, and now the first thing it proposed to do was to cut off their heads. As the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Mitchell,) had stated, they were most probably the most efficient officers the State ever had.

In consequence of the numerous changes of votes, it was found necessary to call the yeas and nays a second time, when the bill was rejected by a vote of 49 yeas to 52 nays.

Mr. Watkins, of Montgomery, moved to reconsider the vote passing the bill to a third reading.

Mr. McKaig said a reconsideration must take place or the Convention would have to adjourn sine die, as there could be no constitution.

The motion to reconsider was agreed to.

Mr. Roman then renewed his amendment. His object in doing so was to prevent an invidious distinction between the chief officers of the State. It was true that the judges and the clerks were to go by the board, for there was a change of the system, but this was not the case in regard to the jurisdiction of these officers.

Mr. Walsh doubted the propriety of the amendment. The article had been thoroughly considered on its second reading, and no proposition of this kind had been made, and he saw no sufficient reason why it should be now brought forward. He had been opposed to the article for the reason that the treasurer was not made elective by the people, but as the Convention had decided otherwise, he felt it incumbent on him to vote for it. Upon what principle were they now asked to support this amendment?

Mr. Merrick said if an exception was made in favor of these two officers it would open a broad field of exception. To carry out the principle, an exception would then have to be made in favor of every clerk and register of wills in the counties, and of all the judges of the Orphans' Courts. It was alleged as a reason in favor of the retention of