

rational for an instant to suppose, that any gentleman could be selected for so exalted a position without some permanent residence, and wherever that abiding spot might be, within the limits of our commonwealth, there might he, under all emergencies, be sought and found with as much certainty as though his home, as now directed, was at the very capitol itself. It was true, as had been said, that we had just imposed additional duties upon the office, by requiring that its future occupant should make certain periodical examinations of the accounts of the treasurer; but so long was the interval between these prescribed examinations, and so small would be the portion of time consumed in the investigations, that the objection to the proposition now under discussion, based upon that fact, seemed really of the slightest possible importance, and he was sure could not bear a feather's weight against the many benefits that would necessarily flow from its adoption.

Should the Convention concur in these views and desire to assimilate in this respect the instrument we are framing, to those that are working so happily around us the treasury would not only be relieved from the large expenditure now essential to the preservation of the government house, and adjacent property, but, that very property itself from being a burthen would doubtless be disposed of, and the proceeds added to the profitable capital of the State.

Trifling and insignificant as this economy might seem, it was due to a patient and patriotic people, that the spirit of retrenchment should be every where felt, consistent with the proper and faithful discharge of all the public interests, and he should gladly co-operate with reformers at all times in applying it to every department of the government.

Some there were who might regard the continuance of this gubernatorial residence and establishment as in some sort essential alike, to the dignity and to that character of hospitality which our noble old State had ever borne. He did not so regard it.

He believed the exalted reputation of Maryland could not be so easily marred. It was above and beyond any influence which could spring by possibility from such a source. And thus believing no feeling of false pride could turn him aside from that clear and unswerving line of duty owed to that constituency, who had so generously confided their interests in part to his keeping.

But the substitute under consideration proposes not only the abolition of the restriction as to residence, but the reduction of the salary of our Executive from the present extravagant compensation, to the more moderate and yet liberal sum of two thousand dollars annually. Strange as it may seem, a careful examination tests the fact that Maryland with a limited territory, with a sparse and small population—with a debt of millions—with enormous taxation clinging to every species of property—still continues recklessly to pay her Governor a salary equalled by but few of her sister States, however superior they may be in all the elements and resources of wealth.

Look to Connecticut giving to her chief magistrate the annual sum of eleven hundred dollars, and then for a moment glance your eye over the long line of distinguished names that have graced that position and guided her destiny with such unexampled success.

Turn to the Constitution of Massachusetts and to those of the thriving communities around her—or if unwilling to learn lessons of wisdom from the North, open the volume that contains the organic code of our own Southern sisters, and even there, with but few exceptions, our liberality seems, indeed, the grossest extravagance.

If we invoke the wisdom of the West, the same result becomes still more manifest. The great and growing State of Illinois with an area of square miles more than five times our own; and with a rapidly increasing population, amounting already to well nigh a million—rewards her Executive with the sum of fifteen hundred dollars.

Why, then, in view of all these examples, this enormous and most unwise extravagance upon our part? Other communities are as well governed—as prosperous and as happy! Why not like them let our liberality be ever tempered with a proper and wholesome economy—aye, sir, with an economy in character with our condition.

But we have been told by those who wage uncompromising warfare against this substitute, that its adoption as part of the organic law has the direct and unavoidable tendency of placing this high position entirely in the hands of the wealthy and the opulent. Was such indeed the case, he should have been the last to have desired to foster such a provision upon the Constitution. Respect for himself—respect for his own position, and for all similarly situated, would alike have forbidden it. Happily such an argument, or rather mere assertion, was sustained neither by reason, nor by past experience or present observation. All around us, in every section of the country, there had been, and were now bright and shining examples, utterly refuting, and with a power which language cannot express, such an objection. However successful we had been in linking the names of the pure and the intellectual with our own executive chair, justice requires us to say that other communities have not perhaps been less fortunate, even where the salaries were much inferior to the sum specified in the substitute. It was a fact well known to every member of the Convention, and to well-nigh every individual in the State, that it was this very provision requiring a permanent residence at the capital, which had attached to the Gubernatorial station such enormous expenditure, by surrounding it with extravagant customs, scarcely consistent with the simplicity of our republican institutions. And when he sought its abolition, he was influenced not only by a desire to effect a wholesome retrenchment, but to bring that exalted position within the reach of merit and intellect, however humble their pecuniary condition. If as seemed to be abundantly shown by the practical workings of other States, every official act could be discharged without