

The question was then announced as on the following amendment offered by Mr. Alvey.

“Strike out the words ‘or teacher’ in the first line, and the words ‘religious creed’ in the second line, and insert after the word ‘denomination,’ ‘while he continues in the exercise of his pastoral functions.’”

Mr. Dent thought the adoption of the amendment would act as an invitation to ministers to enter into political life.

Mr. Nelson said the last Legislature had seen the wisdom of excluding this class of people from such bodies as this, by inserting a similar provision in the act calling this Convention together.

Mr. McMaster rose to express his concurrence in the propriety of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr. Gill.) He could see no reason for this exclusion, and hoped the whole matter would be left to the people to decide whether this class should be admitted to legislative assemblies.

Mr. Maulsby said if the holder of the civil office was excluded, you must by the same rule of reason exclude the holder of the religious office, or if not so, you must acknowledge that the religious office is of less importance to mankind than the civil office. He could not accept the amendments which had been offered, because he could not but regard with an unmixed deference the high and holy calling of a minister of the Gospel, and because he could not consent that this high and holy office should be sunk in dignity beneath the civil office.

Mr. Jones said there was much to be said on both sides of this question, and he had listened to the debate with much interest. His reflection induced him to the same conclusion as that arrived at by the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Maulsby.) It could not be considered as any reflection on this class that this exclusion was applied to them equally with other classes.

Mr. Gill again took the floor, and read a letter which stated that the literal meaning of the section would exclude Sunday school teachers, and asked why lawyers also should not be excluded; and calculated that the number of preachers excluded in the State would approximate to