

to express feelings which I say none but a savage can entertain, a desire to see fire and fagot applied to my own kith and kin, to the children of my own blood. Sir, I will never do that while God grants me reason and common feeling.

I wish, therefore, to say to the gentleman that it is that character of the resolution which I regret. If the majority here think it important to express the sympathy and feeling of patriotic attachment to the Union on the part of this Convention, I have not the slightest objection to it. All I rose at first to say was that a vote upon this subject placed gentlemen like myself in a predicament which they could not escape; and which taking either horn of the dilemma, necessarily subjected them to remarks, suspicion, surmises, censures, calumnies, slanders, if you please, which they would desire to avoid. I desire as ardently as anybody can, and would as gladly see, this whole Union once more restored, and once again a united people. I have said so on all occasions. I do not desire to say I have no sympathy with the South. I have relations, the nearest and dearest, in that country, in whose welfare I feel as much interest as if they were this side of the Potomac. I am, therefore, gratified, and feel myself bound to say so to the two gentlemen from Baltimore city (Messrs. Stirling and Cushing) for the consideration they show, in doing a thing which they think proper, by doing it in a way not offensive to others.

Mr. BELT. I move to amend the resolution by adding the following:

"Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be taken to indorse any other theory of the existing war than that expressed in the resolution of Congress, of July, 1861; wherein the war is declared to be prosecuted, not in any spirit of oppression, or for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, or purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of any of the States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that as soon as those objects are accomplished the war ought to cease."

Mr. CHAMBERS. I submit whether, in consideration of the suggestion made by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling,) my friend from Prince George's (Mr. Belt) better not permit the resolution to pass without any interference with it. It is the work of the majority of the Convention; let them do as they please; we are not responsible for it. I hope my friend will withdraw his amendment.

Mr. BELT. Although I do not think those who force resolutions of this sort upon us are entitled to the courtesy of a withdrawal of

an amendment of this character, still I will withdraw it on this occasion.

Mr. STIRLING. I do not think it any courtesy at all to withdraw this amendment. On the contrary, I think the courtesy is extended to gentlemen on the other side. If they are disposed to enter into the contest, we are ready.

Mr. BELT. I will withdraw the amendment. But I wish to give full and fair notice that if any more of these propositions are submitted, I shall insist upon some amendment of this character.

Mr. STIRLING. I move the previous question; and I wish it distinctly understood that I hope nobody will call for the yeas and nays.

The demand for the previous question was seconded, and the main question was ordered.

The question being then taken, the preamble and resolution were adopted.

#### LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The Convention then resumed the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Legislative Department, which was on its second reading.

#### MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, &c.

The pending question was upon the motion of Mr. DANIEL to amend section nine, by striking out the following words:

"No minister or preacher of the gospel of any denomination, or of any religious persuasion, society, or sect, while he continues to serve as such; and."

So that the section, if amended, will read as follows:

"No person holding any civil office of profit, or profit and trust under this State, shall be eligible to the office of senator or delegate."

Mr. CHAMBERS. The proposition to amend, as I understand it, is based upon the theory that members of the clergy are proper persons to be members of the House of Delegates or of the Senate. I have long since formed and expressed an opinion upon the subject. The people of the State have long entertained the same opinion. This is no new feature in our Constitution. It is sanctified by time and experience. If persons competent to be members of the Legislature were so few in number that we were obliged to call in this class to fill up the gap, there would be some propriety in permitting them to hold seats in the Legislature. But while there are so many hundreds and thousands quite as much, perhaps very much more, competent to serve in the Legislature, while these gentlemen have opportunities for action vastly more in conformity with the purposes of their Creator, I think it is very unwise now to change the existing rule of our Constitution.

The minister of the gospel, by his own profession, is called by the Holy Spirit to