

Memorial of Joseph P. Merryman, and other citizens of Baltimore, remonstrating against any change in the charter of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company;

Which were severally read and referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. Neilson submitted the following memorial :

Which was ordered to be printed on the Journal.

*To the Honorable,*

*The General Assembly of Maryland :*

The offerers of this memorial, speaking for themselves and on behalf of the many citizens of the State who are asking of your honorable body a repeal of that ill-advised and oppressive piece of legislation known as the Sunday law, feeling that they and the cause which they represent have been treated with great injustice by opponents of the repeal, by being held up in a false light before the Legislature and the community in recent publications and speeches, especially by the Light Street Committee and their spokesman, who last week lectured the Legislature on the subject, respectfully ask leave to submit the following plain statement in defence of their position :

We declare, in the first place, that we do not yield to our opponents, or to any men living, in a reverence for the laws of God and the obligations of the highest and purest morality; and that we do not desire for our State any firmer foundation than what is supplied by "the immutable laws of God." We agree with the reverend gentleman who addressed the Legislature on Wednesday that "it is not the soil alone that is dear to the human heart, but the principles that control and govern the people—liberty, law, order, morals, the charms of friendship and all the amenities of life." We also agree that righteousness alone can secure these sacred principles as the possession and inheritance of a nation. Our conceptions of liberty, law, &c., are not, however, such as would uphold us in the attempt to fasten our private, religious opinions and ritualistic observances upon the necks of our fellow-citizens who differ with us in these matters; nor is the "righteousness" we believe in that of the Scribes and Pharisees. On this account we ask to be relieved of the yoke of the Puritan discipline, which we respectfully submit to your honorable body, is a perfectly distinct thing from "the immutable laws of God." with which the disingenuous artifice of our opponents has sought to confound it. We entreat the Legislators of Maryland to look calmly and candidly at the matter that they may not be deceived through this attempt at an unfair influencing of their judgments.

We hold that murder, adultery and theft are offences quite independently of the Law of Moses. They were offences before