

for which he was elected. The Governor shall be taken from the second district at the first election of Governor under this constitution; from the third district at the second election, and from the first district at the third election; and in like manner afterwards, from each district in regular succession.

The unfinished business, being the consideration of the Declaration of Rights, was then proceeded with.

Article 16 having been read, was passed over without amendment.

Article 17 was then read, as follows: "That retrospective laws punishing acts committed before the existence of such laws, and by them only declared criminal, are oppressive, unjust and incompatible with liberty; wherefore, no ex post facto law ought to be made."

Mr. Jones moved to amend by inserting at the end of the paragraph the words, "nor any retrospective oath or restriction be imposed or required." Adopted.

Articles 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 were read and passed over without amendment.

Article 23 was read, as follows:

"That no man ought to be taken, or imprisoned, or dis-seized of his freehold liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed or deprived of his life, liberty or property but by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land."

Mr. Holliday moved to amend by adding at the end the words, "on no pretext whatsoever," which was disagreed to.

Article 24 was read as follows:

"Slavery shall not be permitted in this State."

Mr. Ritchie moved to strike out the article.

Mr. Wethered seconded the motion.

Mr. Ritchie said slavery was abolished in this State in 1864, under the semblance of law, and its prohibition has since been incorporated into an amendment to the constitution of the United States. No act of ours is needed to make it more effective. We have, besides, a just claim upon Congress for compensation, and he would have this