

tion on May 29th, 1867, were referred, respectfully recommend that the said article 36 be amended as follows. that is to say:

“Strike out all of said article after the word ‘ministry,’ in line 10, and insert as follows:

“Nor shall any person, otherwise competent, be deemed incompetent as a witness or juror on account of his religious belief, provided he believes in the existence of God, and that, under His dispensation, such person will be held morally accountable for his acts, and be rewarded or punished therefor either in this world or the world to come. No person shall be deemed incompetent as a witness on account of race or color, but the General Assembly may, at any time hereafter, change or modify this clause, if they shall deem it expedient.”

Signed Isaac D. Jones, chairman; A. K. Syester, Thos. J. Hall, Bernard Carter, R. W. Ringgold, Chas. A. Buchanan, B. E. Harcastle, Geo. W. Manro, E. S. Rogers, Jno. B. Brooke, Isaac S. George, Geo. R. Howard, J. T. Stodert.

Mr. Nelson, of Frederick, presented a minority report from the same committee, as follows:

“We, the undersigned members of the committee on the Declaration of Rights, to whom was referred all amendments proposed to article 36, together with amendments of which notice had been given, with instructions to report at the meeting of the Convention on May 30th. submit the following report:

“Art. 36. That as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to Him, all persons are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty; wherefore no person ought, by any law, to be molested in his person or estate on account of his religious persuasion or profession, or for his religious practice, unless under color of religion any man shall disturb the good order, peace, or safety of the State, or shall infringe the laws of morality, or injure others in their natural, civil or religious rights; nor ought any person to be compelled to frequent or maintain, or contribute to maintain, unless on contract, any place of wor-