

promise was dangerous; but when it was a question of expediency, compromise was eminently proper. The vote which has just been taken demonstrated that a majority of this body was in favor of admitting negro testimony to the courts of justice. The debates had evidenced the fact that there are three classes here; first, those who believe that this provision should be inserted in the Bill of Rights; second, those who recognize the propriety of the insertion of the provision, but do not think the Bill of Rights is the place for it; and, thirdly, those who are opposed to making any provision in regard to the matter in the constitution at all. It thus appeared to him that some middle course could be adopted which would be acceptable to all.

Mr. Jones was gratified at the statement of the distinguished and experienced gentleman from Harford (Mr. Farnandis) that the time had come when this provision should be inserted in our constitution. He was glad that it was acknowledged that it was time to cease this conflict between the jurisdiction of the State of Maryland and of the United States—a contest in which we could not sustain ourselves, either in the forum of earth or of Heaven. So this provision was inserted in the constitution, he cared not where it found a place. Great Britain from the earliest time had never made any distinction in the application of this law on account of race or color, except in such of her colonies as where slavery existed.

Mr. McKaig was willing for this provision to go in almost anywhere, but the English language was broad enough to protect the negro without the use of the word **race or color**.

The order submitted by Mr. Farnandis was then adopted.

ELECTIVE FRANCHISE AND QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS.

Mr. Wickes presented the report of the committee upon the Elective Franchise and the Qualification of Voters, as follows:

The committee appointed to consider and report upon the Elective Franchise and the Qualification of Voters beg leave respectfully to make the following report: