

serted that the admission of the negro to the witness box would lead to his admission to the jury box. There was nothing further from the truth than this. The one was a civil and the other a political right. As had been stated, women had testified for generations, and yet had never been admitted to political rights. Again, objection was made on the score of liability of injustice to the white man. He feared that this matter was not well understood in the counties, that the proper distinction was not drawn between competency and credibility. There was an idea afloat that it would put a white man at the mercy of every negro who will swear to this or that, but the cross-examination to which the witnesses will be subjected will leave no possible opportunity of injustice to the white man.

Mr. Jones advanced other arguments also at some length.

Mr. Pleasants moved an amendment to the order of Mr. Farnandis to strike out all after the word "color."

Mr. Gill took the floor in support of the amendment just offered, and agreed that it should be placed in such a way that the Legislature could not possibly change it. He was as much opposed as any man in the State to giving the negro the right of suffrage, the right to hold office, or the right to sit on a jury, but as far as his (Mr. G.'s) voice went, he should have every other right.

Mr. Dobbins said he was satisfied that this was a matter deep down in the hearts of members, and he agreed that a middle, temperate ground was the best plan, and he would sacrifice his convictions that the Bill of Rights was the proper place for this article, and would vote for the order of the gentleman from Harford, (Mr. Archer.)

Mr. George also said that in the spirit of compromise he now intended to accept the proposition of the gentleman from Harford; so, also did Mr. Brown.

Mr. Rider said his people of Somerset did not want this thing and would not submit to it.

Mr. Page and Mr. Jones took issue with him. The latter said that he had nearly a year since published his views on this subject, had made speeches in the Legisla-