

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 the 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, unless on contract, to maintain any place of worship, or any ministry; 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."

Article 37 was read, as follows:

"Article 37. That no other test or qualification ought to be required, on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of office and qualification as may be prescribed by this constitution or by the laws of the State, and a declaration of belief in the Christian religion, or in the existence of God, and in a future state of rewards and punishments."

Mr. George advocated the striking out of the words "declaration of belief in the Christian religion," as being due to a large and worthy class of our fellow-citizens. The Israelites of Baltimore city composed a numerous class; they were good citizens, intelligent and upright men, and should not be excluded, on account of their religious belief, from a participation in the rewards of the government, towards the support of which they contributed so largely.

Mr. Barnes said there were many men who would swear away your life for a dollar, and yet who would declare their belief in the Christian religion, and in a future state of rewards and punishments, and there were many who would declare no such belief, and yet were honorable and conscientious men. It was behind the age for Mary-