

Mr. Merrick moved to strike out the entire section. The ordinary penal laws provided for the punishment of the offenses therein named, and this was the first time that it was proposed to put such a provision in the organic law of the State. Was there any necessity for inserting such a provision? Did not the law of impeachment provide for the punishment in such cases of any executive or judicial officer? The more serious objection to the section was that it violated the principle of the Declaration of Rights, which declares that no man shall be compelled to give evidence against himself.

Mr. Brown said the section was one of very great importance. The question was simply this: Shall the ancient honor of the State of Maryland be kept untarnished or not? Shall the integrity of our republican institutions be kept pure, or not? Because he (Mr. B.) saw that the purity of our institutions was involved, he earnestly advocated the adoption of this section, or something better. In reply to the objections of the gentleman from Howard, (Mr. Merrick,) he maintained that there was a necessity for this section. He could not prove before a jury that bribery and corruption had of late prevailed in our legislative bodies, but the charge had been made, not only by the people, but by the press, and with such proofs that he believed it.

Mr. Wickes moved an amendment to strike out the clause compelling persons offering bribes to testify against those receiving them.

After further debate, in which Messrs. McKaig, Wickes, Carter, Maulsby, Garey, Merrick, Pleasants and Gill participated, both amendments were disagreed to, and the section adopted as reported.

Mr. Barnes rose and asked unanimous consent to submit the following order, which was agreed to, and the order adopted:

*Ordered*, That a committee of five be appointed by the President to visit the Convention of Teachers, now in session in this city, and tender to them our high appreciation of the cause in which they are engaged, and extend to them a cordial invitation to visit, at their convenience, the sittings of this Convention.