

by the vote of the entire body except on a few points of the most vital importance, on which we all did not agree. It is true that some propositions were submitted and discussed which were not put to a vote, and therefore are more proper to be proposed to the Convention in another form than to be submitted in this report. The first point on which we all did not agree was the proposition of the 24th article, to wit: "that slavery shall not be permitted in this State." I did not, Mr. Speaker, see the necessity for inserting this clause, but, on the contrary, I saw a great many reasons why it should not be inserted, and I, therefore, as one of the committee, objected to it.

The remaining proposition on which we all did not agree was the concluding part of the 36th article, declaring that "no person shall be deemed incompetent as a witness on account of race or color." On this startling proposition we stood, a full committee not being present, 11 for it to 10 against it. Had there been a full attendance and a fair discussion of the subject, some of us entertain the belief that this clause would not have been added. This, however, is only the expression of an opinion. We, therefore, submit the whole matter to this Convention, content to abide by its action.

Very respectfully submitted for himself, and on the last proposition for others of the committee.

J. Montgomery Peters.

Mr. Nelson said, as one of the minority of the committee, he wished to be understood that he dissented from the views of the report.

Mr. Perry, as one of the minority, also dissented from the language of the report. In regard to the clause concerning slavery he made no objection, as he considered slavery was gone forever, and the issue was dead. In regard to the clause relating to negro testimony, he did not object to the extension of this privilege if it was done in the proper manner, but it did not belong, and ought not to be in the organic law of the State. It should be left to the Legislature, which would be fresh from the people, and better represent their views to pass the proper provisions on the subject.

Mr. Brown asked if the gentleman was in order?