

STATE OF NEW YORK,  
*Executive Department,*  
 Albany, Dec. 2d, 1850.

To the Hon. J. G. CHAPMAN,  
*President of the Maryland State Convention, Annapolis:*

SIR—Your favor of 25th ult., covering a copy of a resolution of the Convention now in session in your State, has this day been received. I have referred it to the Secretary of State, with the request that he will furnish you with the information desired, with respect to the State of New York.

With much respect,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 HAMILTON FISH.

Which was read and with the reports therein mentioned referred to the committee on Education.

On motion of Mr. Biser, it was

Ordered, That the committee to consider and report a Declaration of Rights, inquire into the expediency of engraving a section in the Declaration of Rights, that no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office of public trust; that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall for ever be allowed in this State; and that no person shall be rendered incompetent to be a witness on account of his opinions on matters of religious belief; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured, shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this State.

The President laid before the Convention a report from the Register of Wills of Cecil county, in obedience to the order of the Convention of the 15th ultimo;

Which was read and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Hicks submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the committee on Education be requested to inquire into the propriety of causing the Scriptures to be made a standard book for the use of public schools in this State, to be hereafter established, and report their conclusion to this Convention.

Which was read, and

On motion of Mr. Fitzpatrick,  
 Laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Phelps, it was

Ordered, That the committee on Representation of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and a proper apportionment of representation in the same, be and they are hereby directed to inquire into the propriety and expediency of limiting the number of members of the House of Delegates of this State to forty; provided the present ratio of representation between the Eastern and Western Shores be not disturbed.

Mr. Davis submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the committee to consider and report respecting