

as witnesses, jurors or judges, or other officers under the constitution and laws of this State, any Atheist or other person who does not believe in any accountability to the Supreme Being for his acts;”

Mr. Ridgely, accepted this amendment as a substitute for the amendment offered by him.

The question then recurred upon the adoption of the amendment;

Mr. Ridgely, moved the question be taken by yeas and nays, and being ordered, appeared as follows :

AFFIRMATIVE—Messrs. Morgan, Hopewell, Bell, Welch, Ridgely, Eccleston, Chambers, of Cecil, Miller, Bowie, McCubbin, Thomas, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Sappington, Gwinn, Brent, of Balt. city, Fiery, John Newcomer, Michael Newcomer, Weber, Parke, Ege, Shower and Cockey—25.

NEGATIVE—Messrs. Chapman, President, Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Mitchell, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Raudall, Kent, Sellman, Weems, Dalrymple, Merrick, Buchanan, Chandler, Sherwood, of Talbot, Colston, John Dennis, Crisfield, Dashiell, Williams, Phelps, McLane, Sprigg, George, McMaster, Fooks, Jacobs, Stephenson, McHenry, Nelson, Carter, Stewart of Caroline, Harbine, Davis, Anderson, Hollyday and Slicer—38.

So the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Biser, then moved to amend said 33rd article, by striking out from the word “liberty” in the 3rd line, to the end of said article, and inserting in lieu thereof, the following :

“Therefore, 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 ever be allowed in this State, and that no person shall be rendered incompetent to be a witness on account of his opinion on matters of religious belief, but the liberty of conscience hereby secured, shall not be construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this State.”

Mr. Dorsey, moved as a substitute for said amendment to add at the end of said article, the following :

“Nor shall any person be deemed incompetent as a witness or juror or disqualified to hold any office under the laws or constitution of this State, except as hereinafter provided by the constitution of this State, who believes in the existence of a 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 in the world to come;”

Which amendment Mr. Biser accepted.

The question then recurred upon the adoption of the amendment.