

of rendering the penal and criminal laws, both in regard to the character and grade of offence and degree of punishment, definite and precise; confiding to the court no greater discretion in prescribing the latter than would be unavoidable.

4th. Ordered, That the same committee consider the expediency of directing the Legislature to provide for a general revision of the statutes of the State,—to simplify suits and pleadings; to authorise the trial of causes by special juries; and to establish such regulations concerning the duties and compensation of attorneys and counsellors, as would ensure fidelity and purity in the profession, and properly guard the rights and interests of suitors.

Which were twice read and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tuck, it was

Ordered, That the committee on the Judiciary Department consider the propriety of conferring upon the county courts, the appointment of justices of the peace, justices of the magistrates courts, constables and coroners.

The President laid before the Convention a communication from D. H. Hanlon, Esq., stating that the 14th standing rule of the Convention, recently adopted, excluded all persons from within the bar “except Members and Officers of the Convention,” and asking as a representative of the Press, permission to a seat within the bar.

Which was read.

Mr. John Dennis, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of this body, be authorised to invite and provide suitable accommodations for such Reporters as may desire seats upon the floor of this Hall.

Which was twice read and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Dent, it was

Ordered, That the committee on the Judiciary, enquire into the expediency of abolishing special pleading in the courts of law of this State.

Mr. Dent, submitted the following resolutions:

1st. Resolved, That the committee to consider and report respecting the elective franchise, inquire into the propriety of engraving into the Constitution of Maryland, some provision restricting from future foreign immigrants to the State of Maryland, the right of suffrage, until they shall have been residents of said State for at least ten years after they shall have given notice to the proper authorities, of their intention to become citizens of the United States, and have been fully naturalized according to the laws of the United States.

2d. Resolved, That the committee to consider and report respecting the elective franchise, inquire into the propriety of engraving into the Constitution of Maryland, some provision by which all voters who shall sell their votes, or otherwise dispose of them for pay or compensation, shall upon conviction of the same, be deprived of the privilege of voting at any election in the State for at least ten years after said conviction, and shall be forever disqualified to hold any office of profit or trust in this State;—and