

they dissent from the report submitted by the majority of the Committee.

First. Because they believe the authority given to soldiers in camp to vote at all elections, will utterly fail to have the effect proposed by those who advocate the measure; on the contrary, as the undersigned believe, it will enable the officers who command the soldiers, to control the votes of those who feel and know the power of their officers, to make them suffer in various ways the penalty of disobedience to their wishes. To a soldier on duty, the first great lesson taught, is obedience to his commanding officer. Military necessity requires a rigid exaction of this duty, it allows of no discussion or discretion. To fail in the smallest respect insures harsh treatment, even in cases where martial law prescribes no specific penalty. It will not be doubted that the only safe approach to the favor of an officer is to gratify his wishes by voting his ticket.

Second. But whatever may be the propriety of taking the votes of soldiers or their officers, the undersigned cannot permit themselves to doubt of the concurrence of the Convention in their determined opposition to so much of the report of the majority as provides for the immediate operation of portions of the Constitution before its adoption by the people. Surely if any one proposition, in regard to our proceedings was universally accepted by all who voted, whether for or against a Convention, it was this, that its work was to be submitted to and accepted by the people of the State before it should have any effect. Yet the majority propose that now at the very moment when the question of adoption is being taken, in the very act of taking that question, the people shall be bound and governed by it, so far as it relates to some of its most important and vital changes of the existing system of government. What a strange spectacle would be exhibited if the provisions now proposed should be enforced as part of the new Constitution, in direct opposition to the existing Constitution, and yet the result show that the people will not accept the new Constitution? The present Constitution exists until the new one is adopted. How then can the provisions of the present Constitution be violated, or interfered with, until the new one has an existence by the adoption of the people? The great purpose of the majority seems to be, to deprive those who form the constituency of this Convention of the privilege secured to them by the present Constitution of passing upon the work of this body, and to this end, by newly contrived oaths and by the aid of the military, to confirm their proceedings. For these amongst other reasons, the undersigned