

Mr. THOMAS asked and obtained leave of absence.

The convention then took a recess until half-past three o'clock, P. M.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention reassembled at half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.

The roll was called, and the following members answered to their names :

Messrs. Goldsborough, President ; Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Belt, Billingsley, Blackiston, Brooks, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Cunningham, Cushing, Dail, Davis, of Charles, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Dent, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Galloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Henkle, Hollyday, Horsey, Johnson, Jones, of Cecil, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, Markey, McComas, Mitchell, Morgan, Mullikin, Murray, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Thomas, Todd, Turner, Valiant, Wickard, Wilmer, Wooden—63.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mr. WICKARD. On yesterday I asked leave of this convention to be absent until this morning, but the vote was rather equivocal, and I declined going last evening. I now ask leave to be absent until to-morrow morning.

Leave was accordingly granted.

#### SCHEDULE.

The convention then resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the schedule, which was on its second reading.

#### VOTE ON THE CONSTITUTION.

The section under consideration was the following :

“At the said election, the vote shall be by ballot, and each ballot shall describe thereon the words ‘for the constitution,’ or ‘against the constitution,’ as the voter may elect, and it shall be conducted in all respects as the general elections of this State are now conducted. The judges of election shall administer to every person offering to vote, the oath or affirmation prescribed by this constitution, and should any person offering to vote refuse or decline to take said oath, he shall not be permitted to vote at such election, but the taking of such oath or affirmation shall not be deemed conclusive evidence of the right of such person to vote; and it shall be the duty of the return judges of said city and of the several counties of the State, having counted the votes given for or against the adoption of this constitution, to certify the result thereof in the manner now prescribed by law, accompanied with a special statement that every person, who has voted,

has taken the oath or affirmation prescribed by the constitution; and the governor upon receiving such result and ascertaining the aggregate vote throughout the State, shall by his proclamation make known the same, and if a majority of the votes cast shall be for the adoption of the constitution, it shall go into effect on the first day of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-four.”

The pending question was on the motion of Mr. DENT to amend the section, by striking out the following words :

“The judges of election shall administer to every person offering to vote, the oath or affirmation prescribed by this constitution, and should any person offering to vote refuse or decline to take said oath, he shall not be permitted to vote at such election, but the taking of such oath or affirmation shall not be deemed conclusive evidence of the right of such person to vote.”

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. When this test oath, as reported by the committee on the elective franchise, was under consideration, and was amended on motion of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling,) it was my intention to have addressed the convention upon that subject. But after the honorable gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling) had concluded his argument, the previous question as usual, was called and sustained by this house, and I was denied the privilege of speaking.

I regret that the honorable gentleman from Baltimore city has thought it his duty to introduce that amendment, which has now become part and parcel of the constitution, as passed under the article of elective franchise. I regret it the more, because having served with that honorable gentleman in the Senate of Maryland, and having realized through his aid and liberality the success of some very important local measures before that body, I entered this house with the most kindly feelings toward him. And although I felt that at that period he entertained very mistaken, and as I thought dangerous, views in regard to the powers of the federal government, yet I had hoped that time, with the horrors of this sanguinary struggle, and the present condition of our bleeding country, had made some changes or modifications in his opinions. And exercising, as he does here, all his talents and his abilities, and a most important influence upon the deliberations of this body, I did hope that it would have been his pleasure as also his duty to have introduced some measure or measures looking to a compromise of our difficulties, and the bridging of this unfortunate chasm, and the healing of the divisions by which we are surrounded. In this hope, and in this expectation I have been doomed to disappointment.

I find that that amendment, which went much farther than the report of the committee