

fences proposed to be tried before judges of election and punished by disfranchisement, amounts to treason against the United States, for the trial and punishment of which the law of congress provides. I submit that the constitutional jurisdiction of the United States courts over this and other criminal offences against the United States, is exclusive of State jurisdiction to try and punish the same offences in any way whatever. I vote "no."

Mr. MITCHELL. I am here from a county whose people almost unanimously voted against the calling this convention together. But I came here prepared to unite with gentlemen in framing such a constitution that if adopted would be for the interest of the people of this State. In that I have been disappointed. I have found that no proposition coming from the minority upon this floor, has been acceptable, unless indorsed by certain gentlemen of the majority. Upon the only two or three occasions when I could have wished to express my opinions, or join in the debate, I have been cut off by the operation of the previous question, and the operation of the most stringent rules ever adopted by any legislative body.

I shall vote against this constitution, and therefore I have taken no active part in the proceedings of this body, but have contented myself with simply voting. I shall vote against this constitution, first, because it affects my own county by the abolition of slavery in perhaps a greater degree than any other county in the State. I coincide with and represent the opinions of my constituents upon that subject. And even had I agreed to the necessity of a provision of that sort, I never could have voted for it, when it refused compensation to the holders of that property, who have been ruined by this measure. You have not only refused that compensation, but you have put into your organic law a provision prohibiting the legislature from hereafter making any such compensation.

And I do not see that the people of this State will be benefited by the changes made in the constitution in other respects. But I do see that a large portion of them have been disfranchised by the test oaths you have incorporated here.

And more than that; if I approved this constitution in all other respects, I could not, with my views, vote for any proposition which seeks to go against the law which called this convention into being, and regulated its proceedings so far as the legislature had the right to do it. I could not go for a provision which puts a portion of this constitution into force before its adoption by the people, and which if rejected would present the anomalous spectacle of a body whose acts have been rejected, having legislated in such a manner as to affect the rights of the people. I vote "no."

Mr. PUGH. I have only this to say: I tried hard to be elected to come to this convention. And I am free to say that there has never been afforded to me in my life so far, any opportunity in which I have more reason to rejoice, than I have in voting for this constitution. I vote "aye."

Mr. CHAMBERS. I regard this constitution as a most unwarrantable seizure of property, and a wanton attack upon the rights of those in regard to whom we were sent here to afford protection for their persons, liberty, property, and every other political right. So regarding it, I vote against its adoption. I vote "no."

The PRESIDENT and SECRETARY then proceeded to sign the constitution in due form.

On motion of Mr. HEBB, it was

*Ordered*, That the secretary of the convention proceed forthwith to deposit the constitution as adopted, passed, signed and attested, in the office of the clerk of the court of appeals.

#### THANKS TO THE OFFICIAL REPORTERS.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS, it was

*Ordered*, That the thanks of this convention are due and are hereby tendered to Wm. Blair Lord, Esq., the reporter, and to Henry M. Parkhurst, Esq., assistant reporter, for the impartial, faithful and efficient manner they have reported the debates of this convention.

#### COMPENSATION FOR SLAVES.

On motion of Mr. AUDOUN,

The convention resumed the consideration of the order submitted by Mr. AUDOUN this morning, and informally passed over, which order was as follows:

*Ordered*, That before any person shall receive the benefits to be derived from the resolutions offered by the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Berry,) [namely, providing for the general assembly to receive such moneys as the government may think proper to appropriate to loyal owners of slaves in this State,] the persons so claiming shall take and subscribe to the oath as prescribed in this constitution, in the article on the elective franchise."

The question was upon the adoption of the order.

Upon this question Mr. AUDOUN called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

The question was then taken, by yeas and nays, and resulted—yeas 50, nays 25—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Berry, of Baltimore county, Brooks, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Hoffman, Hopper, Jones, of Cecil, Keefer, Kennard, King, Larsh, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Multi-