

Senate bill entitled an Act to amend Section 1, of Article 1, of the Constitution of the State of Maryland.

Accompanied by the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Judicial Proceedings having had under consideration Senate bills Nos. 209 and 210, beg leave to report :

The object of both of said bills is, by Constitutional amendment, to strike from the Declaration of Rights and from the Constitution the word "white," so that there may be no restriction upon the right of suffrage, as to any class of citizens of this State. Your Committee deems it unnecessary to involve the State in the expense incident to the proposed change, and in view of the interest this subject has excited, especially in the colored citizens of this State, the Committee considers it proper to give, very briefly, the reasons for the conclusions to which it has arrived.

It will be remembered that the present Constitution of the State was adopted in the year 1867.

By Chapter 364, of the Acts of 1874, a Constitutional amendment was submitted to the people of this State for their adoption, and the Comptroller's Report shows that the cost to the people amounted to the sum of \$5,325.00.

The costs of the amendments now proposed would equal, and probably exceed this sum, and in the present condition of the Treasury of the State, your Committee is unwilling to advise the expenditure of such a sum for said purpose, especially as we deem it utterly unnecessary, the object sought by said bills being already fully attained. The second Article of the Bill of Rights of this State, declares "That the Constitution of the United States, and the laws made, or which shall be made, in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, are the supreme law of the State, and the Judges of this State, and all the people of this State are, and shall be, bound thereby, anything in the laws or Constitution of this State to the contrary, notwithstanding."

It is well-known to everybody that on the 16th of June, 1866, what is called the 14th Amendment to the Federal Constitution, was declared to be adopted, and that on the 30th of March, 1870, what is known as the 15th Amendment, was declared to be a part of the same Constitution.

The effect of these two amendments to the Constitution of