

proposition, was finally reconsidered and defeated on September 2. The yeas and nays were demanded in the vote on the main proposition and showed that a number of the minority were now against it, the cause of this change being in all likelihood the same as that given by Mr. Chambers, who now opposed the proposition as "encumbered with loyalty oaths."⁸⁵

From the above results of the action on the slavery and emancipation questions it can be seen that although the minority skilfully advocated one point after another, and tried their best to secure some of the old privileges from the general ruin that threatened them, they were overpowered and defeated on every point of importance, and had only the poor consolation of a vague chance of national compensation which after all never came to pass.

A second great question involved in the Declaration of Rights, and one which vitally affected several of the provisions of the Constitution, was that of allegiance to the United States. The report of the committee contained the following as Article 4⁸⁶—"the Constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, being the supreme law of the land, every citizen of this state owes paramount allegiance to the Constitution and Government of the United States, and is not bound by any law or ordinance of this state in contravention or subversion thereof."

This declaration, enjoining upon the citizen a proper allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, which presupposes allegiance to the Government when constitutionally conducted, thus contained in addition the dangerous principle of absolutely denying any original or inherent rights on the part of the State of Maryland, which would enable it to make the least opposition to any acts the National Government might see fit to commit. While the

⁸⁵ Proc., 689-91; Deb., iii, 1797-1800.

⁸⁶ Proc., 58. (Article 5 in Constitution as adopted.)