

the Constitution will be followed in part, and in part a grouping by subjects.¹⁰⁸

Article 1, on the Elective Franchise, largely followed the plan of the corresponding article in the preceding Constitution. It also contained one of the best of the new provisions, that requiring the General Assembly to provide for a uniform registration of the names of the voters of the state, a thing as yet unknown in Maryland. This registration was made the evidence of the qualification of citizens to vote at all elections.¹⁰⁹ In relation to bribery, section 5 of the same article added to the former prohibitive provision a clause disfranchising a person guilty of fraud in procuring for himself or any other person a nomination for any office. This was the result of a motion by Mr. Stockbridge, who desired to incorporate in addition the application of this provision to primary meetings and nominating conventions, an advanced reform movement only beginning to be considered at the present day. The Convention voted it down as impracticable.¹¹⁰

The oaths of allegiance for voters and public officials as contained in this article were perhaps the most unpopular feature of the Constitution, and did more to cause its reluctant acceptance by the state and its final abrogation in 1867¹¹¹ than any other one thing in connection with it. They were of course the direct outcome of the war and only applicable to the conditions arising at that time. General Schenck's much-discussed order governing the elections of 1863, the various invasions and raids into

¹⁰⁸ The entire new Constitution, as adopted, may be found in Proc., 721-70.

¹⁰⁹ Proc., 434, 513, 686; Deb., iii, 1784. This provision was carried out by the Legislature of 1865. See Steiner, "Citizenship and Suffrage in Maryland," pp. 47-8.

¹¹⁰ Proc., 510-1; Deb., ii, 1381-3. Mr. Miller had desired to make voting compulsory by an article in the "Declaration of Rights," Proc., 111-2.

¹¹¹ The present Constitution of Maryland was formed in that year.