

Maryland by Southern forces during the last two years, and the many instances of divided sympathy consequent upon the position of Maryland as a border state; all these facts may be considered as exerting a strong influence toward this radical action on the part of the majority members. The report handed in by the four Union members of the Committee on Elective Franchise¹¹² had contained a test oath as a qualification for office, which was afterwards amended to make it more stringent. A minority report handed in by Messrs. Brown of Queen Anne's and Marbury of Prince George's¹¹³ had contained merely an oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of Maryland. Neither report contained a test oath for voters. Mr. Stirling on August 11 offered the amendments which were finally adopted as section 4, and prescribed the disqualifications arising under the war, and the additional oath for voters.¹¹⁴ The provision, which was quite long, forever disfranchised and prohibited from holding office all those who had at any time been in armed hostility to the United States or in any manner "in the service of the so-called Confederate States of America," who had voluntarily gone South for that purpose, had given aid, comfort, countenance or support to the enemies of the United States or adhered to them by contributing to them, or "unlawfully sending within the lines of such enemies money or goods or letters or information," or "disloyally held communication with them." In addition there were included under the ban all those who had "advised any person to enter the service of the said enemies, or aided any person so to enter or who [had] by any open word or deed declared [their] adhesion to the cause of the enemies of the United States, or [their] desire for the triumph of said enemies over the arms of the United States." These disqualifications could be removed only by service in the military forces of the Union,

¹¹² Proc., 431-3.

¹¹³ Proc., 449-51.

¹¹⁴ Proc., 463-8.