

or by an act of the General Assembly passed by a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to each house, and restoring the offender to his full rights of citizenship. The "Officers of Registration" and "Judges of Election" were "carefully to exclude from voting, or being registered, all persons so as above disqualified." The hands of these officials were strengthened by the additional clause that "the taking of such oath shall not be deemed conclusive evidence of the right of such person to vote," thus leaving to them individually the final judgment in the matter. In order to cover the first election under the Constitution and the subsequent registration for which the Legislature was to provide, the above-given oath was required of all voters and the Judges of Election must state in the returns that this provision had been complied with.¹¹⁵ Mr. Berry of Prince George's attempted to insert a clause limiting the imposition of the oath to cases where there was a challenge "by a legally qualified voter, resident of said district or ward in which the vote is offered," but it was voted down 12 yeas to 47 nays.¹¹⁶ A similar fate had befallen the attempt of Mr. Davis of Charles to declare in the first section of the same article that "all persons [should] be considered loyal who [had] not been convicted in some Court of Law of disloyalty."¹¹⁷

Mr. Stirling also offered the provision which was adopted, with several amendments, and contained an equally stringent oath of office.¹¹⁸ It required of "every person elected or appointed" to any office under the Constitution or laws pursuant thereto, that he should not only swear allegiance to the Constitution, Laws, and Government of the United States "as the supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of this or any state, to the contrary, notwithstanding," and that he had not used any unfair meas-

¹¹⁵ Mr. Stirling distinctly stated this object, Deb., ii, 1272.

¹¹⁶ Proc., 466-7. See Nelson, "Baltimore," p. 573.

¹¹⁷ Proc., 462-3.

¹¹⁸ Proc., 472-4, 505-8 (Section 7 in Constitution).