

ures, of bribery or illegal voting, but in addition that he had "never directly or indirectly by word, act, or deed, given any aid, comfort or encouragement to those in rebellion against the United States or lawful authorities, thereof," but that he had been truly and loyally on the Union side. Further, that he would to the best of his abilities protect and defend the Union and "at all times discountenance and oppose all political combinations having for their object such dissolution or destruction." Mr. Scott of Cecil had offered an amendment to the original report requiring the officer-elect to swear among other extravagant things that he had "uniformly and at all times denounced [those in rebellion] not only as rebels against and traitors to their country, but as enemies of the human race"! However, Mr. Stirling's amendment was the one which superseded this latter.<sup>119</sup> An additional provision offered by Mr. Stirling was adopted, which required all those in office under the preceding Constitution to take the above oath of office within thirty days after the new instrument had gone into effect. The office should be *ipso facto* vacant if the incumbent should fail to fulfill this condition.<sup>120</sup>

As was to be expected, the minority stoutly opposed these oaths or tests, declaring them to be especially directed against the large number of true Union men who opposed the "usurpations" of the National Government.<sup>121</sup> An unsuccessful series of bitter and sarcastic amendments was offered by Mr. Jones of Somerset putting the observance of the "Ten Commandments" in the test oath, and the affirmation that the person had "faithfully supported the Constitution of the United States against all violations of the same whether in the Northern or Southern States, or in any department of the Government of the United States, civil or military."<sup>122</sup> A more serious attempt to

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<sup>119</sup> Proc., 422-4, 505-8.

<sup>121</sup> Deb., ii, 1334.

<sup>120</sup> Proc., 512-3.

<sup>122</sup> Proc., 449-500.