

An act to amend the 37th article of the Code of Public General Laws, by repealing the 1st 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th sections, of said article, relating to the competency of witnesses and inserting in said article in lieu of the sections so repealed the following sections relating to the competency of witnesses and the examination of parties, reported it with the following amendments:

In the 2d line of the 1st section strike out the words "crime or;"

In the 1st section strike out all after the word "witness," in the 14th line, down to and including the word "offence," in the 16th line;

In the 7th section strike out all after the word "suit," in the 4th line, to the end of the section;

Which were read and adopted, and

The bill was read the second time.

Mr. Goldsborough, of Dorchester, from the committee on Federal Relations, to which was referred the joint resolutions respecting the agitation of the slavery question reported them without amendment, and

The resolutions were read the second time.

Mr. Goldsborough, of Dorchester, from the committee on Federal Relations, to which was referred joint resolutions relating to the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, reported them with the following amendment:

In line 14 strike out the word "Government" and insert "Congress."

Pending its consideration, the hour arrived for considering the Order of the Day.

On motion of Mr. Goldsborough, of Dorchester, It was postponed to 1 o'clock.

The question upon the adoption of the amendment was determined in the affirmative by yeas and nays as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.

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| Messrs. | Everett, | Lankford, |
| Goldsborough, Pt. | Firey, | Sellman, |
| Bayne, | Goldsborough, of | Smith, |
| Denison, | Dorchester, | Waters, |
| Eichelberger, | Harrison, | Willis—13. |

NEGATIVE.

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| Messrs. Billingsley, | Jenkins, | Watkins, |
| Briscoe, | Lynch, | Whitaker—8. |
| Heckart, | Townsend, | |