

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
your obedient servant,

H. W. COLLIER.

Which was read.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM OF ALABAMA.

The PRESIDENT also laid before the Convention the following communication from His Excellency, the Governor of Alabama:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER. }
Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 6, 1851. }

HON. J. G. CHAPMAN:

SIR: During my absence from the Seat of Government, your letter of the twenty-fifth of November, was laid upon my table, instead of being sent to my residence, Tuscaloosa, as my Secretary should have done; and consequently, did not meet my eye until within the last week. I now answer it as a mere apology for my seeming neglect.

Our educational system may be seen by a reference to the laws of Alabama, which are deposited in the department of State, of the several States. We have a University endowed with \$250,000, six per cent. State stock, a small annual revenue from rents, &c.

We have a sixteenth section school fund, amounting to more than \$1,000,000, invested in six per cent. State stock. This fund being in common, but to the townships in proportion to the sum, at which their respective sixteenth section sold, is doing but little good, especially in the poor districts where it is most needed.

In Mobile and the larger towns, the common school system of education, if properly managed succeeds very well, but in the sparsely populated parts of the State, it has not hitherto promised very beneficial results.

The lands given us by Congress, for the establishment of a "Seminary of Learning," have not yielded one-half the sum at which they could have been sold, owing to the unwise and extraordinary legislation in respect to them. But the fund is now well secured. The same remark will apply to many of the sixteenth sections.

I am sure this information will be worth nothing to the Convention, even if it had not adjourned. Even as a matter of history, it is hardly worth reading.

With great respect, I have the honor to be,
your obedient servant,

H. W. COLLIER.

Which was read, and

Referred to committee No. 14.

LICENSE SYSTEM.

The PRESIDENT also laid before the Convention a petition from sundry citizens of Washington county, praying that provision may be made in the new Constitution, that the privilege to sell intoxicating liquor shall not be granted to any person in any part of the State, except the same shall first be sanctioned or approved of by a majority of the votes in the district where the same is to be sold.

Which was read,

Mr. DORSEY said, this was an important subject, and he moved the reference of the petition to a select committee, to be composed of seven members.

Ordered accordingly.

KENT COUNTY.

The PRESIDENT also laid before the Convention a report from the clerk of the Levy court of Kent county, in relation to the fees allowed the Attorney General and his Deputies by said county.

Which was read, and

Referred to the committee appointed on the Attorney General and his Deputies.

Mr. JACOBS expressed a desire to change his vote on the second branch of the substitute amendment, which he had yesterday offered.

The PRESIDENT said, that the result would not be changed by the change of the gentleman's vote; but that the unanimous consent of the Convention would be required to enable the gentleman to make the change.

No objection having been made,

The vote of Mr. JACOBS was changed on the said proposition, from the affirmative to the negative.

THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. DORSEY, who had been absent from his seat yesterday, for a considerable portion of the day, in consequence of indisposition, expressed a desire to move certain amendments to sections twenty-seven, thirty, thirty-one and thirty-three, of the report of the legislative department, which had been passed upon. And he desired to move a reconsideration of these sections with a view to move the amendments.

Mr. D. was proceeding to explain the character of his amendments, when

Mr. THOMAS suggested that it would be better that the sections should be reconsidered separately—that the Convention might the better understand the several propositions of the gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey.)

Mr. DORSEY, accepting the suggestion, moved a reconsideration of the vote, by which the twenty-seventh section of the report had been adopted.

The vote was reconsidered.

Mr. DORSEY then moved to amend the said section by striking out in the second line, the words "breach of the peace," and inserting in lieu thereof "other criminal offence."

Mr. D. said, it seemed to him to be proper that, if members of the legislature were to be subjected to arrest for treason or felony, they ought also to be subjected to arrest for receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen, and for other offences.

Mr. THOMAS suggested that the object of the gentleman would be accomplished by striking out the words "breach of the peace," and inserting the words "or other criminal offences."

Mr. DORSEY accepted the modification.

The amendment was agreed to.

And the section, as amended, was adopted.