

ever true is the proposition that the Constitution of the United States and the Laws made in pursuance thereof, are the Supreme Law of the land, yet it has never been deemed necessary by the statesmen who framed that Constitution, or by those who framed the Constitution of this State, or, in so far as the undersigned have learned, by the framers of any one of the numerous Constitutions of the other States, to insert amongst the rights and prerogatives of their citizens any language enforcing the obligation of allegiance to the Government of the United States.

Nor do the undersigned perceive the necessity for a departure from the universal practice that has obtained in all the States, and which practice has been adhered to even in those instances where Constitutions have been framed in the midst of the existing civil war; or for the voluntary offering of allegiance to the Government, on an assumed condition of hostility in the legislation of the State to the Government of the United States.

The undersigned also dissent from the adoption of the 23d Article, as proposed in the majority report, believing it to contemplate a sudden, violent and most mischievous destruction of the relation of master and slave, which, commencing with the earliest history of the colony, has been maintained during all the intervening period, with the regular and progressive advancement of the State in all that is useful and honorable, and with a conviction of its usefulness and propriety on the part of our citizens, so deeply and universally felt, that they have carefully prohibited by their Constitutions, as well as that of 1776 as that of 1851, any interference with this relation; the rupture of which is now recommended by the majority of the Committee, without the slightest preparation on the part of either master or slave for the extreme change of condition so instantaneously precipitated upon them, inflicting upon each very serious and unnecessary injury and suffering, and particularly upon the slaves, and, in the absence of compensation, iniquitous and unjust in the extreme to the master.

There are some minor alterations, the necessity for which was not perceived by the undersigned, and which of choice they would not have made, but which are not deemed of sufficient importance to require especial notice

E. F. CHAMBERS,
EDWARD W. BELT,
GEO. W. MORGAN.

Mr. STIRLING moved that these two reports be made the order of the day for Thursday next at one o'clock.

Mr. BELT. I should greatly prefer that my friend the chairman of the committee should delay a proposition of that sort until we re-assemble. I do not think I shall be here next week, and I believe my senior colleague upon the committee will also be absent. I should,

of course, prefer to be here when the subject is taken up.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I am unwilling to ask of the Convention any favor personal to himself. My professional duties will require me to be absent a day or two next week. My present purpose is to be here on Thursday, but I have not a very clear foundation for expecting to be here at that time. I hope the Convention will not terminate the discussion of the question until I have an opportunity of hearing or of reading the arguments upon it.

Mr. DANIEL. I hope the motion will prevail to make this the order of the day for Thursday. We are not likely to get through with it for several days. I wish all gentlemen who desire to be heard to have that opportunity. But if we postpone in consequence of the absence of one or two members to Friday or Monday, somebody else may then be absent. If it is found necessary, when the hour arrives on Thursday, we may then postpone the consideration of the order of the day.

Mr. BELT. To save the necessity for further discussion I will withdraw my opposition.

Mr. STIRLING. If upon Thursday next members of the committee are necessarily absent, I would not press the discussion but would prefer that it should go over. I wish all my colleagues upon the committee to be here when it is discussed. But as the gentleman may be present on Thursday I prefer not to postpone it now beyond that time.

The motion was agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On motion of Mr. DUVALL,
Ordered, That the Chairman of the respective Standing Committees have placed in some conspicuous position in the Rotunda notices of the time and place of the meetings of their several Committees.

Messrs. BLACKISTON, VALLIANT, and HOLLYDAY asked and obtained leave of absence for to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE,
The Convention adjourned.

TWELFTH DAY.

FRIDAY, May 13th, 1864.

The Convention met.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Patterson.

Present at the call of the roll, the following members:

Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Greene, Hebb, Wickard, Robinette, Miller, Harwood, Henkle, Hatch, Kennard, Stockbridge, Stirling, Daniel, Abbott, Cushing, Thomas, Berry of Baltimore county, Ridgely, Parker, King, Smith of Carroll, Ecker, Swope, Wooden, Jones of Cecil, Earle, Scott, Pugh, Turner, Edelen, Mitchell, Todd, Carter, Keefer, Schley, Markey, Annan, Baker, Cunningham, Schlosser, McComas, Hopper, Russell, Hopkins, Sands, Sykes, Lanadale, Peter, Belt, Marbury, Morgan, Gale, Horsey, Mulli-