

"Ministers of the gospel are by their profession dedicated to the service of God, and should not therefore be contaminated by being mixed up with politics."

And that is the reason, I suppose, which will be assigned here. It is a great pity, after putting such a restriction in their Constitution, such a ban upon ministers of the gospel; they were not prevented from interfering in other wrongs very much to the injury of the country, and as I believe, to the destruction of the souls intrusted to their care; and instead of teaching their duty, teaching them treason and rebellion.

I have heard it suggested, and it may be very true, that one reason for putting this particular provision in the Constitutions of slave States, was in consequence of what is known as the code of honor, the practice of duelling. There it is not only held honorable, but it is held to be the duty of every man, who calls himself one of the chivalry, or a gentleman, to give and accept challenges for words spoken in debate. And ministers of the gospel, like women, are considered exempt from this duty. And because the duty was not imposed upon them to give and accept challenges, they were not to be honored by a participation in debates, which was a high honor, and to be allowed only to gentlemen who were ready to fight duels, if anything was said in debate that crossed their fancies.

Now, I say that you might as well say that every Sunday school superintendent, every class leader, and every other person who has the care or the teaching of religion in any way, shall be excluded from a seat in the Legislature because it may interfere with his religious influence and character.

Mr. BARRON. Does not a preacher hold an office, a religious office?

Mr. DANIEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. BARRON. This section says that no person holding any office of profit or of profit and trust shall be eligible to the office of senator or delegate. Now, these men get what they do get for their own profit, for the profit of their own bodies. The preachers are kind enough to promise us good things in the next world if we will give them good things in this. Now, I do not object to that at all.

Mr. DANIEL. The reason that because a minister receives his mere salary, and a very poor pittance it is compared with what is received by other men, not his equal in intellect and capacity, because he merely receives his salary, therefore he is an office-holder—the same reason would apply to the lawyer and the doctor, whose offices are offices of profit and trust just as much as the office of minister. But the office of minister is not one created by the State.

Mr. BARRON. He holds a higher commission.

Mr. DANIEL. It is a question between himself and his God, whether he will preach or not. It is called a profession, and is classed with the profession of law and of medicine. The remark of the gentleman is not therefore applicable to this subject.

As the State of Maryland has taken the first great step to place herself along side the free States of this Union, I certainly think it will be well for us to copy another thing which they have deemed proper and right, and which is sanctioned by the Constitution of the United States. I think we should strike out of our Constitution a provision which is one of the traces of the barbarism which exists in the Southern States; and which, by being in the Constitutions of the slave States, and not in those of the free States, I believe is connected with slavery in some way or other. And as we have wiped out slavery in this State, I think we should leave no representative of its ghost to haunt us hereafter.

Mr. CHAMBERS moved that the Convention adjourn, but withdrew the motion, at the request of

Mr. BARRON, who moved that when the Convention adjourn to-day, it be to meet on Monday next at 12 M.

On this question Mr. MULLIKIN called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

The question being then taken, by yeas and nays, it resulted—yeas 17, nays 43—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Audoun, Barron, Belt, Bond, Briscoe, Brooks, Chambers, Clarke, Dent, Edelen, Johnson, Lansdale, Miller, Morgan, Ridgely, Smith, of Dorchester, Thomas—17.

Nays—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Baker, Brown, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Earle, Ecker, Galloway, Hatch, Hebb, Hoffman, Hollyday, Hopkins, Hopper, Kefer, Larsh, McComas, Mullikin, Murray, Noble, Nyman, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Schley, Schlosser, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Saeary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Todd, Wickard, Wilmer, Wooden—43.

Mr. PETER. As my portion of the State does not seem to be very quiet, and as I have an unprotected family there, I ask to be excused from attendance here until Monday, or Tuesday next.

Leave of absence was accordingly granted.

Mr. SANDS. I have some very important business to attend to, and I ask to be excused until Monday next. This is the first time I have asked such a favor of the Convention.

Leave of absence was accordingly granted.

On motion of Mr. CUSHING,  
The Convention then adjourned.