

fessors of the college from any imputation upon them with regard to any communication with the rebel raiders, and desiring me to show that communication to the gentleman from Carroll, which I did this morning.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The most serious charges have been made in the public prints; and I have seen no denial.

Mr. SANDS. I move that we pass over that section until we can have further information.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I am perfectly satisfied from a conversation I had on Saturday last, incidentally in Baltimore, that upon investigation it will be found that no person connected with that institution is in the slightest degree censurable for anything that took place during the time the raiders were there. As to the statements in the newspapers, I suppose gentlemen have had experience enough to know that great allowances must be made upon anything they say.

Mr. SANDS. The postponement of this question until we can have the information, will prejudice nobody.

The motion to postpone the further consideration of the amendment was agreed to.

The next amendment in order was the following moved as a new section by Mr. RUSSELL:

"Sec. —. The general assembly shall pass laws providing that the rites of marriage between any persons legally competent to contract marriage may be celebrated by any minister of any religious denomination, by any mayor of a city, by any justice of the peace, or in such manner as is usually practiced by the society of people called Quakers; and providing for the registration of all marriages, however solemnized in this State."

Mr. RUSSELL. The object of this section is to meet a difficulty that exists in several particulars. The society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, have ever since their arrival, which is now 200 years, had a testimony to bear against what are called paid or hireling ministers. As this now stands they are placed in a difficulty. Holding that testimony, their members, if they marry any that are not members, are obliged to go out of the State to be married by a civil officer elsewhere, or else incur church censure. It is to avoid this, to allow them the liberty of being married by a civil officer, and not to incur church censure, that one portion of this amendment is offered.

In addition to this, I am informed—for I speak from the knowledge of others—that it is usual upon the marriage of Jews, and it is intended also to cover that.

I am told also that there has been no regular registration of marriages kept heretofore in this State, or that it has been kept in a very loose manner. I wished to cover that subject also.

It may be thought by some that the society

of Friends hold a very singular view in holding a testimony against paid and hireling ministers. They have had nothing to do with them, and have been conscientiously opposed to paid ministers from their arrival. They do not take it for granted that all those who receive pay are hireling ministers. By no means. That is not their view; but they have a testimony to bear against the system; and hence they look upon it as a very serious matter when any of their members violate the discipline in that particular, because there is an article of discipline on that subject. They are deeply interested in the matter; and they look to this Convention for a constitutional enactment that will enable them to avoid the difficulty they have heretofore experienced.

Mr. SCHLEY and Mr. DAVIS, of Washington, asked and obtained leave of absence.

On motion of Mr. DANIEL,

The Convention took a recess until eight o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention met at 8 o'clock, P. M.

The roll was called, and the following members answered to their names:

Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Belt, Blackiston, Bond, Brown, Clarke, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dent, Duvall, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Farrow, Galloway, Harwood, Hebb, Hollyday, Hopkins, Hopper, Jones, of Somerset, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, Markey, McComas, Mitchell, Miller, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Peter, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Sands, Smith, of Carroll, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Thomas, Todd—52.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the section submitted by Mr. RUSSELL, as an amendment to the report of the committee on the legislative department, viz:

"The general assembly shall pass laws providing that the rites of marriage between any persons legally competent to contract marriage may be celebrated by any minister of any religious denomination, by any mayor of a city, by any justice of the peace, or in such manner as is usually practiced by the society of people called Quakers; and providing for the registration of all marriages, however solemnized in this State."

Mr. MILLER. It seems to me that we may as well go through the whole legislative field, and record the duties of the legislature in every particular case, as in this. It is a matter entirely within the power of the legislature, to pass a law allowing marriages to be celebrated by justices of the peace, or by mayors of cities, if they choose so to do. It has always been in the power of the legislature to do it, ever since the marriage law was