

Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Robinette, Russell, Schley, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Worcester, Stockbridge, Swope, Thruston, Todd, Wickard, Wooden—33.

The amendment was accordingly rejected. No further amendment was offered to the tenth section.

#### PERSONS ALLOWED TO PRACTICE.

The next section was then read as follows: "Sec. 11. Every person of good moral character, being a voter, shall be admitted to practice law in all the courts of this State, in his own case."

Mr. STIRLING. I move to stricken out the words "of good moral character, being a voter." I do not see why a thief should not be allowed to defend himself, if he does not choose to employ a lawyer. People of good moral character do not want to defend themselves. At common law every man has a right to defend his own case. This was originally put in the constitution for the purpose of allowing everybody "of good moral character, being a voter," to practice law, and then on the motion of some one the words "in his own case," were added, which cut the thing right down at the roots. It is a restriction of the common law right to say that a man shall not defend himself, unless he has a good moral character. Who is to decide that question? The very people who want to defend themselves have no good moral character. If a man is fool enough to try his own case and not employ a lawyer, I want him to show his folly, if he wishes.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. And there is another reason for it. That much of the practice of law may ruin what little moral character he had to begin with.

The question being then taken upon striking out the words, "of good moral character, being a voter," upon a division—ayes 30, noes 28—it was agreed to.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I would call the attention of the convention to the condition in which this section is now left.

"Every person shall be admitted to practice law in all the courts of this State, in his own case."

That leaves it ambiguous as to whether a woman would not be admitted to practice.

Mr. STIRLING. I move to stricken out the section, as it is wholly unnecessary. Every person has that right at common law.

The question being taken upon the motion to strike out the section, it was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. TODD, the convention then adjourned.

#### SEVENTY-SIXTH DAY.

THURSDAY, August 18, 1864.

The convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Owen.

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

Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Andouin, Barron, Berry, of Prince George's, Billingsley, Blackiston, Brooks, Brown, Carter, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Cunningham, Cushing, Dail, Daniel, Davis, of Charles, Davis, of Washington, Dennis, Dent, Duvall, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Gale, Galloway, Hatch, Hebb, Hodson, Hopkins, Hopper, Horsey, Jones, of Cecil, Jones, of Somerset, Keefer, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Lee, Mace, Marbury, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Peter, Pugh, Purnell, Robinette, Russell, Sands, Schley, Schlosser, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Smith, of Worcester, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Thruston, Todd, Turner, Wickard, Wooden—76.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

#### ABSENT MEMBERS.

On motion of Mr. HARR, it was ordered to be entered on the journal that Mr. Greene, of Allegany, is detained from his seat in the convention on account of sickness.

On motion of Mr. SMITH, of Dorchester, it was ordered to be entered on the journal that Thomas J. Dail, is kept from his seat in the convention by indisposition.

On motion of Mr. BARRON, it was ordered to be entered on the journal that if John Barron had been present he would have voted for the test oath offered by Mr. Stirling, and would have voted for the amendment to the report of the committee on the judiciary offered by Mr. Abbott.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mr. THOMAS asked and obtained leave of absence for a few days on account of illness.

Mr. THRUSTON asked and obtained leave of absence until Monday next.

Mr. WICKARD asked and obtained leave of absence from the session of this evening, being slightly indisposed.

Mr. BROOKS. I desire to be excused from attending night sessions, and I will assign my reason for the request. I believe that it is generally known to this convention that I am commissioner of enrolment for the third district. It is necessary for me to be in Baltimore some time each day to sign certain papers. When I return to Baltimore at night, my clerk brings the papers to my house and I sign them. It is therefore imperative that I should be in Baltimore some time each day. I hope the convention will indulge me by granting this request.

Leave of absence was accordingly granted. Mr. BARRON. I would like very much to have the convention excuse me from attend-