

many who are members of the Society of Friends who do fight, who are not opposed to fighting. I do not wish to deprive the militia of the advantage of the services of those who are willing to fight. But I think we should relieve those who are conscientiously opposed to bearing arms. I shall with great pleasure give my vote for this amendment to the section, and I hope the convention will view it in the same light.

Mr. AUDOUN. I have but one question to ask; and that is, while this country is shaking to its very foundation, will these gentlemen come into this convention and ask to be excused from assisting that government which has given them protection from their infancy up to the present day? That is the only question I have to ask them.

Mr. STIRLING. I merely wish to cite the law. The last act of assembly, certainly without intending to do so, departed from the language of the code, which is simply in these words:

"Except ministers of the gospel, &c., and all persons conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, who shall produce to the captain or commanding officer proof of being so conscientious."

That has been the law ever since the original militia law passed; certainly thirty or forty years.

Mr. SANDS. My very excellent friend from Carroll (Mr. Ecker) and some other gentlemen seem to have misunderstood my remarks so far as to construe them into an unwillingness to exempt the Friends. I expressly declared that I was in favor of their exemption from military duty. All I desired was that the phraseology of this amendment might be such as would prevent other classes from taking advantage of it. Therefore I shall give my vote for the amendment as amended on the motion of my friend from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling,) by striking out the disjunctive "or" and inserting "and." I shall vote for it with the greatest pleasure.

Mr. PUGH. I wish to answer the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Audoun) as to their coming into this convention and asking to be exempt. It is only that certain members of this convention desire to keep the record now as it always has been. I wish to call the attention of the convention to the fact that it does not make a particle of difference what we do for this class of people have suffered all their lives, and will continue to do so, rather than violate their principles. We shall only be putting ourselves in the anomalous position of endeavoring to enforce a law which has never been enforced. Whenever their conscientious convictions come in the way, they simply die. That is their whole history. They simply die, and have always done so. That is their whole history.

Mr. GALLOWAY. I would say to those who

seem disposed to oppose this amendment, and who seem to think that no other men are required for this war than those who are to bear arms; that there are almost as many men required to aid in putting down this rebellion, or in relieving the suffering occasioned by it, without bearing arms, as are required for bearing arms. I will state one fact, which I hope may assist in passing the amendment offered by my colleague (Mr. Russell,) that after every hard fought battle within reach of my neighborhood, the Friends in that county have been the first who have gone to aid, suffering humanity. After the battle of Gettysburg, where there was so much suffering, not only of our own forces but of those of our enemies, the Friends of our neighborhood went there as nurses, and provided everything calculated to relieve their sufferings. They were the first to start in the march to that place.— They are conscientiously opposed to bearing arms; but they are not conscientiously opposed to relieving the wants of the suffering. I hope the convention will pass the amendment of my colleague; and I assure the convention that it will give votes to the constitution in my county.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. TODD moved that the convention do now adjourn.

Mr. WOODEN demanded the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

The question being taken, the result was— yeas 16, nays 34—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Audoun, Carter, Cunningham, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Holiday, King, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Sands, Scott, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Todd—15.

Nays—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Baker, Cushing, Daniel, Earle, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Hoffman, Hopkins, Hopper, Keeler, Kennard, Larsh, McComas, Mullikin, Murray, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Schley, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swops, Sykes, Thomas, Valliant, Wickard, Wooden—34.

When his name was called,

Mr. TODD said: I wish to say that I did not expect to come here to-night, as I was suffering from indisposition; but I came in order that the convention might not be retarded in its work from the want of a quorum, on account of my absence, when my presence would constitute a bare quorum. I am now suffering and others are suffering. I hope the convention will adjourn. If not, there are some of us who will be obliged to leave.

The convention accordingly refused to adjourn.

No quorum having voted;

Mr. SONLEY moved a call of the house.

The motion was not sustained.

On motion of Mr. STIRLING,

The convention adjourned.