

HOUSE....No. 12.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Jan. 18, 1855.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the Order of the House, instructing them to report an amendment to the Constitution providing that in all criminal trials the Jurors may be judges of the law and the facts, in obedience to the instructions of the House, report the accompanying amendment to the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

C. P. HUNTINGTON, *Chairman.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Five.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION,

AND AN ADDITIONAL ARTICLE TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

1 In all trials for criminal offences, the Jury, after having
2 received the instructions of the Court, shall have the right,
3 in their verdict of guilty or not guilty, to determine the law
4 and the facts of the case; but it shall be the duty of the
5 Court to superintend the course of the trials, to decide
6 upon the admission and rejection of evidence, and upon all
7 questions of law raised during the trials, and upon all
8 collateral and incidental proceedings, and also to allow
9 bills of exceptions, and the Court may grant a new trial
10 in case of conviction.