

## CHAPTER LXX.

March 6, 1868.

*An Act to amend section seven (7), of chapter seventy-three (73), of the General Statutes, in relation to witnesses.*

SECTION 1. Amendment to Section 7, Chapter 73, General Statutes. Who may be competent witnesses.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :*

SECTION 1. That section seven (7), of chapter seventy-three (73), of the general statutes, be amended so as to read as follows: All persons except as hereinafter provided having the power and faculty to perceive and make known their perceptions to others, may be witnesses; neither parties nor other persons who have an interest in the event of an action are excluded, nor those who have been convicted of crime, nor persons on account of their religious opinions or belief; although in every case the credibility of the witnesses may be drawn in question. And in the trial of all indictments, complaints and other proceedings against persons charged with the commission of crimes or offenses, the persons so charged shall, at his request, but not otherwise, be deemed a competent witness; nor shall the neglect or refusal to testify create any presumption against the defendant, nor shall such neglect be alluded to or commented upon by the prosecuting attorney or by the courts.

Who may be witnesses.

Approved March 6, 1868.