WHEREAS, Grievous complaints are constantly made by the gas consumers of Baltimore City against the extortions and exactions of the various Gas Light Companies of said city, its extravagant charges for the gas furnished and the inferior quality ; And whereas, it is charged that said corporation have exceeded their franchise or violated their duty in the mode of the exercise of their several franchise ; And whereas the House of Delegates under Section 24, of Article 3, of the Constitution, are empowered to enquire into all complaints, grievances and offences as the Grand Inquest of the State.

Ordered, That a Select Committee of three be authorized to investigate the complaints and grievances of the gas consumers of the various incorporated Gas Companies of Baltimore City, with power to send for persons, books and papers, to examine witnesses on oath, and said committee are hereby directed to report to this House within a reasonable time the result of their investigations, and recommend such legislation as will correct the evils and abuses, if any practiced, by said companies or either of them, and further, that they be directed to report the amount of the capital stock of said corporations, the amount of reserved fund held by them, the cost of producing gas and how far the dividends declared are the true profits of said companies.

Which was adopted.

On motion of Mr. McWilliams,

At 3 o'clock, P. M., the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, February 2nd, 1876.

The House met, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Steele.

Present at the call of the roll, the following members:

Messrs. Smith, (Speaker.) Dunbar, Mattingly, Boyer, Usilton, Hodges, Robinson, Rullman, Turner, Bird, Lancaster, Hawkins, Hooper, Baldwin, Whitelock, Curtis, Smith, of Balto. co., Given, Fitzjarrell, Dodson, Lankford, Gunby, Ford, Lambdin, Smith, of Dor., Waters, of Dor., Briscoe, Constable, Ward, Snowden, Gwynn, Cockey, Purnell, Biggs, Hinks, Naill, Linthicum, Rutledge, Boyle, Vandiver, Culbreth, Goldsborough, Rusk, Berkemeier, Lewis, McWilliams,