

REPORT.

To the Honorable

the House of Delegates :

The Committee on Elections, to whom were referred the several memorials contesting and defending the late election in Somerset county in regard to the offices of Clerk of the Circuit Court, Register of Wills, and Judges of the Orphans' Court of said county, respectfully report :

That able and learned counsel have had a full opportunity for discussion of the law and facts and for the examination of witnesses before your Committee, whose testimony is herewith filed as part of this report. The facts as shown in this testimony, prove beyond a shadow of doubt that there was no election in Somerset county on the first Wednesday of November, 1863, the day appointed by law for holding an election. In a majority of the districts of the county, soldiers in organized military force appeared at the polls, and in nearly every district where they appeared they had the charge and direction of the election, the judges of election being more or less subordinate to their positive and direct commands. A yellow ticket appears to have been used by one party throughout the county. The evidence is conclusive that there was an organized and predetermined effort throughout the whole county to use military force and intimidation to affect the result of the election. The intention so to do was publicly proclaimed by the military authorities of the county.