

REPORT.

To the Honorable, the House of Delegates of Maryland:

In the cases of the contested elections for the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court for Somerset County, and Register of Wills for said county, the undersigned, a minority of the Committee on Elections, have been unable to agree with the majority of the committee; and therefore beg leave to submit to the House a minority report.

The testimony taken by the committee, in these cases, having been submitted to the House, the undersigned will not recapitulate it at length, but will confine themselves mainly to the reasons which have brought them to their conclusions in these cases of contested elections.

The questions of inquiry before the committee on elections were—"Was there an election in Somerset county on the 4th day of November, 1863, for Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Register of Wills, and if there was such an election, who were chosen as said officers?"

It appears from the testimony taken by the committee, and submitted to the House, that the polls of the various election precincts of the county, were opened by the judges of election at the usual time and places for holding election, and that these polls were kept open during the day, with the exception of one precinct—Princess Anne—at which the polls were closed when only one vote had been taken, by the arrest of the judges of election by one Capt. Moore, in the United States military service, who professed to do so under orders from Major General Schenck, in the military service of the United States, on the ground that these judges of election re-