

placed in the office to which he was entitled, and we cannot doubt the power of the legislature to place him there.

If upon enquiry, it had been found that the duty imposed upon a judicial officer of deciding upon the sufficiency of the bond of a Sheriff elect, had been negligently exercised that officer ought to be censured by some action of the legislature, or if capriciously or corruptly he ought to be impeached.

And if such consequences ought to follow, shall it be said that the legislature of Maryland, will not enquire into a complaint gravely made to them, while setting as the grand inquest of the State; if the legislature recognizes such a principle, there is an end to all responsibility; and public agents become the masters of the people—you may boast of your freedom, but it is gone, and caprice, prejudice, or malice, may become without fear of question or punishment, the sole rule of action in public officers.

The undersigned have therefore felt bound in the discharge of the duty they owe to the petitioner, to the house, their constituents, and themselves, to present these views at large, and warn the house of the dangerous consequences likely to follow the decision of the majority if sustained.

They therefore recommend the adoption of the following order;

Ordered, That the committee on grievances and courts of justice, enquire into the truth of the allegations contained in the petition of James Clarke, and for that purpose be authorised and directed to send for persons and papers.

All which is respectfully submitted,

I. D. Maulsby,
C. McLean.