

rest of their countrymen. It is, therefore, one of the cardinal points expressed in their declaration of principles; and it holds a conspicuous place in that declaration, because the American Party have found foreign influences at work to impair it, and, unfortunately not without aid from political interests leagued in support of those who are, if not positively hostile, at least naturally indifferent to it.

In declaring themselves the friends of civil and religious liberty, they acknowledge no separate advocacy of religious liberty at the expense of its ally, nor of civil liberty, subordinate to any ecclesiastical authority. In this conviction, they have adopted the 8th Article upon which the Governor has laid so much stress in the impeachment he has attempted of the fidelity and patriotism of the American Party.

In concluding this Report, the Committee think it their duty to the House to say that, regarding the portion of the Message that has been referred to them as an assault upon a large number of the people of the State represented in the Legislature by a majority of its members: these constituting a party as clear, as open and as specific in the assertion of its principles and aims, as any other in the country; and which, upon the evidence furnished by the Governor himself, has only exercised the common privilege of all citizens in the free expression of opinions it deems important to the good government of our country. It is difficult to find a motive for so unusual, so futile and so inopportune an exhibition of the Executive ill-will. To call it a breach of privilege, might perhaps describe it as the greater number of judicious and impartial citizens of the State would think most appropriate. To regret it as an unfortunate exhibition of ill-timed and undeserved discourtesy, is the milder and on that account the preferable judgment of the Committee upon an Act of official intercourse which for many reasons touching the dignity and harmony of the State Government, it is to be hoped may never hereafter be used as a precedent.

The Committee recommend to the House the resolution hereto appended.

A. KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN.

*Resolved*, That the select Committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message, as relates to Secret Societies, be discharged.