

a subject for the trial of every refinement of torture which their fiend-like invention suggested. The humanity of certain medical gentlemen was exerted, and by their interposition, under divine providence, those supposed to be dead were restored to life and society. On the ensuing day a general terror prevailed throughout the city.

Your committee further find, that no attention was paid to the preservation of the house and property thus abandoned, but that a few men were suffered, during the day, to be actively engaged in doing every possible injury to the same. Federalists, deemed themselves insecure from a conviction, arising from past occurrences, that the civil power was too feeble for their protection, and that the military were unwilling to rally around the judiciary when the object was either the security of their persons or property, fled in every direction. No exertions were made to arrest the disturbers, and they assumed to themselves the sovereign power of controlling the government of the United States, by regulating the concerns of the post office. They assembled with a view to the demolition of the office, in order to collect and destroy the papers of the Federal Republican, transmitted by mail to subscribers in the city. The activity of Mr. Burrell, of the post office, discovered the combination, and with promptitude communicated to the mayor and brigadier general the grounds of his belief. They became at last convinced of the fact, which the experience of all countries had proved, that the mobs of populous cities can only be restrained and overawed by the application of an efficient force; and the general, without any written requisition, but upon assurances that any should be given thereafter which the result of his opposition might require, ordered out the whole of his brigade, at the head of which he appeared, and became a military chief. A distribution of ball took place, and every preparation was made, evidencing a determination to disperse the tumultuous. But even here, surrounded with the military, the civil power did not abandon the same wretched system of concession and conciliation; for it appears to your committee, that upon the manifestation of a spirit of insubordination among some of the military, the mayor proposed to the post-master to deliver up the Federal Republican papers, to be carried to the dwelling of the mayor, with a solemn assurance to the mob, that they should be returned in the morning by the mail to Washington. The post-master stated the embarrassments arising from the nature of his official duties; and upon a consultation at the residence of Mr. Burrell, the proposition was abandoned, and a resolution adopted to protect the establishment. Before which, the mayor avowed a determined resolution to protect the office, but at the same time to allay the irritation of a portion of the militia, who complained of their being called out for the protection of the Federal Republican, he stated, "You are not assembled here to protect the paper; you are marched here to protect the property of the United States. I, myself, would draw my sword, and head my fellow citizens to put down that establishment." An order from the colonel, and the voluntary charge by two of the horse, dispersed the rioters. For many successive nights a military guard was stationed; a determination was manifested that the peace of the city should be preserved, and it produced the effect. The grand jury, in its regular course, investigated the subject, and presented some of those engaged in the murder and riots. They were arrested and committed to prison; threats of rescue were made, a military force was stationed during the night at the prison, and artillery planted in the hall of the gaol. These operations were attended with an uniform result, establishing incontrovertibly, that the course of forbearance and concession selected by those charged with the preservation of the peace of the city, was productive of no other effect than to embolden the wicked. The trials took place; the first of them exhibited temper in the jury utterly inconsistent with the object of criminal jurisprudence—the punishment of the guilty; the attorney-general of Maryland frequently declared his belief that no conviction against the offender could be had; & still omitted to enter a suggestion on the record that the state could not have a fair trial, and to pray that the records might be transmitted to another county. An universal acquittal of the most blood thirsty ensued; and the melancholy apprehension is now entertained, that the wicked have nothing there to fear from the retributive justice of the state.

Your committee further find, that the ordinary power with which the magistrates are invested for the preservation of the peace of the city, was in no instance except as stated by your committee, called into action; that the constables are corrupt, and exercise an undue influence over the magistracy; that the court of oyer and terminer and general gaol delivery is conducted in a manner inconsistent with the dignity due to a tribunal invested with such extensive power.

Your committee find, that during the morning of the twenty-eighth of July, John Montgomery, Esq. did, in order to prevent the firing of the cannon levelled at the house, make use of every exertion, and encountered great danger, and that during these agitations, frequent meetings of the most respectable citizens of both parties were convened by the mayor, in order to concert some plan of operations to insure the peace of the city, and which uniformly resulted only in recommendations to the turbulent to forbear, and in recommending a proclamation, to be signed by the magistracy, calling on the peace officers to be vigilant in the preservation of order.

Your committee have presented to your consideration the causes and extent of the late riots. They now will submit to you an expression of their opinion, formed upon a dispassionate examination of the testimony, "as to the conduct of the civil and military officers in relation thereto." It is the opinion of your committee, that during all the agitations which have convulsed the city of Baltimore, Edward Johnson, Esq. did every thing which could be required of him as a private citizen; but they have to regret, that, as mayor, charged with the preservation of the quiet of the city, his forbearance, and indisposition to resort to the ordinary powers of coercion, with which he was invested, against the turbulent and wicked, was so distinguished as to encourage a belief that he connived at and approbated their excesses. That he was guilty of a most reprehensible indiscretion, when he used to the refractory militia intemperate language against the Federal Republican, the inevitable effect of which was to sanction and excite, by his weight of character, the popular excesses against the same. That when he, at the post office, surrounded with the military and his political friends, submitted a proposition, the object of which was to ensure the triumph of the illegal combinations of the mob, he evinced a timidity and a want of judgment irresistibly inducing a belief of his unsuitness for the station which he filled. That this course of forbearance, united with the wicked inertness of the magistracy, and deplorable