

pear to the complainants themselves, if they properly understood and would impartially consider the character and incidents of a republican form of government.

The respondents, further answering, deny that the said convention law and its amendments were enacted, as the said bill falsely and scandalously charges, "by divers wicked and disloyal men, wholly wanting in the duty of the allegiance to the Constitution of this State, (though they had recently taken a solemn oath of office to support the same.)" They further deny that the design of the said legislators was, under the form of law, to sow dissension among the people of the State and pervert their hearts and to produce the evils and miseries and other enormities enlarged on in the said bill with such prodigality of vituperation. These respondents are advised that such imputations are wholly wanton, inasmuch as the character and purposes of the legislator have nothing to do with the validity of legislation. Nor are these respondents called on to vindicate the members of the General Assembly, constituting two-thirds of each House, from the wholesale and reckless charges of perjury, conspiracy, disloyalty and treason brought against them by the complainants. The respondents do not think that such charges, made by the complainants, are of sufficient weight even to place on the defensive the many able, honorable and patriotic citizens from all parts of the State, who felt it their duty as legislators to vote for the measures in controversy. But these respondents are advised that it is their obligation, as matter of pleading, to respond to the said allegations, and they, therefore, deny the said charges utterly, and aver that the complainants have used their said bill as a vehicle of slander in that regard, as in others, and under color and pretense of seeking a remedy, which they know not to exist, for evils and wrongs which they have invented, have defiled the records of this honorable court with the grossest aspersions upon the purity and integrity of all those members of the Legislature of the State who, differing with said respondents in political sentiments, saw fit to act according to their own sense of right and duty.

And as to the charge of "disloyalty," wickedness, &c., &c., made by the said bill against these respondents them-