

Commissioners, appointed by me, by the Judge of the Criminal Court, prepared by the Secretary of State, and herewith submitted, render it unnecessary to go into further explanation upon this subject. The power attempted to be exercised by the Judge of the Criminal Court is believed to be without precedent, ignoring alike the Great Seal of the State, and the limitations governing his judicial functions.

I refer to the proceedings to show how far I have been sustained in the discharge of my official duty. Representing, as I did, the sovereignty of the State, as well as the power specifically delegated to me, in the recess of the Legislature, I held myself responsible only to your Honorable Body for the course which I deemed it my duty to pursue in the removal of these delinquent officers.

The events of the past few weeks impose upon the General Assembly duties which cannot well be overlooked in protecting hereafter the interests of the City of Baltimore. How far it may be competent, under existing laws, to order a new election for Mayor and Members of the City Council will be for your Honorable Body, after due examination, to determine. Of your power I have no doubt. But of one thing I am strongly convinced, that a continuance in authority of men profiting by their own wrong, forced upon the people, in opposition to the will of more than three-fourths of the qualified registered voters of the city, and by armed combinations of irresponsible officials holding their commissions from the Board of Police, would be a libel upon free government, and a gross and flagrant injustice to an outraged people. The time will be opportune also, to revise the whole system of laws relating to the City of Baltimore, to prevent the recurrence of similar proceedings in the future.

The existing police organization, will, I am satisfied, be found defective in many of its essential features. No candidate for the popular vote should be a member of that Board. In addition to this much needed reform, the management and control of the leading public institutions with which the city is connected, should be carefully examined into and placed beyond the reach of party dictation, or the liability of being used to strengthen the central power in times of high party excitement. Nor will it be less incumbent on you, in this work of reform, to throw some additional safeguards around the City Treasury, to check the wasteful expenditure which is already beginning to startle the tax payer by the enormous burthen which he will soon be called upon to bear. The frequency of the applications to the Legislature for power to subscribe to objects of improvement, some of them, it may be of no practical utility, will afford an opportunity to render a real service to the people of that city, by holding a salutary check over wastefulness and extravagance, and keeping the authori-