

Office of the Board of Commissioners }  
of Police, No. 1 North street. }

Having the evening before issued the following—

### ADDRESS TO THE POLICE FORCE.

BOARD OF POLICE, Baltimore, Nov. 22, 1866.

Having been appointed Police Commissioners by his Excellency, Governor Swann, vice Messrs. Samuel Hines and Nicholas L. Wood, removed, we desire to state that in the prosecution of the duties assigned us, we do not design interfering in any respect with the police force now organized, or to remove any person connected with it for his political opinions, provided he does not hereafter render himself amenable to the laws now in force for the government of the Police of Baltimore.

We believe the officers and men in the department are disposed to be what the laws require them to be, *conservators of the peace*, and it is hoped and expected that they will cheerfully aid us in preserving the quiet of the city.

We also invoke all good citizens to assist us by their counsel and example, and that they will use their best endeavors to prevent any undue excitement, and that they will also advise all disposed to act otherwise to quietly and peaceably acquiesce in the measure now about being inaugurated by authority of the Governor.

JAMES YOUNG,  
W. M. THOS. VALIANT.

They then proceeded to issue an order to the sheriff, under the 816th section of the Code, directing him to summon a *posse* of one hundred men for the preservation of the peace of the city, when they were arrested under the warrants from the Criminal Court, and Sheriff Thomson, one of the petitioners, was also arrested while executing their orders.

It thus plainly appears that at the time the Criminal Court passed the order in question, Hines and Wood had been actually removed from the office of Police Commissioners by the act of the Governor, in the exercise of his lawful authority under the law of 1862, and had been notified thereof in the most solemn form, and these commissioners, Young and Valiant, had been duly appointed, commissioned and qualified to fill the vacancies thus created, entitled to exercise the powers and perform the duties of their office.

There cannot be any question of the Governor's power under the law to remove the incumbents if, in his judgment, the complaint of official misconduct has been proved. The law makes his judgment final and conclusive, not subject to appeal or review any more than a similar judgment passed by the General Assembly.