

far as human nature permits, be assimilated to the latter. If, as individuals, the members of the Board belong to party, in their official characters, they should aim to be, at least, so far above it, as not to violate the plain terms of the law, or to lose in the sympathies of a partizan, the honesty of a judge. At all events in their removals from office, the Commissioners thus far strove to avoid the errors into which their predecessors are alledged to have fallen, and which may have entered into the causes for their removal by the Governor.

The Commissioners have been more explicit in this report than they would otherwise have been from the fact that the matter assumed considerable notoriety at the time, not only in this city and State, but throughout the United States. Many rumors have been circulated as to the powers and authority of the Commissioners, and what they should have done or could have done. A careful analysis of the oath of office cannot but convince the most skeptical that the Commissioners have followed the course the law dictated. They know that it is impossible to satisfy every body. He who attempts to do so must signally fail. The Commissioners, guided by the advice of eminent counsel, have been careful not to violate the law. To do what is right has been their endeavor.

The effect produced by partisan Commissioners of Police and partizan police officers is of two recent an occurrence to be forgotten. A repetition of the events of the past few months is not desirable. The Commissioners in all doubtful cases have consulted counsel, and can point to their official acts as being in accordance with the laws enacted by the Legislature for their guidance. That the law is not perfect in all respects is generally admitted, and it is sincerely to be hoped that you will amend it in such manner as your wisdom may dictate.

On their induction into office the Commissioners determined to make an effort to render the police force more effective. A visit to each of the station houses, and a personal interview with all of the officers and men, was among the first of their official acts, and they are pleased to say that it has had a very salutary effect. The frequent repetition of these visits at the station houses, and to the men while on their beats, both day and night, have tended to make them more faithful and efficient in the discharge of their duties. The consequence is, that the city is more quiet, and there is less breach of the peace than is usual at this season of the year.

This fact is, indeed, as gratifying to the Commissioners as it must be to you, and they flatter themselves that as they become more familiar with the peculiarities of the office important improvements will suggest themselves, which will result in making the Police Department of Baltimore equal, if not superior to any in the United States.

It is hardly necessary that we should inform you of the