

# R E P O R T .

*To the Honorable*

*The House of Delegates of Maryland :*

The Committee on Elections, to which was referred the memorial of William Devecmon, Patrick Hamill, William A. Bryden and John McElfish, contesting the right of Wm. R. McCulley, Samuel M. Haller, Daniel C. Bruce and Chas. Gilpin, to seats in this Honorable Body, as delegates from Allegany county, and claiming said seats as being rightfully entitled thereto, beg leave to report that they have, fully and attentively, considered the questions raised by the contestants in their memorial, and on which the sitting members have joined issue in their counter memorial, and the evidence produced on the respective sides, and herewith submit the conclusions at which they have arrived.

Before proceeding to investigate the charges, and the evidence submitted to support them, your committee examined the notices served on the sitting members, and found them in legal form ; and that in this particular, as in other particulars of form and substance, there has been a strict compliance on their part with the requirements and provisions of the Code relating to contested elections in this House.

The charges were then proceeded with in the order in which they are set forth in the memorial of the contestants ; and in regard to these your committee, after a full review of the testimony, were unable to perceive any evidence on which the first charge in the contestants' memorial could be sustained ; while without doubt the conduct of the judges in many of the districts, which will come more fully under review hereafter, was in the judgment of your committee, partial, unjust and illegal, and in some of them deeply reprehensible in the matter of excluding legal voters, and in one of the districts in soliciting voters to support a particular ticket ; yet there were no facts appearing to your committee to warrant them in finding that the judges of election themselves were guilty of practicing threats and intimidations on legal voters.

2nd. The second charge, "that the judges of election unlawfully and fraudulently refused to permit registered voters to