

offered their ballots and were wilfully and illegally refused by the judges, and on whose ballots were the names of the contestants. The number of voters thus unlawfully excluded in this district was, as mentioned above, thirty; but while coming to this conclusion, the majority of your Committee cannot withhold the expression their deep reprobation of a practice so surely calculated to impair and utterly destroy the freedom of elections, by inspiring in the minds of quiet and peaceable citizens, well grounded fears of personal peril in approaching the polls.

The purity and freedom of elections are essential to the preservation of republican governments. Without these, institution however free in form, are but a mockery and a delusion.

In glancing over the testimony presented to the House in this cause, one cannot avoid being painfully struck by the fact that the demoralizing practices that have too often for years past characterized the elections in large cities, are spreading with a vicious rapidity of growth into the small town and among the rural population. If they cannot be arrested by some stringent legislation, or by an improved and a more wholesome condition of the public mind, emancipated from the fears and hates engendered by the recent civil war, then indeed is the future of our country a gloomy one. For their prevalence and diffusion will demonstrate a deep and incurable disorder in the body politic, which sooner or later, despite the change of parties, the mutation of men and measures, will work out its dissolution and death.

In conclusion, your Committee submit the following resolutions for the action of this House, as embodying the conclusions at which they have arrived:

First: Resolved, That Charles Gilpin and Samuel M. Haller, were not duly elected as Delegates from Allegany county to this House, and are not therefore entitled to seats in this body.

Second: Resolved, That William Devecmon and William A. Bryden, having received, including and counting the votes of the legal and qualified voters who offered to vote, and by the judges were unlawfully refused, and on whose ballots were the names of William Devecmon and Bryden, and which should been received; a higher number of votes than the said Charles Gilpin and Samuel M. Haller; are hereby declared duly elected, and are entitled to seats in this body as Delegates from Allegany county.

A. LEO KNOTT,

Chairman.

JOHN Q. A. ROBSON,
RAYMOND W. BURCHE,
HORATIO BECK,
JAMES CLARK.