

date of the election and a fac-simile of the signature of the President of the Board of Supervisors of Election.

It does not provide that the designation of the polling place shall be printed. It simply says that the words "Official ballot for" are to be printed and that they are to be followed by the designation of time and place of election. This designation may be left blank, therefore, and if left blank, may be filled up by the Supervisors, Judges of Election or Ballot Clerks, before placing the ballots in the hands of the voter, without destroying any of the precautions of the law, or invalidating an election.

Did the ballots voted at this precinct on November 3rd, 1891, comply with the provisions of the law as to official ballots? They clearly did. They were "prepared, printed and furnished by the Board of Supervisors of Election for Calvert county;" they were printed on clear white paper with black ink, had the names of the candidates of the respective parties in parallel columns, and bore the official endorsement, namely, "the *fac-simile* of the signature of the President of the Board, to show their official source, and the initials of the Ballot Clerk, to show that they had marked the votes from such source, and went into the ballot-box through the hands of the proper officials. They were, therefore, official ballots in every sense of the term, and with one exception, identical with those originally prepared for this precinct. The word "first" was scratched out, and "second" substituted, in order to adapt them to this precinct. Who made the change, any one who would make or could make a "distinguishing" mark? No. The change was made by the Ballot Clerk, who, in making it, would have no other or greater opportunity for marking it so as to destroy its secrecy, than he would have in placing his initials on the ballot. Did this change in any way disturb or impair, could it in any conceivable way have disturbed or impaired a single one of the safeguards, precautions or grand objects of the law?

The salient feature of this law is "secrecy;" its first and last purpose is to prevent one man from knowing how another man votes, and thus destroying