

## MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable,

The Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland :

The Baltimore Reform League, an association of legal voters of this State, formed in the words of its Constitution, "to secure fair elections, promote honest and efficient government, and expose and bring to punishment official misconduct in the State of Maryland, and especially in the city of Baltimore," respectfully but earnestly protests against the enactment as laws of bills recently introduced in one or other of your Honorable Bodies to abolish separate municipal elections in Baltimore city, to make registration of voters therein quadrenial, and to require the confirmation of nominations for municipal offices by both Branches of the City Council jointly; the effect of such enactment would be to remove safeguards provided by the New City Charter against partisan influences in municipal affairs.

Some of the largest taxpayers of Baltimore city are members of the League and suffered heavy losses in the late disastrous fire; the League can not therefore be suspected of indifference to the advantages of economy in municipal expenditure. It believes that such economy may be readily effected through the abolition of useless offices, the selection and retention of public servants for merit only, without regard to partisan or personal interests, the requirement that a fair return in service be made for all salaries or wages paid by the city, and the administration of all its departments on strict business principles; the saving thus possible would amount to many times the cost of registration and a separate municipal election; but experience, both in Baltimore and elsewhere, has shown that any reasonable hope of salutary economy in municipal expenditure is based on taking all the city's business out of politics.

The provisions of the New City Charter, which it is now proposed to repeal, were intended to take the city's business out of politics; they have not fully accomplished their purpose, but they have done much to free the municipal government from merely partizan