

Mr. Neal, Chairman of the Committee on Elections, submitted the following

REPORT :

*To the Honorable, the*

*House of Delegates of Maryland :*

On the 13th day of January, ultimo, your Honorable Body referred to its Committee on Elections, the following order :

“Ordered, That the Committee on Elections, be, and they hereby are, required to examine into, and report upon all charges heretofore made against the Board of Police Commissioners of Baltimore city, in regard to their appointment of officers for the conduct of the late elections of said city.”

Although the order contemplated merely an investigation of, and report upon all charges made against the Police Commissioners of Baltimore city, in reference to their conduct in the appointment of judges and clerks of election for the late Municipal and State elections in said city—still, as charges had been also made, in a general way, by a portion of the political press of the State, that fraud, intimidation and violence had prevailed in said city at said elections, to such an extent as to invalidate both of them, and as those who appeared before your Committee to substantiate the charges covered by your order, also desired that these latter charges should be investigated and reported upon, your Committee felt justified in going beyond the strict letter of the order, and did inquire into these latter allegations, and now report—

That they began their investigation on the evening of the tenth of February last, and continued it until the afternoon of the sixteenth inst., sitting always twice and sometimes thrice a week

That more than two-thirds of the time occupied by their meetings, was given to those who appeared before your Committee for the purpose of showing that all of said charges were true, as had been alleged. Many witnesses were examined on their behalf, and but few on the part of the Police Commissioners. The investigation was as full, as free, and as fair as under the circumstances it could be possibly made. Every facility was granted to those upholding the charges, that could be given ; all their witnesses were summoned, and whilst it had been stated, and certainly was expected, that they would appear voluntarily, some of them would not appear even after summons. This your Committee regretted, quite as much as those who had had them summoned, but felt itself powerless. The Commissioners them-