

selves complained of the absence of most of them—feeling convinced they would fully justify them by their testimony.

In reference to the charge of fraud, your Committee report that no fraud whatever was shewn to have been perpetrated at the Municipal election, whilst at the State election, the evidence was, that at the Fourth Precinct of the Twelfth Ward, one hundred and seventy-seven more ballots were found in the ballot-box, than had been recorded by the clerks; that at the Third Precinct of the Twelfth Ward, thirty more ballots were found in the ballot-box, than had been recorded by the clerks; and that in the Third Precinct of the Fifteenth Ward, two hundred and sixty more ballots were found in the ballot-box than had been recorded by the clerks. Of course, your Committee could not discover whether this excess of ballots over the number recorded on the clerks lists, was exclusively of the one or of the other political party, or whether it was partly of the one and partly of the other party, or whether it was due to the negligence or inefficiency of the said clerks, or to the perpetration of fraud; and if to the latter, whether the adherents of the one or of the other political party, had been guilty of it. If due to fraud, a vicious election in said precincts would not invalidate the election in the other precincts of those wards, or in the precincts of the other wards of the city, any more than it would vitiate the election in the districts of the State.

As to the charges of intimidation and violence, your Committee report, that the evidence disclosed the fact that, at the municipal election, the colored voting population in those precincts of the city where that element was populous, had early possession of the polls, going to them in large numbers so early as five o'clock in the morning, and remaining at them throughout the entire day, thus obstructing and preventing free access to the polls, to the great hindrance of a large majority of the white voting population of those precincts, many of whom left the polls without having deposited their ballots. There were, however, no breaches of the peace of any moment at said election. The evidence further disclosed the fact, that a certain political organization, attached to the **Republican Party** in the city, had appealed, through its regularly constituted officers, to the said element to go again to the polls in numbers, and early on the morning of the State election. They went. But found that the tactics which they had employed at the municipal election, were now being used by their political opponents. As a result, collisions of an unusual character occurred in the neighborhood of the polls of the **First Precinct of the Eighteenth Ward**, of the **Third Precinct of the Fifteenth Ward**, and of the **First Precinct of**