

and vilely denounced by its speakers, and yet protected it from an infuriated crowd bent upon its dispersion.

So high did the excitement, of which we have just spoken, run, and so exasperated and inflamed were the respective parties by the incendiary harangues thus delivered, that the Police Commissioners had reasonable grounds to believe that a serious disturbance of the public peace was intended on the day of the State election, and to prevent this, they called upon the general commanding the militia in the city to act with his brigade, in conjunction with the Police Force, to quell such disturbance, if it occurred, and if his services were required. His assent was obtained on condition that he could legally use his brigade for such purpose.

The evidence further showed that the entire Police Force of the city was on duty day and night for more than a fortnight prior to said elections; the men not averaging four hours of sleep and rest out of the twenty-four of every day during that time.

Your Committee further report that on the day of the State election the police in unusual numbers were placed at the polls of every precinct in the city for the protection of voters; that the Sergeants and men at these precincts did their whole duty in every respect; the evidence even of those summoned to testify against them being that they not only offered to protect, but did protect, all voters of every race, who desirous of voting and apprehensive of trouble in its exercise, would permit them to do so. One witness, so summoned to testify, going so far as to say that a certain Sergeant of Police promised to die by his side, if necessary, in his effort to see that every man entitled to vote should do so if he desired it. The Captains of the respective Police Districts of the city were each furnished with horse and buggy, and made constant rounds throughout their districts during the day for the purpose of seeing that the Force did its duty; that the public peace was preserved, and that the election should be a fair and free expression of the people's will.

At the collisions already spoken of, in the Fifth, Fifteenth and Eighteenth Wards the Police were in force, and but for their determined exertions, placed as they were between the contending parties, serious riots would have occurred and much blood been shed. Perhaps it should be added that the Police Commissioners desired to have examined, in addition to those persons examined on their behalf by your Committee, all of their Police Captains, their Deputy Marshal, and one or two of their Sergeants and Policemen, but the time allotted to them was necessarily so short, and the cross-examination of those witnesses whom they did produce, was so pro-