

so, but the course pursued, and the rulings as to the evidence, as has been stated, were to obstruct, rather than to help the investigation; and finally, although he had said that the Committee did not intend to put the Commissioners on the stand, until the testimony against them was closed, the Chairman, when Major Gilmore, himself, was at last on the stand, took and maintained the extraordinary position, that the witness (one of the very Commissioners being investigated) could only be examined by the prosecution, as he called it, on subjects which he had testified to "in-chief;" and, as his counsel had been very careful to make his examination as brief and immaterial as possible, the Committee, thus in effect, turned its back upon the requirements of the order of this House, under which it was acting, (p. 68, Mch. 16.) The very beginning of the investigation showed how little of the "free, fair and full" there was to be about it. Instead of sending for the leaders of the Opposition or Reform party in Baltimore, who had made the charges against the Police Commissioners, and for the newspaper men, who had particularly described them, and could furnish the names of witnesses. What did the Committee do? They summoned the Police Commissioners themselves, their Marshal and their Clerk; they, together with General Herbert and his third-hand cock and bull-story of a negro insurrection, constituted the witnesses present on the first meeting of the Committee, February 10th, 1876, when the Chairman stated, "there are witnesses present in response to summonses, and ready to be examined. If there be no objection, I will first call Mr Fusselbaugh," (p. 1, 6, of the testimony, Feb. 10, '76,) counsel representing the Reform party, happened to be present on that first night in consequence of information sent them by one of the undersigned that very day; and if it had not been for the cross-examination by this counsel and his suggestion of the names of witnesses, the investigations would, in the opinion of the undersigned, have been closed by the majority of the Committee that very night. The Chairman of the Committee undoubtedly struck the key note of the spirit of the investigation, when he used these words on that first night, in reply to an objection to his course of proceeding:

"Has it not occurred to the gentleman, that the testimony which may be given by these witnesses to-night, may so cover the ground that there can be nothing brought against them? (P. 6, Feb. 10, '76.)" This was the spirit in which the investigation started, and in which it was conducted throughout. A willingness, an anxiety was displayed to discredit and dismiss, upon the *ex parte* statements of the parties accused, charges of the gravest character; involving