

the personal security and liberty of every individual in the City of Baltimore, and the sanctity and preservation of republican institutions. Under such circumstances, and under such disadvantages, was testimony presented against the Police Commissioners. Let us glance for a moment at some of the charges to which it is supposed the order of the House referred, and at the proof now before the House in support of them

One of the charges most strenuously urged against the Police Commissioners, was that they appointed a great many men as Judges and Clerks of Election, who were office holders under the State and City Government; men whose very positions and livelihood depended upon the result of these elections. It is a very serious charge; for, if true, the action of the Board in this particular, was a prostitution of their high office to one of the basest uses to which it was capable of being put; for nothing less can be said, if the Commissioners willfully and deliberately thus introduced an element of corruption into the very fountainhead of our institutions, by appointing as Judges of Election those whom they knew had large interests at stake on the issue, and who had every temptation and personal inducement pressing upon them to act unfairly. Custom, law and decency alike, forbid a Judge to sit in the trial of a case in which he is personally interested; the law prohibits, under pains and penalties, betting on elections, for fear of its corrupting influence upon the result; Judges of Election should be of all Judges, men peculiarly discreet, fair and impartial, and have nothing personally hazarded upon their own decisions. If it be otherwise, if they hold other offices dependent upon the issue before the people, custom, law and decency are alike violated and defied, and the heaviest stake that a man can well wager is laid to corrupt the heart and distort the judgment. In the course of this investigation, it became apparent that the Police Commissioners in appointing Judges and Clerks of Election, utterly disregarded these plain principles of law and common sense, and Mayor Gilmor, in his testimony, asserts that in his opinion, such men were as fair and impartial as any body else. From his testimony, it would seem that at the next election he will consider himself as perfectly justified in appointing all the Judges of Election from the office-holding class; or to go a step further, he would think himself justified in appointing all the candidates at that election as Judges of their own Election. He can draw no distinction between the two classes in this respect, for whether it is the retention of an office held already, or the attainment of an office coveted according to Mayor Gilmor's view, the honor prized and the emoluments at stake