

Another charge made against the Police Commissioners, and in support of which the Committee allowed some testimony to be received, was that they failed most signally to preserve the peace of the city on the day of election, Nov. 2d, 1875, and on the day preceding the same, and that the Police Force generally was grossly derelict in its duty. It has been insisted that the Board of Police Commissioners are not responsible for the misconduct of individual members of the Force not brought to their notice.

This does not answer the charge. In point of fact, however, the individual misconduct of their appointees, both Judges of Election and Policemen, is proved, in several instances, to have been brought to their attention, and yet winked at. Judge Pierce, for example, proved the outrageous conduct of Judge Morris A. Thomas at the Municipal election, and that an account of it and notice that Thomas had bets depending on the approaching State election, were given the Board; and yet the Board still chose to retain this farce of a discreet Judge at the State election. The Rev. Mr. Round proves their utter indifference when charges of partizanship and brutality were preferred by him against certain of their subordinates on the Police Force, and so it was in other cases. There can be no question that the Commissioners themselves became justly and properly chargeable with the misconduct even of individuals among their appointees upon refusing to investigate complaints made against them.

But the charge reaches much further than individual cases.

It was a duty of the Police Commissioners to have men on their Force who were trustworthy; to have them so arranged and overlooked as to insure safety, peace and quiet at the polls, and a fair election; to use their vast powers of commissioning extra police if occasion seemed to call for it, and above all, to know no distinction of persons. All of these duties they failed to perform, and the lamentable result has thrown a deeper shade than already rested upon the fame of Baltimore City for peace and order.

Their failure, moreover, in most of these respects, becomes all the more inexcusable from the fact that their own evidence shows them to have had every reason to anticipate just such a state of affairs as ensued on the 2nd of November. The Municipal election, but one week before, and the excitement under which the city had meantime been laboring; the activity of the campaign, the closeness of the contest and Baltimore's previous history under such circumstances; the large, noisy, riotous crowds admitted to have been in the neighborhood of police headquarters on the evening of Mon-