

appealing to the House to vindicate the freedom and purity of the election franchise, by setting said election aside.

The facts on which all these memorials were founded, were so bold, glaring and notorious, that the late Executive of the State, Governor Groome, in an official paper, filed by him in the contest for the Attorney-Generalship, had declared, without hesitation, as he did in his official answer to the petition for mandamus filed by Mr. Gwynn, in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel county, in December, 1875, that in his judgment, as Governor, there appeared sufficient reason to induce a hearing of the charges reiterated in the memorials, which were the same, set out by Mr. Wallis as the grounds of his contest. Nay, Governor Groome went still farther, and expressed his own determination to examine officially into these charges; and take evidence in regard to them, unless restrained by the Courts. With all these memorials and facts before us, justifying an investigation, if such a thing ever was justified or required; and the leading members of the successful party in town-meeting assembled, in Baltimore city, confessing the necessity for investigation—and pledging their party to make it complete and thorough; this Honorable Body was nevertheless pleased to deal with the returns of the election for Governor, as if they were wholly unimpeached, unquestioned and uncontested.

The Senate was invited to the opening of the returns. They were opened and read in this Honorable Body, and the Speaker of the House, by what authority of law or Constitution, the undersigned have never been able to discover, assumed to declare forthwith that the Honorable John Lee Carroll was duly elected Governor of Maryland. The Senate, which by the Constitution, is excluded from all jurisdiction over the subject, then transmitted a message to the House, requesting us to join with them in announcing to Mr. Carroll that he was elected, and inviting him to be inaugurated. This House, with all the questions then before it, touching the election of the 2nd November last, and bound by the Constitution to examine and decide them, saw fit altogether to ignore them for the time, and to join the Senate in placing Mr. Carroll in the Gubernatorial Chair in spite of them. But the House will remember that this action was accompanied by repeated and emphatic declaration on the part of leading gentlemen of the majority, that it was not meant to stifle or preclude inquiry; that it was purposed by the majority, fully and fairly to investigate the charges of Mr. Harris' memorial; and that the installation of Mr. Carroll, in no wise established, or was intended to establish, finally his right to the Executive Office. In pursuance of these assurances, the subject was referred to the Committee on Elections; and