

[No. 5.]

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECRET SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, January 31st, 1856.

Committee met at 4 P. M., agreeably to notice. Present all the members.

That portion of the Governor's Message referred to the Committee was read.

Letter of the Chairman inclosing resolutions of the House, creating the committee to the Governor, was read.

Governor's answer to that communication was read. Mr. Merrick's letter, with a list of names of witnesses he wished to have summoned, which had been placed in the hands of the Chairman on the 19th inst., was presented to the Committee.

The Chairman proposed to confine the inquiries of the Committee to the Platform published by the American Party, or National Council held in the city of Philadelphia, in the month of June last, alleging that the Governor, by his response, referred to that as the principal evidence of the existence of these secret societies, and therefore we should, for the present at least, confine our inquiries to that document.

Mr. Merrick objected, and said the duties of the Committee were pointed out by the resolutions of the House creating the Committee, and were not to be circumscribed by any power other than the House, by its orders or resolutions.

Mr. Merrick then made the proposition that subpoenas be issued for the several witnesses named in his letter to the chairman of the 19th inst., viz: Thomas W. Hall, John M. Edgar, Thomas T. Hutchins, Archibald Sterling, Jr., William A. Disney, Alexander McClintock, Henry Ourdorf, J. B. Brashears, and Dr. John C. Orrick, all citizens of Baltimore, and whom, it was represented, had once been members of the Order, but have now withdrawn from it; and Rev. Andrew B. Cross, Grafton L. Dulaney, Z. Collins Lee, Milton Whitney, J. Morrison Harris, Samuel Hinks, Chas. D. Hinks, Judge Spicer, E. D. Kemp, and Chas. R. Griffith, also citizens of Baltimore, and who were represented still to be members of the Order.