

authority and by my independent act, a force adequate to the probable necessity which menaced the occasion. I accordingly left the full measure of accountability with the Mayor and his subordinates. How fearful that accountability was, the sanguinary deeds of that election day have sufficiently proved. Again party animosity ran riot throughout the city; the most desperate encounters took place, in which hundreds of infuriated partizans were engaged; arms of all kinds were employed; and bloodshed, wounds, and death, stained the record of the day, and added another page of dishonor to the annals of the distracted city. I retired from the scene, convinced that all this might have been prevented, and not without a painful sense of duty unfulfilled.

A year glided away, and with the fall of 1857 the political elements were again stirred for the election contests of the season. In the meantime the civil condition of the city, had become more sensibly demoralized. The press without distinction of party was teeming with every days report of wrong, outrage, violent encounters of partizans, desperate assaults and homicides. These things thus grouped, are but the catalogue of deeds transpiring in rapid succession, and culminating in frequency and ferocity, as the day of the municipal election drew near.

Since the elections of the preceding year, a new and enlarged organization of the city police had been made, and I was not without hope, that it would exert a conservative force, in some rational proportion to the emergency of the occasion; I was assured by numerous gentlemen of the city that they expected nothing of the sort, and they referred to the daily record of violence as abundant proof of its inefficiency to subdue even preliminary disorder. The day of election came and passed, and although the bloody scenes of the preceding year were not re-enacted, violence was every where in the ascendant; outrages were perpetrated with entire impunity, and many thousands of the citizens were, by causes beyond their individual control, deprived of the exercise of their suffrage. In a word the Democrats of the city, both native born and naturalized, were, to an extent that a few years since, would have been absolutely incredible, virtually disfranchised. Facts exist, and are available in abundance for the verification of what I thus assert, and publicity has been given to current outrages of the day in one ward, of the city, (and that ordinarily one of the most reputable,) attested by the vouchers of many highly respectable citizens.

The experience of that day was presented to me by several eminent citizens of Baltimore, as the sufficient proof, that the municipal authorities were wholly inadequate, from some cause, to cope with the fierce organization which held absolute control of the polls. I was assured and convinced the people of Baltimore were inextricably involved within the grip of a dilemma. On one side was a party disfranchised by lawless violence, with which it was