

MINORITY REPORT.

Mr. Contee, from the Minority of the Committee on the Contingent Fund, made the following Report:

To the Honorable,

The House of Delegates of Maryland:

The minority of your committee have the honor to report that they have examined the vouchers for the years 1856 and 1857, chargeable to the contingent fund, and agree with the majority in testifying to their correctness, but take exception to their reflections on the conduct and course of the late Governor.

The Constitution, art. 2, sec. 9, says, "The Governor shall be commander in chief of the land and naval forces of the State, and may call out the militia to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, and enforce the execution of the laws;" again, section 10, "He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed." These then are clearly duties made obligatory on the Executive, made so by the Constitution, which he takes an oath to support. His judgment then must be left free, for it is to this judgment he is to look when such emergencies arise as require the interposition of Executive authority.

In his message, so unadvisedly, and in the opinion of the minority of your committee, so unjustly condemned by a strict party vote of this House, Governor Ligon sets forth in a plain, unvarnished way, the condition of things in Baltimore city, the necessity, in his judgment, for his interposition, his mode of proceeding, and the results. To any one who reads this statement, it is evident that the Governor was acting, and did act, under a high sense of duty imposed upon him by his conscience, his position, and the laws of the State.

In his judgment then, strengthened, too, by counsel with wise and able men, he finds it necessary to call out and enroll certain troops. Troops without arms are useless; it would be an unne-