

beg leave most respectfully to submit this, their Minority Report :

They concur with the majority in their belief of the correctness of the returns of said election, in a large majority of cases, and are satisfied that there can be no reasonable doubt of the right to their seats, of all the present sitting members, with the exception, perhaps, of the members from Baltimore city.

There was presented to the consideration of the committee, a memorial from Jervis Spencer and others, protesting against the right of the said members from Baltimore city, upon allegations which touch the purity and fairness of the election there. The memorialists solemnly state their belief, that their rights, and the rights of great numbers of legal voters, have been outraged and trampled under foot; and that the violence, fraud, and wrong exhibited at the said election, was such as to render the same a mere mockery of the elective franchise. And they appeal to this House to give them an opportunity to prove that this state of facts did really exist, and they profess their willingness and ability to establish most fully and completely, all their allegations.

This memorial, being before the committee by an order of the House, was proper to be considered by them in connexion with their report upon the returns aforesaid; and a majority of the committee having, for reasons best known to themselves, concluded not to recommend an investigation of the aforesaid allegations, but to report the sitting members from Baltimore city as duly elected and entitled to their seats, the undersigned most solemnly beg leave to enter their protest against such action, and to state their belief that the course of a majority is contrary to precedent, and that a concurrence therein by the House, will be a very dangerous and improper step.

For the effect of such a concurrence will be to declare, for the first time in the history of the State, that one of the branches of the General Assembly, (and that too which is the established Grand Inquest of the State, authorized and constituted for the hearing and redress of all grievances and complaints,) is willing to close its ears to *investigation* in a matter wherein *fraud* is the allegation and the ground of complaint. The calm, fair and open investigation of all proper matters of grievance and complaint, is one of the greatest securities which free government is supposed to guarantee; and assuredly no higher duty can possibly be imposed on those in authority, nor any whose imperative demands they are more bounden to respect, than a solemn appeal for redress against fraudulent and violent invasions of the rights of any portion of the people. And if there be one instance of fraud that ought to claim the attention of this House above every other, it is where