

it is supposed to have violated or obstructed the right of free suffrage—because the purity of the elective franchise, as being the foundation of our form of government, and a necessary condition, precedent to the enjoyment of all other rights, of course excels all other topics in its dignity and importance.

The undersigned therefore dissents from a majority of the committee, because they believe the said majority has erred in deciding on the validity of the Baltimore returns, in the face of a solemn protest, alleging extraordinary frauds, without having before them a scintilla of evidence beyond the returns themselves—and even these, as the undersigned believe, are informally and illegally made. And they likewise protest against a concurrence by the House, with the committee's report, because, in their judgment, it will be an absurdity for the House to pass its opinion upon a judicial question, involving disputed facts, before these facts shall have become known and thoroughly ascertained and investigated, because a concurrence, under such circumstances, will be in disregard of the dignity of the House, unworthy of its character and violative of its constitutional duties; because it will be the establishment of a reprehensible precedent, discouraging to every sense of personal right and public justice, and eminently dangerous to the preservation of popular liberty; and because an investigation of the alleged frauds is due to the spirit of the law and of our institutions, which must cease to be effective when they shall cease to be guaranties of the equal dispensation of justice to the people.

And the undersigned, therefore, very respectfully recommend, that if this House proposes to fulfill its duty to the people and to itself, it should at once raise a committee, clothed with full powers, with leave to sit in the recess of the Legislature, if necessary, which shall, at whatever consumption of time and labor, eventually succeed in thoroughly examining and exposing the real state of facts in this highly important matter.

Which is respectfully submitted, &c.,

GEO. H. MORGAN,

RICHARD T. LARRIMORE.

Which was read.

Mr. Kilbourn moved that the reports of the majority and minority of the committee on Elections, be made the order of the day for Monday, the 22d instant;

The yeas and nays were demanded, and appeared as follows:

AFFIRMATIVE.

Messrs. Morgan,  
Neale,

Lynch, of Balt. co. Landing,  
Smith, of Balt. co. Spence,