

those grounds. Suppose that contest thus made comes before the House of Delegates, and the committee in its investigations should find from the evidence that each of these candidates was disloyal to the Government, what would be the duty into the loyalty of each and all of these candidates, and if you of this committee? Would it not be their duty to inquire found that the people of that county had not voted for a man that was loyal to the Government, not only the party that had been returned elected but the other two, would it not be within your power, and would it not be your duty to ascertain from the evidence in that case the facts, and if you found no man voted for worthy of that position, or in other words, you found each and every one of the candidates supported by the people of that county disqualified on account of their disloyalty, could you avoid such conclusion—could you avoid in the discharge of your duty, making such report to the House of Delegates that there was no candidate supported that was loyal, and that a vacancy existed. Then it would be a question for the Executive to fill that vacancy by a man who was qualified by his loyalty to the Government and country, and therefore they have carefully inserted in the Constitution that you should inquire into the election and qualification, not only of the party whose election is contested, but that you shall inquire into the election and qualification of the *candidates* at such election. Now what says this memorial? This memorial, gentlemen, not only asks that Richard Grason, whose election is contested, shall be declared disqualified on account of his disloyalty, but that the same office may be accorded to your memorialist, who received the largest number of legal votes, therefore this memorialist asks you to place him in the position that you are called upon to vacate in your action in reference to Mr. Grason. We now propose to show and contest the loyalty of Mr. Ridgely, one of the candidates at that election, and we have the same right to shew that Mr. Ridgely, on account of his disloyalty, is not entitled to a seat upon that bench as they claim that Mr. Grason shall be disqualified for the same reason, and it would be a monstrous wrong, upon our rights, if men are to come here and testify to our loyalty, and when we propose to test theirs, our lips shall be sealed, it is upon that ground that we claim to put in this evidence as to the loyalty of each and every one of the candidates that was voted for at that election, if there was more than one. We only confine our inquiry to the loyalty of Mr. Ridgely who claims to have been voted for at that election; who claims his seat, not by the popular vote of Baltimore county, but who claims his seat by the disqualification of his opponent on account of his disloyalty.