

*Mr. Stockbridge, Counsel for the Contestant.*

With most of the positions and the general scope of the argument of the Counsel for the Respondent, I take no issue; I recognize the right of the Respondent, or any other person interested in the contest to raise the question which he now proposes to raise, and ask the committee and House of Delegates to decide that question, but I do most expressly deny the power or the right of the Respondent or any other person to raise that question, unless it be done in proper form and in such a manner that the Contestant whose rights are to be affected by it has notice of the fact, that he may be prepared to meet the issue that is presented. Now what is the question before the committee? The memorial was sent to the House of Delegates and referred to the committee; that memorial set forth in general terms the grounds of the contest; the reason why it was claimed that the Respondent was disqualified, and that denial was filed and also referred to the committee. He, the Respondent, claimed it as his right before he was put upon his trial upon the issue that is presented that the Contestant should disclose to him the specific grounds and reasons of the contest, and the names of the witnesses by whom it was proposed to be sustained. Now what is the issue presented? upon that issue was joined—upon that question only the question of the position of the Respondent to keep the office. Look through the bundle of papers referred to, is there any question raised in these papers that refers to the qualification of the Contestant? Is there anything which gives him any information that the question of his own qualifications was to be brought before this committee; it gives him no hint of any purpose, intention or thought to call in question his qualification for the office, you find none. While therefore I do not deny to call in question his qualifications, I insist before the committee it must be done in proper form, and that before it can be done, some issue must be presented by which he shall be informed of the question raised against him. The issue which has been presented, is the single one of the qualifications of Mr. Grason, the Respondent.

Mr. Ridgely is not informed of the raising of this question, and could not be prepared to meet that issue because it is not presented to him to meet. When it is presented in proper form, Mr. Ridgely will, with the greatest cheerfulness, meet that issue. He does not shrink from that investigation, he does object upon a surprise being sprung upon him when no notice or hint that this question of disqualification was to be raised; he insists that it is fair and right for the Respondent, when the question of his qualifications were brought before the committee, it is fair and right for the Contestant to ask whether his qualifications are to be called into question. Mr.