

proceeded with this investigation. For what purpose? to find out whether Mr. Grason was qualified or not? not at all. It was to find out whether either of the candidates voted for by the people of Baltimore county, at that election, was qualified for that office. So that if Mr. Grason had not appeared before you at all, it would have been your duty not to have inquired into his qualifications, but to have inquired into the qualifications of the candidates that were voted for at that election. Such would have been your duty, if Mr. Ridgely had not appeared before you. But when Mr. Ridgely comes before you and asks you to place him in that position, it becomes your duty to inquire into the matter; the constitution makes it your duty—the constitution makes it imperative upon you, to inquire into the loyalty of Mr. Ridgely, as well as Mr. Grason. If Mr. Grason had entered into a compact with Mr. Ridgely, that would not have excused any question that regards his disloyalty. No action of Mr. Grason can relieve you of the obligation resting upon you, to discharge the whole duty; and that whole duty is to inquire into the election and qualification of each of the parties that was supported for that position. We come here—we are here, before this committee to answer the charges against us. Suppose we stop there; if you have any cause to believe any other candidate supported at that election, for Judge, disloyal, can that relieve you from the discharge of your duty, and empower you to neglect to inquire into the qualifications of any other candidates? It is a duty, in other words, for the committee, independent of the parties who were immediately before them, contesting the title of Mr. Grason to this seat, now these charges are preferred against us, when Mr. Ridgely comes before this committee, and asks at their hands, that he shall be installed in that office, the presumption is that he comes with clean hands; he knows what it is necessary for this committee to be satisfied of—he knows that it is incumbent upon him to satisfy this committee, and this House of Delegates, that he has the qualifications provided for under this constitution, before he seeks to disrobe Mr. Grason here. To say that a man who has been supported as a candidate for Judge, under this constitutional provision, and comes here with charges of disloyalty upon his opponent, and claims to be installed into his seat on account of disloyalty, to say that he is taken by surprise, when the question of his loyalty is to be tested—to say that he is ignorant of the constitution under which he was voted for, and under which, he claims a seat upon that bench, as his right under this constitution; there is no surprise to any man, to say that he is to be called upon here to test the question of his loyalty. My friends, upon the other side, say we called for the specifications. We did call for them. Did these specifications say that we had cheered, and hurraed, and waved our hats at Ady's Hotel?