

REPORT:

To the Honorable

The House of Delegates of Maryland:

The undersigned, appointed a Special committee of investigation, under the order of the House, passed on Tuesday, the 8th inst., in the following words:

Whereas, It is publicly represented that the patronage of certain officials is openly exerted within these walls to secure the election of a particular individual to the Senate of the United States, and these representations are so confidently and persistently asserted and repeated, as to be exceedingly painful as well as injurious to the honor and usefulness of this Body; and whereas, it is asserted by members of this House, that they have been informed by respectable persons, that it can be proved that certain members of this General Assembly have received bribes, and that other members have been offered bribes in connection with the election of United States Senator; therefore,

“Ordered, That a committee of five be appointed by the Speaker, to inquire into and ascertain the truth or falsehood of said charges, and that the committee proceed at once to the discharge of its duties, and to this end be allowed to send for persons and papers and to examine witnesses on oath, and that this committee report to the House during its session, to-morrow, Wednesday, 8th March.”

Beg leave respectfully to report, that immediately after their appointment under said order, they proceeded to the discharge of the duties thereby imposed on them. They entered upon the discharge of those duties with a full sense of the gravity of the charges made affecting, as they did, the honor, integrity and virtue of the members of the Legislature of a State whose honor has hitherto remained untarnished, and with a due appreciation of the delicacy and unpleasant position in which they were placed; above all, your committee determined to investigate fully as far as time permitted, and with perfect freedom and impartiality, the whole subject which they conceived was submitted to their investigation by the order under which they were appointed. They therefore, examined every witness they could possibly have brought before them, within the time limited for their labors, and every one within their reach whom they could even hear of having heard a rumor on the subject. Many of the witnesses so examined were members of this House, their own compeers and associates in the daily transactions of the business of this body, upon whose sworn evidence your committee have the utmost confidence; others were officers of this House and the Senate, and gentlemen not connected with this