

the interests of all classes tending to the same point, it is a little remarkable, that there should exist among them such a diversity of opinion. It has been the object of the committee to attempt to trace the causes of this difference to their true source, and in this investigation they have endeavoured to free themselves from all improper prejudice, and build their conclusions upon official documents before them, or information upon which they can rely.

A few remarks upon the memorial from Washington county, which professes to develop the grounds of complaint against the existing system, seem properly to claim precedence in the examination of the subject.

An objection is made to the precarious tenure by which the inspectors of flour hold their commissions, on account of "the undeniable fact, that perhaps a majority composing the councils, are either engaged in the manufacture of flour, or in purchasing the article from wagons when made in the interior." It is not easy to discover what fact the memorialists intend to state; the words would imply, that the fact consisted in the probability that the councils are composed in the manner stated; but as a probability could scarcely have been alleged as a fact, the meaning must be, that a considerable number of the council, perhaps a majority, are interested in the manufacture or purchase of flour. The committee have before them a list of the members of the city council, with the avocation of each, from which it appears that there are amongst the thirty-six members of the city council, 1 miller, 2 shipping merchants, and 2 grocers. The memorialists were not therefore correctly informed as to the state of facts.

The memorial further states, that "it is well known that the Baltimore miller will, with the same water power, same dimensions of burr, and every part of mechanism corresponding, manufacture double the quantity of flour in any given time; thus demonstrating beyond any doubt, that something is wrong, and calls for legislative interference." It is not here stated whether this assertion relates to a long or short period of time; if it be intended to apply to a period of time embracing months, or weeks, or even days, the fact may be as stated, and yet the necessity of legislative interference by no means follow as a conclusion. The mills around the city of Baltimore are all worked by an overshot power, whilst a large majority, or nearly the whole of those in Washington county, are undershot. This results from the nature of the country. Baltimore is situated just on the dividing line which separates the primitive from the alluvial country, where the streams have a great fall in a short distance; whilst the streams which flow through Washington county, are not attended generally with this advantage; and the expense of purchasing water rights, and building the dams necessary to obtain an overshot power, must be proportionally increased. The fact cannot be denied, of the difference in the construction of the mills, and important practical results necessarily follow. In an overshot mill the weight of the water is added to its current, and in dry seasons the advantage is still greater; by stopping the flowing of the water and causing it to accumulate in the dam, enough is collected to grind for the time of twenty-four hours, or more, when the usual flow of the stream would have been insufficient to turn the mill. It was owing probably to this circumstance, that during the last summer large quantities of wheat were carried from Washington and Frederick counties to be ground in Baltimore; the cause of which not being distinctly visible to the millers of that part of the country, they were led to the hasty conclusion, that "something