

ly weapons neither for offence nor defence, in whose hands they are entirely harmless, might frequently, from the imperfections of human evidence, be confounded with the guilty. The undersigned believe that evils of the character referred to the committee, should be left to the moral sense of the community for correction, and that the law should withhold its penal sanctions until the evil intent of wearing these deadly weapons have been manifested by the commission of *some overt act of crime*. They therefore pray to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

All which is respectfully submitted,

Charles Sterett Ridgely.
N. Dunbracco.

Which was read the first and second time, by special order.

Mr. Richardson, from the minority of said committee, offered as a substitute for said report the following—

The committee to whom was referred the order of the house, directing an inquiry to be made as to the propriety of passing a law prohibiting the wearing of pistols, dirks, Bowie knives, and other deadly weapons, by private citizens, and making the wearing of such weapons a penal offence, beg leave to report—

That they have examined this subject with all the care and diligence which its importance demanded, and which could be spared from their other duties; and that this examination has served to deepen their former convictions of the great and growing evils resulting from the revival of this practice, which, belonging to the days of barbarism and violence, should, like them, be banished by the superior light of this age of civilization and law. Your committee think that the house will unanimously agree with them, that the practice of going continually armed, arose in those days of lawless violence, when might constituted right, and the strong, in total disregard of the dictates of justice, seized upon whatever they desired, and held it by the power of force alone. Happily for us those days of wrong and violence and bloodshed have passed away, and we now recognise no power but the power of justice and the restraints of the law. Your committee believing that these propositions will be unanimously conceded, will now state, that it is their decided opinion that the practice of wearing arms, which is at this time becoming so common amongst private citizens, even while engaged in their ordinary occu-