

The only question left for your committee and for this House to pass upon is, whether there was such violence generally throughout the city as would vitiate the election. A formal review and digest of the facts embraced in the testimony produced by the contestant having already been made in a previous report, your committee beg leave to refer thereto, and to re-affirm the positions therein taken.

In this case, however, there was a considerable number of witnesses examined from nearly all the wards by the claimant, (Mr. Gaither,) to disprove the allegation of violence, but your committee are of opinion that this testimony falls far short of the object for which it was introduced.

It has several leading features :

1st. It is very general in its character. It proves nothing ; it disproves nothing. If we had been examining into the reputation of the city of Baltimore for peace and quiet on days of election, and especially on the 2d of November last, the testimony would have been pertinent ; but as it stands, it establishes nothing except that in *the opinion* of the majority of the witnesses the election was peaceable and quiet. Many of them were but a few minutes at the polls ; others were judges and clerks of election, whose observation of the proceedings of that day were chiefly confined to matters which transpired in the room and immediately before the window.

2d. It is purely negative. Negative testimony, except when it serves to contradict, either expressly or by implication, that which has been positively proved, is of little or no avail. Of the numerous assaults proved in every ward except the eighth, the witnesses saw scarcely anything. They give no details, except in a few worthy instances, and in these instances, it is noticeable that the facts detailed confirm the testimony of the contestants.

3d. It is comparative. All of the witnesses were asked the general question by the counsel for the claimant, whether the election was not in their opinion as quiet as elections generally are in Baltimore city, and they uniformly answered in the affirmative. In the opinion of your committee, the riots and disgraceful scenes of violence and fraud which have marked elections in this city for years past, under the dominance of different political parties, is no excuse or justification of the tumultuous and sanguinary riots of the 2d of November last. It matters not how long such an odious social and political excrescence may have existed, its prevalence has been detected and proved beyond controversy, and it is due to public justice and morality, and to the peace and preservation of the interests of Baltimore city, that it be stopped.

Your committee affirm that there is nothing in the testi-