

more of them, as they allege, have taken "under the prescriptions of the fundamental and statutory laws of this State," or what they may have taken under any other prescriptions; nor whether, in fact, said complainants, or any of them, can properly take the oath which is necessary to entitle them to be registered and vote. The respondents, therefore, admit none of the allegations of the bill in these particulars.

These respondents admit that a certain law was passed by the General Assembly of Maryland at its recent session, to provide for calling a convention to frame a new constitution and form of government for the State of Maryland, and to take the sense of the people in regard thereto, but they are unable to say whether the act recited in the bill is a true copy of the said law, and they therefore leave the complainants to prove the same as they may see fit. Neither can these respondents say whether the other "pretended law" to which the bill refers, and which, as it alleges, "did not come to hand," was passed by said General Assembly.

These respondents, however, say that they are advised and believe that the law in respect to the calling of a convention and the amendments thereto, which were passed by the General Assembly, are not in violation or subversive of the Constitution of this State or the laws thereof, or the Declaration of Rights, in any particular; but that the said law and amendments are valid and binding and in full force, and that it is the duty of these respondents, constituting the Board of Police of the City of Baltimore, to comply therewith faithfully under their oaths, and to do all things thereunder which belong to their official functions in respect to the election to be held under the same on the second Wednesday of the present month of April.

The respondents presume that the various extracts from the Constitution and Declaration of Rights copied into the said bill are correctly transcribed, but they refer the court to the originals for greater certainty. They are advised, however, and therefore charge that the said provisions furnish no foundation for the pretenses of said bill, professedly founded thereupon, but that said pretenses and allegations are wholly gratuitous and would so clearly ap-