

tially consider the character and incidents of a republican form of government. This respondent, further answering, denies that the said law and amendments are in subversion of the Constitution and laws of this State, and that the same were passed and enacted by divers wicked and disloyal men, wholly wanting in the duty of their allegiance to the Constitution of this State, (though they had recently taken a solemn oath of office to support the same) and that the design of the said legislators was, under the form of law, to sow dissension among the people of the State, and to create and cause the evils and miseries alleged in the said bill of complaint, but he shows that although it is not incumbent on him, as sheriff of the City of Baltimore, to vindicate the members of the said General Assembly of Maryland from the wholesale charge of perjury, conspiracy, disloyalty and treason against them charged in said bill of complaint, yet he cannot avoid charging in this, his answer, that it must be manifest to this Honorable Court that the said complainants have used this, their bill of complaint, as a vehicle of slander, and under the color and pretense of seeking a remedy which they knew did not exist, have defiled the records of this Honorable Court with the grossest charges against the integrity and purity of all the members of the General Assembly of Maryland who voted for the passage of said law and its amendments.

Further answering, this respondent denies that the said complainants or either of them has been or will be in any way damnified by any of the acts or undertakings of this respondent, or by the "carrying out of the undertakings" in said bill alleged of this respondent to hold the election under the law aforesaid; but suggests to the said complainants that by voting against the call of said convention, (if they or either of them is a qualified voter,) they will not be under the necessity of procuring any person to act as delegate to said convention, or be compelled to vote for any such delegate; and their fears of exposure to the risk of criminal prosecution for seditious conduct will thereby be greatly relieved, if not entirely dissipated.

This respondent, further answering, denies that he is about to misapply the moneys and funds of the State in any way, and that he has any such funds under his con-