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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,—February 29, 1840.

Read the first, and by special order a second time and concurred in.

R E P O R T

From the Select Committee to whom was referred a Bill entitled, An Act

TO PROVIDE FOR

THE ELECTION OF THE LEVY COURT OF CAROLINE
AND FREDERICK COUNTIES.

The select committee to whom was referred a bill, entitled, “an act to provide for the election of the levy court of Caroline and Frederick counties,” beg leave to report,—

That in their opinion, the bill combines essentially within its provisions, the enlightened views of the day as to the capacity of the people to conduct their own affairs, through the medium of officers chosen by themselves. That the people of every section of this country are competent to elect their municipal officers, is a proposition which it is believed will not be *openly* denied at this day, however much opposed some may be to the unqualified acknowledgement of its truth. There are persons in this country, who, by *their acts*, show they have not confidence in the virtue, patriotism and intelligence of the people, and therefore, *generally* oppose the efforts made to secure the people what belongs to them of right. This class of persons, fortunately it is believed, for the perpetuity of our political institutions, are but few in number; some of them, acquiring, however, an importance, from the fact of having been by *accident* elected to some responsible station, the powers incident to which, they seldom fail arbitrarily to exercise. Such is the intelligence of freemen, that the accidentally fortunate, rarely, if ever, receive the assurance of continued confidence.

The republican institutions of this country, are founded upon the capacity of the people for self government. Whenever this is denied or sought to be infringed, either wholly or partially, the fears and patriotic jealousies of an enlightened people cannot fail to be excited, and marvellous indeed would it be, were they not to apply the appropriate remedy at the proper time—the removal from power of those who have no confidence in their virtue or intelligence. This great principle is the cement which unites in