

## FISH INSPECTION.

The committee next proceeded to examine into the character of the fish inspection in the city of Baltimore, and from a thorough and laborious investigation of the subject, they have unanimously come to the conclusion that an entire revision of the inspection laws, relating to fish, is necessary.

The testimony of some of the most respectable merchants in Baltimore, who are largely interested in this branch of commerce, has been taken upon oath and is herewith presented. All the gentlemen who were summoned before the committee, in connection with this subject, are men of undoubted veracity, and the committee are willing, without further comment, to let the testimony speak for itself.

MR. JAMES GEORGE, sworn. Is a dealer in fish, little confidence felt by him in the present inspection. There is a manifest want of care on the part of the inspector or inspectors. Many instances of superficial examinations have come to his knowledge. The fish trade of Baltimore, is chiefly carried on with Ohio and Pennsylvania, but the bad character of inspection in this city, prejudices dealers very considerably among their western and other customers. To insure to themselves a good article they are compelled often to examine and inspect for themselves. The character of fish inspection has certainly much deteriorated for the last few years, and requires legislative revision. Badly conditioned barrels, with both open and loose staves, are frequently passed with the inspector's mark upon them, when they ought to have been condemned. Respecting herring inspection particularly, this department is materially deficient and the examination very superficial. Too much salt is packed along with the fish, especially as it respects shad.

MR. ANDREW GREGG, sworn. Is likewise a dealer in fish. The character of the inspection is at present as bad as it possibly can be, and can bear no comparison to other inspections. No confidence is felt by dealers, and not the least doubt exists in his mind of a secret combination between the inspector and fisherman. With respect to one of the inspectors, Mr. Willet, *he believes him to have passed fish knowing them to be bad.* Is of opinion that three inspectors would be quite sufficient to conduct the business. To his own knowledge three of the four inspectors had gone home, but knows nothing respecting one buying the other off. Names of the fishermen are generally on the barrel. Mr. Green is a very good inspector in his opinion. The witness purchases his brands in preference. Thinks that the supervisory system observed in flour inspection, should be adopted and would doubtless prove highly advantageous to this department of our trade.