

before this committee, because they allege the Governor has made a charge against them, and the majority of the members of the Legislature, as members of the "American Party," and that they, the party here in the Legislature, are better acquainted with and were competent to state their own principles, which are those contained in the platform published by the Philadelphia convention in June last, and by which they are bound, than any other persons; and they consider, and must treat as an indignity to them, any attempt to introduce other persons to give testimony as to the said party.

Messrs. Merrick and Smith dissented from this, and insisted that the letter and spirit of the resolutions of the House, creating the Committee, enjoins upon them a full and searching investigation into the several points stated in said resolutions, and by its very terms, authorizes and requires witnesses to be summoned, such as they have before proposed.

Mr. Hall then offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Governor in his reply to the Committee of investigation, clearly points out and identifies the American party of the Philadelphia platform, published in June, 1855, as the object of his animadversion.

The yeas and nays being required, were as follows :

*Yeas*—Messrs. Kennedy, Hall, Merrick, Smith and Goldsborough. *Nays*—None.

Mr. Hall then offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That this Committee deem the summoning of witnesses before it, to prove the statement or description of the principles, objects and purposes of the American party of the Philadelphia platform, published in June, 1855, as an insult to the intelligence of a large majority of the people of Maryland, through their representatives. The yeas and nays being required, were as follows :

*Yeas*—Messrs. Kennedy, Hall and Goldsborough. *Nays*—Messrs. Merrick and Smith.

Mr. Hall then offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That this Committee in the investigation of the principles, objects and purposes of the American party, deem it unnecessary to send for persons and papers, as the people of Maryland in the majesty of their power, have furnished the Legislature with abundant testimony of the purity of its principles by the large and