

which was not brought into the house until yesterday, when it was too late to give it a cursory reading, much less a careful perusal. Thus situated, your committee cannot, with any confidence, recommend to the house what course is best for the attainment of the great object proposed, the preservation of the public arms. Your committee are willing, however, that an inquiry should be instituted, as proposed in the resolution from the senate, and they therefore recommend that said resolution be adopted.

All which is respectfully submitted.

G. H. Steuart, Chairman.

The said report being twice read, was concurred in by the house. And,

On motion by Mr. Steuart of Baltimore city, the house then proceeded to consider the accompanying report of the committee of the senate, appointed to inquire into the number and condition of the public arms, with the resolution, the adoption of which is recommended by the said committee; which were on the 25th ultimo, received from the senate and referred to the committee of this house on the subject of the militia, and now reported by that committee to the house, without amendment, and with a recommendation for the adoption thereof as stated in the report above concurred in.

The said report from the senate was concurred in, and the said resolution thereto subjoined was assented to, by the house; and they were then returned to the senate.

Mr. Steuart of Baltimore city, chairman of the select committee, therein mentioned, delivered the following report:

The select committee, to which were referred the resolutions from the senate proposing certain amendments to the constitution relative to the election of president and vice-president of the United States, and also certain other resolutions on the same subject, originated in this house, beg leave to report—

The committee are of opinion, that in the event of the failure of the primary election, no better mode for a second choice presents itself than the one recommended in the fourth resolution of the senate and the third resolution of the house, to wit: A selection by a direct vote of the people from the two candidates having the highest number of votes at the primary election; each state giving a majority for either candidate to be counted as one vote for him, and that the person to be declared president who shall have a majority of the states.

The committee, however, are not prepared to say whether it is advisable to abandon the electoral system now in