

REPORT

IN REGARD TO THE CONTESTED SEATS OF THE BALTIMORE CITY
DELEGATION.

The Committee on Elections, to whom was referred the memorial of Adam Denmead and others, contesting the seats of Charles L. Krafft and others, returned as delegates to represent the city of Baltimore in this House, respectfully beg leave to submit the following report :

Your committee are aware of the important and onerous responsibility which has been imposed upon them by this House. If the rights of the sitting members and the contestants alone were involved in the points raised by the memorial, our duty would be sufficiently grave, but the public—the people of the entire State, have such a paramount interest in the contest, as throws the mere question of right between the sitting members and contestants into comparative insignificance.

The ground of contest set forth in the memorial are substantially as follows :

1st. Disqualification of certain of the judges because of fear, interest or bias.

2d. The use of striped or marked tickets, which destroyed, to a great extent, the right of ballot, by depriving it of its most essential legal safeguards, to wit: freedom and secrecy in its exercise.

3d. Systematic and premeditated violation of the *freedom of election* by intimidation prior to and on the day of election, by riot involving every species of assault upon voters, by the exclusion of many who desired to vote, and the coercion of others to vote against their will and preference.

4th. The casting of a large number of fraudulent votes and their reception by the judges.

5th. The last, and in the judgment of your committee, the