

of this, even in the earliest days of representation, called forth the spirited, though feeble, voice of the people who stamped upon record this maxim, "THAT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE FREE." (Male on Elections, 359.)

Such is the law. In the opinion of your committee, it covers all the points presented in the memorial of the contestants and the proofs submitted to us, and it remains only to apply the law to the facts. The testimony is more or less conclusive in all the wards (except the eighth) of the specifications of the contestants, nor was there a single witness produced by the sitting members to controvert this direct and positive testimony; whether such non-production of *contra* testimony arose from the inability of the sitting members to produce it, or from other reasons conclusive at the time to them as to the propriety of their course, your committee is not advised, but the entire absence of such testimony is and must be regarded as a fact of much and great significance.

The witnesses examined by the contestants establish conclusively that the strong arm of violence, on the 2d of November last, struck down and indeed almost annihilated the right of suffrage in Baltimore city. In nineteen of the twenty wards this violence made itself manifest in every conceivable shape of intimidation and assault, from its mildest form of rude jostling and crowding, up to the use of the awl, the slung-shot, the bowie knife, the pistol, and the musket, and was productive of all the results of such violence, from simple intimidation up to the most flagrant and deliberate murder.

This state of things was not the result of mere momentary passion, and the strife of momentary success. Your committee are bound to believe from the evidence that it had been planned and decided upon before the day; in proof of which, attention is called to the procession which took place the night before the election. In that procession were carried banners and transparencies, with mottoes and devices of violence and death. On one was the figure of a bleeding head with the device:

"The head of a Reformer."

On another was an uplifted arm with a clenched fist, with the device:

"With this we'll do the work."

On another was this inscription:

*"Reform movement—Reform man;
If you can vote, I'll be d——d."*

There were other banners with devices of a similarly threat-