

Gatchell, Charles D. Hinks and John W. Davis, citizens of Baltimore, gentlemen of great intelligence and fitness and of the most approved integrity and purity of character, were chosen by the Senate and House of Delegates as the first Commissioners, and their names appear in the statute-book accordingly. The official term of Messrs. Howard and Davis will expire on the 10th of May, 1862; that of Messrs. Gatchell and Hinks continues until the 10th of May, 1864.

The extent of the powers conferred upon the Board by the law creating it, is so well known to both Houses as to supersede the necessity of recapitulation. It is sufficient to say, in general terms, that their authority is of the amplest description, embracing the entire police power of the State, within the limits of Baltimore, and the right of pursuit and arrest, in certain cases, throughout the whole of the State. By a subsequent Act, passed at the same session, (ch. 9,) and incorporated in the same article of the Local Code, beginning at section 199, the division and re-division of the city into election precincts: the appointment of judges of election in the city, and the holding of all elections therein, whether Federal, State or Municipal: were added to the powers and duties of the Police Board; and it was expressly enacted, that no election should be valid unless held in conformity with the provisions of the two statutes referred to, and unless under and subject to the exclusive control and direction of the Board. The enforcement of the general and local election laws, in many enumerated particulars, and the recovery of penalties affixed to their violation, were comprehended within the scope of the responsible obligations thus imposed on the officers in question. Everything, in fine, in the way of legal enactment, which could guarantee the freedom and purity of the ballot-box, protect the rights of person and property, and secure the maintenance of public order in the chief city of the State, was committed to the Board for execution. All the penal sanctions which could be reasonably devised, to strengthen their hands for usefulness and protect them from unlawful interruption and interference, will be found to have been fully provided, for it was the express and especial purpose of the Legislature, for sufficient and well known reasons, to guard against any and every unauthorized intrusion upon the important functions, which the State of Maryland had deemed it necessary to exercise through officers of her own selection. It is matter of public notoriety, that the laws in question were assailed with all the bitterness of partisanship, and that the police law, in particular,