

was resisted by the then municipal authorities of Baltimore. A legal proceeding was the consequence, in which the validity of the new enactments, under the Constitution of the State and the Union, was put to all the tests which professional ingenuity and ability could devise. The controversy resulted in the complete triumph of the new system, its constitutionality having been placed beyond controversy by the prompt and unanimous decisions of all the Judges, in the Appellate as well as the inferior tribunal.

Sanctioned thus by the Legislative and Judicial departments of our State Government—confessedly within the constitutional limits of State authority, and beyond all pretence of objection or invalidity, upon any ground of antagonism to the Federal Constitution—the police system, inaugurated as has been said, was put into successful operation in the Spring of 1860. That it was faithfully, fairly and honestly administered, with great ability and vigor, and in the spirit of impartiality and freedom from political influences and corruption, which most especially suggested its enactment, your Committee would be wanting to truth and justice were they not emphatically to declare. So undeniably was this the case, that perhaps the warmest and most repeated testimonials to such effect were furnished by the presses most hostile, upon party grounds, to the creation of the Board, and originally most violent in its denunciation. No candid person, let his political opinions or feelings be what they may, will venture to deny, that the organization and administration of the Police Board, under the laws referred to, were at last hailed by the whole community of Baltimore as a blessing, and that a sense of security and good government, never felt there before, had diffused itself among all classes in consequence, and had already given a new impulse to the industry and prosperity of the city. Never had any Legislature better reason than the present, to congratulate itself upon having set in motion a perfectly successful scheme of large and beneficial public policy. Every election which has been held in the city since the police law was passed, has not only illustrated the fidelity and integrity of its administration, but has given it the most conclusive endorsement of popular approval.

Your Committee have deemed this brief review of the creation and functions of the Board of Police and of the manner in which its general duties have been discharged, not only an act of justice to the members of the Board, but necessary to the public and thorough understanding of the grievances which are more particularly the object of the memorials under consideration. The more