

2nd interrogatory by contestants—Was there any obstacle to a free and fair vote of the ward? If so, state the nature and extent of such obstacle.

A. I occupied a position at the window as challenger for the Reform party, at from 10 to 15 minutes after the polls opened up to about half-past 12 o'clock, and from then from three to about a quarter before six. There was a number of men, who held the polls opposite to me; and when particular voters would approach the polls, one or more of them would step out and knock them down. There was one policeman who took his place opposite to me, who complained that others of the police would not come to his assistance, to enable men who were assaulted to vote. He succeeded in getting some 8 or 10 voters who were assaulted to vote, though some of them were severely beaten, and had their clothes partly torn off while in his hands.

One of the candidates on the American ticket and two of the policemen and one of the judges of election, ordered the policeman before referred to, to go away, that he was creating disturbance.

He left about half-past 11 o'clock. I left myself about half-past 12 o'clock, M., and announced at the window, that I would not remain, as I could not protect the voters. At intervals during the day challengers on the American side would get on the window and curse the judges for allowing two to be overruled by one. The Reform judge would sometimes put the book at a number of men who offered to vote, as to their right to vote; and the outsiders objected to their being sworn and would curse the judges for persisting in it. The parties would occasionally refuse to swear, would retire from the window and would again offer to vote a few minutes afterwards.

I saw during the day a number of voters brought up to the polls, whose faces were cut and mangled all to pieces. I do not know what ward they came from, though I know that they came from the immediate neighborhood of the polls. I do not know that they were cooped in the 12th ward. The violence at the polls was of such a character as to make any one feel that his life might be taken at any moment without the protection of the authorities.

After the police officer left no persons who were assaulted got their votes in. There was about a dozen assaulted.

Mr. Stockbridge, of counsel for the contestants, here announced that he would close the case on the part of the contestants.

The committee then adjourned to meet again on Thursday evening, February 2nd.