

HOUSE....No. 351.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 25, 1866.

The Joint Special Committee on the Better Enforcement of the Laws, to whom were committed the Petition of the Massachusetts State Temperance Alliance, the Petition of the Middlesex West Temperance Union, the Petition of the Essex South District Temperance Union, the Petition of the Hampshire and Berkshire Temperance Union, the Petitions of Edward Otheman and other clergymen of Boston and vicinity, and numerous other Petitions from individuals and associations in other portions of the Commonwealth, praying for the enactment of a Jury Bill, similar to the one which was passed by the legislature of last year, and for the establishment of a Metropolitan Police Bill, or some modification of the existing State police law, so as to make it a more efficient instrument in the suppression of vice and crime,—have heard all persons and parties who signified a desire to be heard; and, having duly considered all subjects submitted to them, they respectfully

REPORT:

That they have already reported a Jury Bill, which has passed the Senate and is now pending in the House, and is believed to be free from some of the objections urged against the Bill of last

year, and that it will prove more effectual than that Bill would have been had it become a law. The Committee were fully convinced from the evidence produced before them, that a State or Metropolitan police has become a necessity in many of the large cities of this country; and wherever such a police has been established, it has proved more efficient and useful than any local or municipal police. And the Committee were further convinced by the evidence offered, that a State, or Metropolitan police system, will soon be found necessary in the metropolis of this Commonwealth, and, perhaps, in some of the other cities of the State,—unless some improvement is made in the local and municipal police systems now existing,—so as to make them more vigilant and efficient in the detection of criminals and the punishment of crime. But the State police, organized under the provisions of chapter 249 of the Acts of the year 1865, has displayed such vigor, and proved itself so efficient in the enforcement and due execution of the criminal laws of the Commonwealth, that the Committee believe it would be unwise at this time to make any radical change in that law, or the police system organized under it. And they therefore recommend that, for the present, that law be retained and the system under it perfected and improved, as provided for in the accompanying Bill.

Per order,

P. EMORY ALDRICH.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Six.

AN ACT

In addition to an Act to establish a State Police.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 SECT. 1. The constable of the Commonwealth shall
2 appoint as many deputies as the governor and council
3 may direct, having at least two deputies in each of
4 the counties of Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and
5 Hampden, four in each of the counties of Worcester,
6 Middlesex, Essex and Norfolk, three in each of the
7 counties of Bristol and Plymouth, and thirty in the
8 county of Suffolk.

1 SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of the constables of
2 the several towns and cities of the Commonwealth,
3 city marshals, chiefs of police and all other police
4 officers to aid the constable of the Commonwealth and

5 his deputies in the discharge of their duty, whenever
6 reasonably notified and called upon for that purpose.

1 SECT. 3. This act, and the act to which this is in
2 addition, shall not be construed as releasing the police
3 officers of the towns and cities of the Commonwealth
4 from their duty to see that all the laws of the Com-
5 monwealth are observed and enforced ; it being the
6 design of this act and the aforesaid act, that all the
7 police officers herein named shall act in harmony and
8 full co-operation, to the end that the laws may be
9 executed and crime suppressed.

1 SECT. 4. The constable of the Commonwealth, his
2 deputies and all other police officers shall use their
3 utmost endeavors to repress and prevent other crimes,
4 by the suppression of all illegal manufacture and sale
5 of intoxicating liquors.

1 SECT. 5. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.