

HOUSE, (2d SESSION,).....No. 4.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Sept. 10th, 1835.

The Committee to whom was referred Chapter 4th, Part 1st, of the Revised Code, with directions to append thereto a general system for deciding all elections of officers in this Commonwealth, beg leave to Report :

That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and have agreed upon the accompanying section.

The Committee would also suggest that, if this section in its present, or in any similar, shape should be accepted, the Title of the Chapter should be amended so as to read "Of conducting and deciding elections."

By order of the Committee,
ROBT. CHAS. WINTHROP.

SEC. 15. In order to determine the result of any election of officers in this Commonwealth, the whole number of persons who voted at such election shall first be ascertained by counting the whole number of separate ballots given in ; and no person shall be deemed or declared to

be elected, who shall not have received a majority of this whole number of ballots; and in all returns of elections the whole number of ballots given in shall be distinctly stated; but blank pieces of paper shall not be counted as ballots. And if, at any election, a greater number of candidates than the number to be elected, shall severally receive a majority of the whole number of ballots, a number equal to the number to be elected, of such as have the greatest excess over such majority, shall be deemed and declared to be elected. But if the whole number to be elected cannot thus be completed, by reason of any two or more of such candidates having received an equal number of ballots, the election as to so many of them shall be declared void.

