MAJOR GENERAL STONEMAN'S TESTIMONY.

The testimony first taken was that of Major General George Stoneman, from which it appears that the whole military force stationed at Memphis consisted of a detachment of the 16th United States infantry, not more than one hundred and fifty strong, and that this force was not more than sufficient to guard the large amount of government property at Memphis against the large numbers of thieves, robbers, incendiaries, and the Irish police of that city.

Previous to this time the people of Memphis had been clamoring for a withdrawal of all the United States troops, boasting that they were perfectly competent to take care of themselves. General Stoneman had, therefore, turned the city and that section of country over to the civil authorities, as far as it was practicable, holding them responsible for good order, peace, and quiet. At the first breaking out of the riotous proceedings, on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 1st day of May, General Stoneman was called upon by the sheriff of the county, and requested to use the United States troops under his command for quelling them. As there had theretofore been so urgent a demand upon the part of the people to have the troops withdrawn, General Stoneman desired to know what means the city authorities had taken to quell the disturbances; and he further desired that the question should be tested whether the civil authorities could take care of themselves, and preserve order as it had been claimed they could and would do. Subsequent to this, irresponsible parties, representing themselves as coming
language of General Stoneman, the negroes had nothing to do with it after the first day, except to be killed and abused. "They assembled in no bodies, and were engaged in no riotous proceedings."

Nothing could be more false and malicious than the charge that the riotous proceedings grew out of the teachings of the Freedmen's Bureau officers and of the teachers of the colored schools and the preachers in the churches of the colored people. From the observation of your committee the affairs of the Freedmen's Bureau in Tennessee have been most admirably managed by Major General Fisk and his subordinates, and the best possible influence has been exercised on the colored people.

The outbreak of the disturbance resulting from collision between some policemen and discharged colored soldiers was seized upon as a pretext for an organized and bloody massacre of the colored people of Memphis, regardless of age, sex, or condition, inspired by the teachings of the press, and led on by sworn officers of the law composing the city government, and others. The mob, finding itself under the protection and guidance of official authority, and sustained by a powerful public sentiment behind, actuated by feelings of the most deadly hatred to the colored race, and particularly those who wore the uniform of the republic, proceeded with deliberation to the commission of crimes and the perpetration of horrors which can scarcely find a parallel in the history of civilized or barbarous nations, and must inspire the most profound emotions of horror among all civilized people. The testimony taken in this regard is very full, and is
The causes which led to the riot, independent of the state of feeling which had been fostered by the press, was the animosity existing between the Irish population of Memphis, which embraces nearly all the members of the city government, and the colored population, large numbers of whom had come into the city since its occupation by the Union authorities. A regiment of colored troops (the 3d heavy artillery) had been stationed at Memphis for a long time, and the families of many of the soldiers had gathered there. In the vicinity of Fort Pickering, where these troops were stationed, and immediately east of it, great numbers of these colored people had squatted and built their little cabins.

Many of the families of the soldiers were living in these cabins. This was outside the corporate limits of the city of Memphis, and was called South Memphis. The natural hostility between the Irish and negroes seems to have been aggravated by the fact that it had been the duty of the colored troops to patrol the city, bringing them into contact more or less with the Irish police; and it came to pass that whenever a colored man was arrested for any cause, even the most frivolous, and sometimes without cause, by the police, the arrest was made in a harsh and brutal manner, it being usual to knock down and beat the arrested party. Such treatment tended, of course, greatly to exasperate the negroes.
On the day the riot first broke out your committee sift from the large mass of testimony taken on that subject the following facts: About a week before the riot, according to the testimony of Dr. Sharp, there had been an arrest made of a colored man, in the neighborhood of the fort, without cause. The colored man was knocked down, most cruelly beaten, and carried off on a dray. It was then that the colored soldiers made threats that if ever the police came up again and arrested a man in that way they would resent it.

It was about the middle of the afternoon of Tuesday, May 1, that a crowd of some hundred of these negroes had congregated on South street. They appeared to have been on a "regular spree," but, according to the testimony of one witness, were not doing any harm; yet the committee are bound to state that the weight of the evidence is that their behavior was riotous and disorderly, and fully justified the interposition of the civil authorities. When the police came on the ground these colored soldiers were cheering for "Abe Lincoln," to which a policeman replied, "Your old father, Abe Lincoln, is dead and damned." Then followed the arrest of two colored men by the police in an orderly manner. At this time the colored man who a week before had been arrested by the police, as heretofore stated, discovered among the policemen making the arrests the very man who had arrested him, and he became very much excited. The colored soldiers began previously to gather around the policemen, threatening them in an excited manner, and calling out "Club them," "Shoot them." Then, as police marched off with the men they had arrested, these colored soldiers began fire their revolvers in the air. Whereupon the police, possibly thinking the soldiers were firing at them, turned around and began firing at the crowd of colored soldiers. Then followed a general discharge of revolvers between the colored soldiers and police, and one of the soldiers was heard to say a policeman had been shot, and other soldiers, shouted to the crowd, "They have killed one of our men." Thereupon the negroes became still more excited and advanced towards the police, but soon returned saying they had killed one of the officers.
Some time after this the police returned with re-enforcements, and the colored soldiers had also increased their numbers to an extent exceeding that of the police. Then followed a promiscuous running fight between the police and colored soldiers, the soldiers calling on the policemen to “halt,” and firing at them. One colored man, with a Spencer rifle, came up to an officer, calling out, “Halt, you white son of a bitch,” and fired at him. In this last affair there were no white men killed, and whether any colored men were or not does not clearly appear. When it closed, it was about dark; the colored soldiers went directly to the fort, and were not out again during the night. The police, however, went to town for re-enforcements, and returned again about 10 o’clock that night with about two hundred men, composed of the police and what was called a “posse comitatus.” On reaching the ground of the previous disturbance they found nobody on the streets and nothing to oppose them. All the riotous and bad conduct on the part of the negroes had ceased some hours before. Then the police and posse commenced an indiscriminate robbing, burning and murdering, full details of which will be found in the testimony, and which will be referred to somewhat at length in this report.

When the negroes went back into the fort the riotous proceedings were at an end, as far as they were concerned. In the row which previously took place several on both sides seem to have been injured. Among the white men, Dunn,
Witnesses testified as to the circumstances of other burnings and shootings. A house containing women and little children was set on fire, and was then surrounded by armed men. Scorched by the extending flames the terrified inmates rushed out, but only to be fired upon when fleeing from their burning dwelling. It was reported that the arm of a little child was shot off. A woman and her little son were in a house which was fired. She begged to be permitted to come out, but the murderer (Pendergrast) shot at her. She got down on her knees and prayed him to let her out. She had her little son in there with her. They told her that if she did not go back they would kill her. McGinn was in this crowd, and the scene moved even his adamantine heart to mercy. He said, "This is a very good woman; it is a pity to burn her up. Let her come out." She came out with her boy; but it happened he had on blue clothes. That seemed to madden them still more. They pushed him back and said, "Go back, you d—n son of a b—h." Then the poor heart-broken mother fell on her knees and prayed them to let the child out; it was the only child she had; and the boy was finally permitted to escape from the flames. Pendergrast went into a grocery and gave ammunition to a policeman to load his pistol. They then started up a negro man who ran up the bayou, and told him to come to them. He was coming up to them, when they put a pistol to his mouth, shot his tongue off, killing him instantly. This man's name was Lewis Robertson.
STATE OF AFFAIRS AT MEMPHIS.

In inquiring into the origin of the riotous proceedings the committee took a good deal of testimony in regard to the state of public feeling in that city, and the necessity of retaining there

UNITED STATES TROOPS

to uphold the authority of the government, and protect the lives, liberty, and property of citizens of the United States.

The fact that up to the time your committee left Memphis, which was more than a month after these massacres had taken place, not a single step had been taken to vindicate the law by the civil authorities, is considered to be one of the most alarming signs of the times. That no effort should have been made by the civil authorities to bring to justice the perpetrators of these stupendous and multiplied outrages is a burning and lasting disgrace to the officers of the law, and a blot on the American name.

All the witnesses testify as to the improbability, if not impossibility, of convicting any of the parties guilty of the outrages. Judge Hunter, of the criminal court at Memphis, who knows the course of criminal justice in that city, says that the chances of convicting white men for outrages upon negroes would be very remote. General Stoneman had heard of no steps being taken by the civil authorities to bring the criminals to justice; that the outrages had not been denounced in the newspapers as he had hoped they would be, nor had any public meeting been assembled to express condemnation of the riotous proceedings. He had told the people, repeatedly, that they had better have taxed the