

**REPORT.**

The minority of the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill, entitled, " An Act for the compensation of loyal citizens of Maryland, whose property has been taken, damaged, or destroyed by the armies of the United States, and of the so-called Confederate States ;" beg leave respectfully to Report.

That they are constrained to differ entirely with the majority, as to the merits of the bill aforesaid ; and are frank to declare that the principles involved in the bill, are part, and parcel of the common law, as well as of the fundamental laws of the land ; and that all government, whether State or National, must rest upon this, as its chief corner stone ; or become the mere sport, and caprice of a mob ; a miserable cheat, a mockery, and a delusion.

The Constitution of the United States says, Article 5th of the amendments thereto : That no private property shall be taken for public use, without just compensation ; and the Constitution of Maryland says, Article 3, section 46, That the Legislature shall enact no law authorizing private property, to be taken for public use, without just compensation, as agreed upon between the parties, or awarded by a jury, being first paid, or tendered to the party, entitled to such compensation.

The minority would also remind the Senate that we are, each of us, by a solemn oath registered in this chamber, and recorded in the Chancery on High, bound to support the Con-