

REPORT.

The undersigned, comprising a majority of the committee appointed "to enquire whether the contracts for the public printing, made under the law of 1831, have been faithfully complied with—and whether or not the prices paid in pursuance of said law, are such as a due regard to economy and the public interest demand—and whether the great improvements which have been made in the art of printing since the adoption of the present prices, would not enable us to have the necessary printing executed at prices much below those now paid," have given to the several subjects therein embraced, a full and thorough examination—and as the result of which, they beg leave to submit the following

REPORT:

The attention of the undersigned, was first directed to the first branch of the proposed enquiry, viz:—"Whether the contracts for the public printing, made under the law of 1831, have been faithfully complied with." But a slight examination sufficed to satisfy them, that the letter of the several contracts, made pursuant to said law, had been complied with, as indeed it could not have been well violated. But that the spirit of the contract, under which the printing of the last session of the Legislature was executed, had been departed from in some particulars, seems to them equally clear. This contract simply provides for the payment of a specified sum per page, to the persons executing the work, and that "the paper and work not to be inferior to that of the present session." The work and paper are certainly equal, if not superior, to that of the several preceding sessions. So far then, the contract has been strictly adhered to. The true spirit of that contract, however, unquestionably required that the pages should contain the same amount of matter as those of the works of the several preceding sessions, for which a like sum was paid. This is found not to be