

a saving can and ought to be made, they allude to the Clerks and Registers of the different counties, who in many instances are amassing large fortunes from the proceeds of their offices, while the whole duties are performed by other individuals, for a small proportion of the profits. This the committee conceives to be altogether at variance with the genius of our Government, and an imposition upon the rights of the people—in as much as it takes from the many for the exclusive benefit of the few. The committee are of opinion that a fair compensation for services rendered is due to every officer, and that beyond that point all belongs to the people. They therefore conceive it but justice to the people that the law relating to Clerks and Registers should be altered, as that while it secures to those officers a just and full compensation, should at the same time place all above that in the public Treasury. The abolishment of the Council is another item in the list of retrenchments which is called for by the almost unanimous voice of the people; a reduction of the number of delegates also from the small counties can be made without the slightest inconvenience to those counties, or the least possible injury to the public interest. The change recommended in the mode of contracting for the public printing, if adopted will also provide a considerable saving to the State. The committee could go on to enumerate many other matters in which they conceive retrenchments might be made—but hoping that these matters will all be embraced in the coming reform, which is promised by the signs of the times, they forbear to go further, and while they have thus briefly and hastily discharged the duty which was imposed upon them by the House, in glancing at those points which seemed most prominent in the subject embraced in the order, they beg leave in conclusion, to remark, that they conceive the topics thus touched upon as eminently deserving of the calm and deliberate consideration of the legislature, and they believe that if the suggestions which have been made shall be thus examined, they will be found to be based upon truth and reason, and if carried into effect, will by the great saving which will accrue to the State, relieve her Treasury from its present embarrassments, and soon place the State in its wonted attitude of *ease and independence*.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

BEALE H. RICHARDSON, Chairman.