

# REPORT

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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,  
*January 20th, 1840.*

Read and 600 copies ordered to be printed.

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The Committee to whom so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the public lands, was referred, beg leave to Report,

That in ignorance of any constitutional rule imposing upon his Excellency the duty of farstalling legislative action, upon a claim of infinite importance to the State we represent, by denying, in his executive capacity, the justice of such claim, and impairing the power with which it might be prosecuted by division between two departments of the state government, we confess the surprise with which we listened to his communication, so far as relates to the subject committed to us.

We should have supposed, that in our present exigences, His Excellency might have permitted that department of the state to which its financial interests are entrusted, to act upon any subject connected with those interests, unobstructed by volunteer opposition from the Executive, even if we were forbid to rely upon its efficient aid. This supposition has been delusive; Maryland, in the assertion of claims memorized by the circumstances attending their origin, has not merely, it seems, to contend with those, whom local and sectional feelings move to opposition, but from the high place of authority where she has in her confidence reposed the protection in part of her interests, she is doomed to hear the voice of denial of their justice and a denunciation of their prosecution.