

R E P O R T.

The committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice, to whom were referred three orders of the House of Delegates, relative to the Judiciary, severally adopted on the 5th, and the 9th of February, and the 1st of March, having had the same under consideration, beg leave respectfully to submit the following

R E P O R T:

The committee are "fully impressed with the necessity of all practical economy in the expenditures of government." They deem such economy always conducive to the purity of republican institutions, but at this time, more especially desirable, in reference to the embarrassed condition of the finances of our State.

But while they are impressed with the expediency and necessity of all practical economy, the committee at the same time, believe that there are some departments of government, where retrenchment, solely with a view to the saving of expense, would be most impolitic and unwise. The pruning knife skilfully applied, may promote the beauty and vigor of the plant, but unskilfully used, may destroy the very growth its application was designed to promote. Thus, to frame the judicial department of our government, solely with a view to its *cheapness*, would, we think, be false and suicidal economy. The proper organization of this department, is too important to the welfare and liberties of the people, to be regulated by any mere mercenary considerations. We are told by the Declaration of Rights, "that the independency and uprightness of the judges, are essential to the impartial administration of justice, and a great security to the rights and liberties of the people." It is this independency and uprightness that we should mainly endeavor to secure. And no system, however economical, which would endanger these important objects, could be considered for a moment, either desirable or expedient.

The committee would, therefore, hesitate to recommend any change in the present judiciary system of the State, either, as to its