

the Cecil and Harford counties Boom Company, passed at the January session of 1867, chapter 194, and alleging certain violations of the said Act of incorporation, beg leave to report as follows :

We have investigated the whole subject referred to in the above mentioned petitions, and from the evidence obtained, we are forced to the conclusion that the Cecil and Harford counties Boom Company have violated their corporate powers and franchises ; and from the same evidence, we are of the opinion that the said Act of incorporation ought to be amended.

The said Act of incorporation provides that the said company shall not place their boom below the head of sloop navigation on the Susquehanna River ; yet they have placed said boom more than *two miles below* that line.

The said Act provides that the said company shall not obstruct "*any channel on the Susquehanna river leading to any public landing,*" yet they have entirely closed up the western channel of said river which leads to a much used public landing at the village of Lapidum, in Harford county, said channel being from eight to thirteen feet deep at low tide. The said Act provides that the said company shall not interfere with or damage *any fishery* on the Susquehanna river, yet they have *destroyed* some of the most important fisheries on said river, while the right which the said company claim to run down their logs, spars, &c., through the whole course of the river, even below the head of sloop navigation, will so obstruct said river as to prevent its entire use for fishing purposes, thus cutting off the principal means of support of many of our citizens. This demonstrates in itself, the infraction of the aforesaid Act of incorporation, for surely the General Assembly of Maryland never intended to convey the right and power to a mere private corporation to fill our fishing waters with floating logs, spars, timber, lumber, &c., to the injury of the public. But, if the Boom were located at the head of sloop navigation as the Act of incorporation provides and directs, the fishing waters of the Susquehanna would not be encumbered with such floating logs, spars, &c., for they would be caught ashore. But further, the said Act of incorporation provides that the said Boom company shall not extend their Boom or piers into the eastern or main channel of the Susquehanna beyond a point where the water is *six feet deep*. Now, to say nothing of the violation of their Act of incorporation in placing their Boom some two miles or more below where the said Act of incorporation directs, they have extended huge piers of wood and stone into the *eastern channel* where the water is eight feet, nine inches at low tide, and still purpose, as we understand, to extend such piers still farther into deeper water.