

Mr. Earle, from the Joint Committee of the two Houses to whom had been referred the Resolutions relative to the Taney Statue submitted the following

REPORT :

• The Joint Special Committee to arrange for formal reception by the State of Statue of late Chief Justice Taney, now upon the Capital Grounds and invite some distinguished citizen of Maryland to deliver an oration upon the life and public service of the late Chief Justice, respectfully report.

That they have endeavored, but they regret to say without success to carry out the wishes of both branches of the General Assembly as embodied in the Joint Resolution under which they were appointed.

The life of the late Chief Justice Taney was dedicated for so many years and in such lofty stations to the service of his country that it forms no small part, in itself, of the public history of his time, his Judicial connexion especially with the Constitutional questions which arose, while he presided over the tribunal of ultimate resort, was of extent and importance, which it would not be easy to exaggerate, those questions involved, as we all know, not only the relative promises and powers of the State and Federal Government as between themselves, but the Constitutional relation of Federal authority and its representatives to public freedom and the liberty of the citizens.

How noble a part Chief Justice Taney bore in those controversies and how largely his necessary official influence upon them was increased by his exalted character and illustrious qualities, the people of Maryland, and their Representatives do not need to be reminded, to develop in connexion with all this and in a fitting way the morals of a great and stainless life, devolved alike to private and public duty and virtue, is a task well worthy of the highest faculties and literary culture which no one fit to discharge it would willingly assume, without ample opportunity for that thorough study and analysis, which it demands.

The Committee have, therefore, not been surprised to find that the shortness of the period within which the preparation of the contemplated address would be circumscribed by the brief session of the General Assembly, will render it impossible for them to fulfil the wishes of your Honorable Bodies by the selection of a competent person willing to undertake the duty.

Believing it due, as well to the State and its Representatives as to the memory of the illustrious dead, the tribute proposed by the Joint Resolutions, should rather be forgone altogether