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The committee have made the above contracts with two gentlemen who have performed the public printing for some years past, with the exception of the last House of Delegates, and the committee have every reason to believe that the contracts will be faithfully performed, and that the terms are such as will not allow them more than a reasonable remuneration for their labor.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. Ricaud,

Jno. Bell,

Comm. on the part of the Senate.

Wm. H. Tuck,

E. Welch,

J. G. England,

On the part of the House.

Which was read

Mr. Shower, from the minority of the joint committee on the public printing, submitted the following report as a substitute for the report of said majority:

The undersigned minority of the joint committee to contract for the public printing, beg leave to report:

That they could not sanction the resolution adopted by the majority of the committee to contract with Messrs. McNeir and Hughes, at the prices proposed by those gentlemen, because there was before the committee a proposal submitted by Mr. William Johnson to execute the public work in a masterly manner, at prices averaging nearly 20 per cent. below those proposed by Messrs. McNeir and Hughes. In the existing condition of the State Treasury, when the public faith must either be sacrificed or maintained by imposing heavy burdens, in the shape of taxes, on our constituents, we do not feel at liberty to disregard wholly their interests, by sanctioning contracts involving the payment of thousands of dollars which might be saved; more especially as we had the most abundant proof of the capability of Mr. Johnson to perform the public work, and of his faithfulness in fulfilling any contract which might be made with him. The undersigned have learned, by enquiry at the Treasury, that the expenses of public printing has sometimes been as high as \$16,000 per annum. Supposing the printing of the present session to cost \$15,000, at the prices proposed by Messrs. McNeir and Hughes, by contracting with Mr. Johnson at his prices, there would be a saving