

to the Treasury of near \$3,000; and this sum the undersigned repeat they do not feel at liberty to throw away, merely for the purpose of having other individuals to perform the work, when they are satisfied that Mr. Johnston would perform it equally as well and faithfully.

When the committee met to discharge the duties imposed on them by the General Assembly, one of those who now constitute the minority, offered several resolutions and propositions, all having for their object the formation of a contract, at the least possible cost, all which propositions were rejected by the majority. The committee are in possession of a number of letters from practical printers, recommendatory of Mr. Johnston; and one from Mr. Fielding Lucas, jun. an extensive publisher in the city of Baltimore, in which he speaks of the large diminution in the cost of printing, which has resulted from increased facilities in machinery, &c. since 1834, when the prices now proposed by the majority to be paid to Messrs. McNeir and Hughes, were adopted as the prices to be paid for the public printing. An examination of the reports of the majority and minority of the committee on public printing in the Congress of the United States, made on the 26th March, 1840, will show that the majority of that committee recommended a reduction in the prices of work of 15 per cent., whilst the minority of the committee recommended a reduction of 25 per cent. A reduction of 15 per cent. was actually made by Congress during the last session; and the undersigned submit whether a reduction of 20 per cent. is not exceedingly important in this State, if it can be effected, as Mr. Johnston's proposal shows that it can, and which reduction the undersigned entertain no doubt whatever would be effected without any detriment to the execution of the work, and would leave to the printer fair and abundant, though not excessive and extravagant profits. The undersigned submit herewith copies of the several proposals which have been laid before them, by Messrs. M'Neir, Hughes, and Johnston, together with copies of some of the letters accompanying Mr. Johnston's proposals, and short statements of the substance of others; so also the several resolutions submitted for the action of the committee and the yeas and nays on each, all which the undersigned request may be regarded as a part of their report.

This course has been taken in order that that the General Assembly may be in full possession of the whole subject, and that in their wisdom they may determine the proper course to be adopted. The undersigned would remark in conclusion that Messrs. M'Neir, and Hughes, and Mr. Johnston, are citizens of Annapolis, of different political sentiment: Messrs. M'Neir, and Hughes, being members of the present dominant party, and Mr. Johnston being a member of the party which is now in the minority. They are all, as the undersigned believe, equally worthy and meritorious citizens, and the undersigned cannot, without much difficulty believe, that the political opinions of the gentlemen have exercised any influence with the majority of the committee in inducing their determination, or that such considerations