

From the great mass of information placed in their hands they have caused the subjoined statement to be compiled, omitting nothing of real importance, yet condensing every thing to the smallest possible compass, and repeating general facts known to everybody only so far as seemed necessary to illustrate the topic immediately in hand.

JOSEPH HARRIS, Chairman.

REPORT.

To the House of Delegates of Maryland:

The Select committee appointed by the Speaker of this House, under the order adopted by the House on the 13th of January, respectfully

REPORT:

That the order adopted by the House was as follows:

“Ordered, That a committee of seven be appointed by the Speaker, whose duty it shall be to prepare or have prepared a succinct statement of the soil in different sections of this State, and of its peculiar adaptation to the various productions of agriculture, the proximity to market, the course and capacity of our navigable streams, the water powers and facilities and material for manufactories, and the mineral resources and description of the country; that in the execution of these duties they have power to avail themselves of any assistance they may require; that said committee report to this House, at as early a day as practicable the result of their labors, said report to be printed in English and German, for extensive circulation throughout the Northern and Western States.”

Under this order the committee, as soon as practicable after its adoption, placed themselves in communication with gentlemen of intelligence, and upon whose statements full reliance could be placed, in various parts of the State. It was their wish and earnest effort to make the statement which they might issue perfectly authentic, to raise no expectations which the result would not fully justify.

They have of course experienced many difficulties and embarrassments, and upon some points would desire opportunity for still further inquiry and investigation if the duration of the session of the House permitted it. In such cases if serious doubt remained, they have preferred to pass over the subject rather than to be inaccurate in their statements.