

REPORT.

The joint committee, appointed by both branches of the Legislature, upon that part of the Governor's message, which relates to the controversy between this state and the state of Virginia, in regard to our southern and western boundaries, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report:

That, considering it due to the dignity of the state, and the protection and welfare of our citizens, who reside on the confines of the disputed Territory, that this matter should be finally settled, your committee have given the subject the most mature consideration, which the delicacy of the controversy with a sister state, involving a large extent of our dominion requires.

1st. On a matter of such vital concern to the state, and for the purpose of calling the attention of the members of both Houses, to the pressing importance of that part of the Executive message. Your committee ask leave to remark that amongst the most interesting concerns of the state, will be found that of fixing the Territorial limits, with clearness and precision. Because it is a well settled rule, that the least encroachment of one state upon the Territory of another, from motives of ambition to expand Territory by unlawful aggression is an act of injustice; and to avoid the commission of any such act, as well as to remove all causes of quarrel and discord, it has been held by the law of nations, that it is the duty of each state to know with certainty, the limits of her Territory, for the better protection and management of her eminent domain.

But from causes not fully known to your committee, our predecessors did not close the dispute with Virginia, in regard to our southern and western boundaries, although we find upon record in our archives of state, many successive efforts through various periods of our history to effect that very desirable object, by means the most liberal, persuasive and conciliatory. In that part of the Executive message to which the attention of your committee has been specially directed, connected with documents received from the state of Virginia, we are finally told that the boundaries in ques-