

be entirely freed, by any forms of government, from the workings of those adversary principles, between the governing and the governed, which have marked the history of mankind through all time: and whilst our admirable Constitution may be found to have done, and be still capable of doing, much towards preserving the just balance of our political system, it must ultimately prove but a weak barrier against the inroads of ambition and power, unless strengthened by the constant devotion, and guarded by the wakeful vigilance of the free people, to whom it is the sheet-anchor of hope. Whenever the people of this country shall become indifferent to this subject; whenever they shall fail to rally with alacrity and zeal to the repair of any breach which may have been made in the palladium of their liberties, then shall we have passed our meridian as a confederated Republic, and be rapidly descending to servility and despotism.

We transmitted (as was made our duty) to His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, two reports of a Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Delegates, and sundry resolutions of the General Assembly, at its last session, on the subject of our Southern and Western boundaries, and the long pending controversy with Virginia in relation thereto. And in further compliance with the directions of the General Assembly, we selected and engaged the services of two additional counsel, Bene S. Pigman and Joseph J. Merrick, Esquires, to assist the Attorney General in conducting and prosecuting the suit directed to be instituted for "procuring a final legal adjustment, and settlement of said boundaries."

A copy of our communication to His Excellency, Governor Tazewell, and of his reply, acknowledging the receipt of the report and resolutions, and being the only correspondence, since your last session, upon this interesting and delicate subject, are herewith submitted, which it will be seen are, on both parts, couched in the terms of courtesy and respect which ought ever to be observed between sister States.

Under the resolutions directing us to contract for the building of a Gun House, and to have the out buildings within, and wall around, the public circle repaired, we advertised for proposals for said work, and several drawings, estimates and proposals having been submitted to us, it appeared so manifest that the interests of the State would be promoted by the erection of a Gun-House upon a plan and of dimensions which required a larger sum of money than had been appropriated for that purpose, that we could not