

## REPORT:

That they are seriously impressed with the belief, that the best interests of the State demand a prompt and efficient action on the part of the Legislature, to secure the early completion of the eastern section of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, to Cumberland. The committee do not deem it necessary to enter into an elaborate argument to illustrate this position; the able memorial before the Legislature, and the recent report by an intelligent committee of the convention on "the probable revenue of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal;" which has been laid on our tables, fully demonstrates the importance of this work, and leads us irresistably to the conclusion, that not only the finances of the State, but the best interests of her citizens are intimately connected with the successful prosecution of this great work.

The committee, inviting the attention of the Legislature to the papers above referred to, will be content with presenting in as condensed a form as possible, the leading considerations which should influence its judgement in this important matter.

Nature has afforded to several of the atlantic States, facilities of commnunication, by internal improvements, with the Western States. New York, early impressed with the importance of drawing within her borders and to her great emporium, the boundless wealth and resources of the west, commenced and executed at the cost of the State, the Erie Canal, which is now producing after a deduction of 30 per cent on its tolls, a revenue of \$1,400,000 per annum.

Pennsylvania, influenced by the example of her neighbour, and to protect the interest of her citizens and her great commercial City, has not hesitated, and at the cost of \$22,000,000, to accomplish her works of internal improvement, the most important of which, is the connection of Philadelphia with Pittsburg, by canals and rail roads.

Virginia, too, has aroused from her lethargy, and by a recent act of her Legislature, has determined to