

But it is proper to observe, that by the practice of the printers of Annapolis, who have had the contracts for the last seven or eight years, it is understood that the printer shall himself make out the marginal notes to the laws, a task of no small labour, and requiring no little experience and no small share of judgment for its proper execution.

In submitting the inquiries to the printers of Baltimore this circumstance was not mentioned, and whether the performance of that duty would not furnish an additional item to their charge, the undersigned are not apprized. Neither were the Baltimore printers aware of the fact that it would become their duty to make out an "Index," and that, too, for what the undersigned consider a very petty and ill-requiting sum indeed for the labour it requires. For the execution of this duty especially, the advantages of having an experienced, competent and careful person, is of great importance. By being compelled to accept the lowest bids that might be made for executing the public printing, the probability would be that this very essential part of the undertaking would not be performed as it ought to be, and the undersigned are not aware that it is susceptible of being in any way regulated than by exercising judgment in selecting the person who is to perform the task, which would be entirely out of the question upon the scheme of a strict competition for the lowest bid.

The next item of work proposed for by the Baltimore printers, is the Journal, for which \$2 00 per page is paid by the Legislature, and which *they* propose to print for \$1 50 with the same addition for folding and stitching. But here again a very material item in the task performed by the printers here, and that without charge, the Baltimore printers it is presumed were not acquainted with; a sheet or a volume was sent them or referred to as a sample, and the inquiry was what will you print such a volume for per page, and their reply was accordingly. But had they been apprized that besides printing that volume as it was, they would also be required to print the daily journal, and to lay the proceedings of one day, the copy of which is generally not received till late in the afternoon, upon the desks of the members in a distinct form from what it assumes in the volume, and that too by the hour of meeting on the next morning, and that then on being read by the clerk it almost every day undergoes more or less alterations, and has afterwards to be made up in form for the volume, had they been apprized