

of that object.

We regret that we had not in our power to lay before the General Assembly, any report upon the subject of the resolution relative to the navigation of the Potomac River, and its branches; a river second only in importance, if not equal to the Bay of Chesapeake, the great artery of our State. The obstacles which have impeded the execution of the trust confided to our Commissioners, will be discovered from the enclosed correspondence of this Department with them, and his Excellency the Governor of Virginia, upon that important and interesting subject. It may also suggest the propriety of some modification or enlargement of the powers of this Department vested in it by the resolution of the last Session, in affording the necessary means and giving the requisite instructions as to time, place and other circumstances.

We will take the liberty of recommending that in the accomplishment of a purpose so vitally interesting to the agricultural and commercial interests of our State as that contemplated by the above mentioned resolution, there should be no delay of time or relaxation of effort; for such is the state of the foreign world at the present period, and the nature of our commercial relation with it, that it becomes the dictate of common prudence and sound policy, to cultivate and improve all our internal means of trade and intercourse, and awaken into life and activity every latent resource of our country. By so doing, we shall alone be able to conform to the laudable spirit of enterprise and improvement, on the display of which our sister State seem emulous to excel, and prove our-selves a worthy and exemplary member of the American Union.

So important to the highest interest of the State did we deem the accomplishment of the object contemplated by the above resolution, that we ventured, on our own responsibility, and without the authority of law, to advance to our Commissioners, out of the public Treasury, the sum of five hundred dollars, for the purpose of furnishing the necessary complements and defraying the charges that would unavoidably be incurred by them in commencing the execution of their duties. This proceeding we have no doubt you will sanction and approve, as it will be seen by the communications of the Commissioners addressed to this Department, that the work could not be commenced without placing the requisite funds