

REPORT.

The undersigned, the minority of the committee appointed "to inquire into the validity of the contract made, or intended to be made with Jeremiah Hughes at the last session of the legislature, for the printing of this house, and if said committee find the aforesaid contract not to be valid, then they be authorised to contract for the printing of the Journal of the present House of Delegates, and all other printing (except bills) that may be ordered by the house, provided that the said committee shall report the facts to the house, and no contract that may be made by the committee shall be in force until confirmed by the house," submits the following report:—

It appears that a joint committee of the Senate and House of Delegates of the last session was appointed, under and in pursuance of the act of 1831, ch. 303, entitled, "an act to provide for the public printing of the State," and that the chairman of the committee on the part of the House made a report "that the committee had contracted with William McNeir for certain of the work, and had also contracted with Jeremiah Hughes for the printing of the Journal of the House of Delegates, and the other printing that might be ordered by that body, (except bills)" on certain terms and restrictions therein mentioned. These contracts were also reported to the Senate, and the reports were concurred in by both branches, and the contracts thus confirmed by the legislature. After the confirmation of the reports the said Jeremiah Hughes addressed to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates the following letter:—"Gentlemen: In the report of the joint committee appointed to contract for the printing of the next session, this moment placed in my hands, I find it stated, after mentioning that they had contracted with William McNeir for printing most of the work, that they have contracted with Jeremiah Hughes for the printing of the journal of the House of Delegates, and the other printing (except bills) that may be ordered by that body. Not having had the good fortune to be apprised in any way of the intended period of the meeting of that committee until they were in session, with the written proposals of other printers in hand, I was induced on the instant, to make my proposal verbally, which was "that I offered