



## R E P O R T .

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THE incidents in the proceedings of the Board for the past year which require to be recorded in this report are few; but some of them are pregnant with important consequences, to the interest of the road. The first annual report from this Board, had been but a few days in print, before resolutions, to wit, on the 11th day of January, were moved in the House of Delegates, imputing a great number and variety of mal-practices to the Board; which, had they been sustained by credible testimony, and not been fully disproved, would have worked a forfeiture of the charter of the Company. These resolutions of inquiry were adopted immediately after they were moved, and subpoenas were forthwith issued for all the important officers of the Company, who were required to repair to Annapolis and give testimony in the case. This call compelled these officers to abandon their appropriate official location and duties, and spend nearly the whole of the winter, and part of the spring in Annapolis: and no final action was taken by that honourable body on the affairs of the road, until on the last day of the session, to wit, on the sixth day of April last—when a resolution was passed which granted every thing, which the memorial from a deputation of the Board, had asked for: a copy of this memorial is herewith submitted. It is no part of our plan or intention here to complain of the laudable desire on the part of the Legislature, to inquire into and know every thing in connection with, the management of this, or any other public work; and strictly to scrutinize the conduct of those charged with, and responsible for, such important trusts. It is their duty and their right, to be put in possession of all important facts; and the interests of the State require that they should not neglect on their part this important duty, whenever they shall think it necessary to institute inquiries. A company which would desire to shrink from, or deny the exercise of this right when conducted upon fair and liberal principles, must be either conscious of its own mal-practices, or unmindful of its own obligations and duty. But while we admit that such inquiries are just and proper in themselves, and in this case it was the desire of the President and