

and after the certificates of the State had been placed in possession of the company.

Mr. Washington then presented to the committee the following statement:

Having leave from the committee to make any additional statement I may deem necessary, to a fair understanding in relation to compensation paid to Joseph J. Merrick, I would remark,—that the reasoning in the report of the committee of the board, in favor of allowing the compensation claimed by Mr. Merrick (and which has been submitted) applies with equal, if not greater force to the services rendered in our application for the three million subscription. The board became aware upon the resurvey of the line by Messrs. Fisk and Purcell, and from their estimates, that those which had been previously made by Mr. Cruger, were wholly inadequate, and that application must be made to the State for large additional means; it was at the same time aware of the excitement which the disclosure would produce, and of the increased difficulties which would embarrass any application for further aid. The board having relied on the correctness of Mr. Cruger's estimate (as did the internal improvement convention,) was equally surprised with the public at the result of the revised estimates. The board under the circumstances and by the advice of one of the commissioners of the State, to whose friendly and disinterested course the company felt largely indebted, did not hesitate in authorising him to employ counsel, nor was there a question as to the propriety of doing so, on the contrary it was deemed an imperative duty by every fair and honorable means to ensure the success of the work, on which depended the interest of all the stockholders, the State herself being one of the largest.—The description of services rendered by Mr. Merrick will perhaps be better understood by giving his own statement, contained in the following extract from a letter addressed to me: ‘I always regarded the transaction as a fair, open, honorable and necessary one, which I am in no wise disposed to cloak or disguise. I was employed in a most arduous undertaking, likely to occupy me for a long time and with but faint hopes of success—all the expense and loss of time and money was to be borne, and was actually borne by me, and the stipulated reward being wholly contingent on a subscription, and contingent upon the assent of the various corporations, was ten thousand dollars, which was paid last summer. My duties were to endeavour by writing, and otherwise to allay the excitement which in 1835 was directed against the company, and by presenting in various lights the inducements which should lead to an effectual support of your great work, to obtain a further subscription of three millions on terms acceptable to the company.

“In laboring for this object I was incessantly occupied during the session of 1835 and '6, and in the May session. Afterwards repeatedly compelled to visit Baltimore and Washington in reference to the negotiations, without which it is not likely that eith