

REPORT.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

February 17, 1841.

Read and 666 copies ordered to be printed.

The undersigned, members of the committee to whom was referred that part of the Governor's message which relates to the public lands, beg leave to present their own views, lest it might be inferred that they concur with the majority of that committee in the opinions and reasonings contained in their report. Before we proceed to examine the subject, we are compelled to notice an attack, made in the outset of that report upon the Governor of our State, which, neither the character of that officer, nor the respect due to the office itself, can, in the remotest degree, justify. It seems to be considered, by the majority of that committee, that the unbiassed judgment of one, constituting an independent branch of State Government, must not be expressed, when at variance with the majority of the House of Delegates, because he thereby may "forestal legislative action;" well knowing, as they must have done, that the independence of the people's representatives, if true to their responsibilities, must of necessity place such alleged interference at defiance.

Strange is the inconsistency in which the majority of the committee involve themselves, when, in the early portion of their report, they upbraid the Governor for a supposed interference, by the free expression of his judgment in relation to the subject immediately before them, when having indulged their disposition to censure in this aspect of the case, they continue the attack, because, in the equally undoubted "absence of consti-