

conveyancing, and proceedings of the Courts of Justice in this State," was completed during the recess of the Legislature, and will doubtless be submitted to your consideration at an early period. It appears to me, that the critical examination in detail of a work of this character, by your entire body, would be wholly impracticable, and I respectfully suggest that the most expedient mode of discharging your duty in relation to the subject matter of this report, would be to appoint a joint committee of competent professional men, whose skill and judgment, entitle them to your confidence, charged with the duty of making a mature and careful examination of the work referred to them, and to report to you the result of such examination at as early a day as practicable.— If this course be adopted, it is believed that a report from such a committee can be had, in ample time to enable you finally to dispose of this important subject, during the present session.

As required by the Acts of 1852, chapter 60, and chapter 275, I appointed a Commissioner on the part of this State, to act in conjunction with the Commissioner appointed by His Excellency the Governor of Virginia, in establishing the boundaries between the two States, in those Acts mentioned, and I regret to inform you that as yet nothing has been accomplished by that commission. The Act of the State of Virginia authorises the adjustment of one of those disputed boundaries only; and the Maryland Commissioner being unwilling to enter upon the duty of establishing the one without at the same time settling the other, and the Legislature of this State having failed to make any provision for the payment of the necessary expenses of the commission, all operations under it have been suspended until further action with regard to it might be taken by the respective States. The Legislature of Virginia will, I have no doubt at its present session extend the authority of their Commissioner so as to allow of the establishing of both of the division lines between the two States now in controversy, and the duty devolves on you of making some suitable provision for defraying our proportional part of the necessary expenses of the survey. I have not at hand the means of furnishing you with an accurate estimate of what these expenses may be, but in the opinion of the Commissioner, they cannot be less than three thousand dollars. I suggest the appropriation of that sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry on the work of the commission. The compensation of the Commissioner, as already provided, is to be fixed and paid by the Legislature after the service shall have been performed. The appropriation now asked for, is to meet the actual expense of the survey only. I commend this matter to your early attention as upon the settlement of these boundaries, depends the adjustment of many vexed questions between the citizens of the respective States, arising out of the conflict of jurisdiction, thus occasioned.

I have received the printed Journal of the proceedings of a Convention, composed of delegates from the thirteen original Uni-