

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of Maryland.

Knowing the anxiety of the Legislature, to be put in possession of the revision of the statute laws of our state, which we have heretofore been appointed to prepare, we deem it our duty at the commencement of the session, to explain to you the present state of the work, and the causes which have delayed, and still delay its completion, and which induce us to postpone presenting any portion of it, at your present session. The manifest design of the resolution of 1825, No. 95, under which the work is preparing, was to afford the people something more than a mere compilation of the existing laws, like those which have heretofore been prepared under Legislative sanction. Had that been its object, our duties under it would long since been performed. It is obvious that the Legislature designed giving to the people in the form of a well digested Legislative code, the statute laws of the state, not merely as it then was, but as it ought to be, and with that view, imposed upon the revisors the arduous and difficult task of examining critically every law which has been passed from the settlement of the Province, to the time of preparing the work, every judicial decision which within the same period has been made touching the construction of any one of these laws, and of consulting the Legislation of our sister states, and of Foreign countries, especially of England, with a view to enable us to suggest such improvements as we may conclude, from the lights derived from all those sources, would be promotive of the public good. The Legislature will readily perceive that duties like these requires for their faithful performance, long, diligent and accurate enquiry, and that even in the hands of those who could devote the whole of their time to their discharge, they would occupy years in their completion—situated however as we have been ever since our appointment, and as we were known to be, when the appointment was given us, one of us involved in arduous judicial duties, and the other in extensive professional engagements, it could not have been expected that we were to do more than appropriate towards the undertaking, the time which we could spare from our respective employments. This we have