

The special Committee to whom was referred so much of the late Executive Message as relates to the southern and western boundaries of this State, have given to the subject that careful examination and attentive consideration, its great importance and the delicate nature of the pending controversy in relation thereto, with a sister State, seemed to require, and respectfully beg leave to

#### REPORT:

That although they have been unable to discern any thing in the Executive Communication immediately referred to them or the previous actions of the State of Maryland, in relation to this interesting subject, which does not command their entire approbation, or which would indicate the propriety of reviewing in any manner at this time, the merits of the controversy, or recommending any relaxation or change in the course deliberately determined upon by the State at the last session of the Legislature, yet anxious to preserve, if possibly, within the reach of any means compatible with the honor and just rights of Maryland, that harmony and good understanding heretofore so long and so happily existing between the two States; your Committee have thought it might be conducive to that desirable end, and not inconsistent with the duties assigned them, to notice some of the views expressed in the late Message of his Excellency Governor Tazewell, to the Legislature of Virginia, in reference to this subject. This document is not officially before us, but it has been given to the world through the press, and emanating from so high a source, and treating of the very subject your Committee are charged to inquire into, with apparent and indeed express regret that circumstances exist, which, in the judgment of his Excellency, preclude Virginia from a direct communication of her views to Maryland, your Committee think they might be deemed wanting in their duty, if not in that respect of which Virginia and her functionaries are ever worthy, were they to pass it over in silence. In that document it is declared that the law of Virginia "to settle the western limits of that State, and the dividing boundary line between that State and the Commonwealth of Maryland," passed 5th of March, 1833, was intended as an acceptance of our own "proposition for the amicable settlement" of the questions existing between us. That the determination of Maryland to seek a decision of her rights by the judicial authority of the Union, was probably occasioned by "a misapprehension of the terms" of that enactment of Virginia, which was susceptible of satisfactory explanation,