

Mr. Hammond (the rules being suspended) submitted the following

REPORT.

*To the Honorable,*

*The General Assembly of Maryland.*

The undersigned beg leave respectfully to report, that by chapter 370, of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, of 1868, they had the honor to be appointed Commissioners on the part of the State of Maryland, to meet a like number of persons to be appointed by the State of Virginia, to settle and adjust the boundary line on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake bay, between the States of Virginia and Maryland; their work to be reported to this General Assembly for approval or rejection. That no provision was made in the said Act for application to the Commonwealth of Virginia, to appoint Commissioners on the part of that State; and in the absence of civil government by the people of that State, during the time which has elapsed since the passage of the Maryland Act, there was no authority governing that State which would probably have considered itself justified in appointing Commissioners for that purpose; or to which the State of Maryland could, with propriety, have made such application. Nothing, therefore, has been done by the undersigned, in the practical execution of the trust confided to them. The restoration of civil Government to the people of Virginia, affords a hope that at the request of the General Assembly of Maryland, a joint commission may be constituted to adjust this long pending controversy.

The undersigned, by appointment of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1867, constituted a part of the joint commission upon this boundary question, whose proceedings were reported to the General Assembly of Maryland, in 1868. That report contains a brief account of the failure of the efforts theretofore made to adjust this boundary question, and shows that the failure in the last attempt was probably mainly attributable to the injudicious and inconsistent declarations in the legislative Acts of the two States upon the subject. The report also stated that it did not appear to the Commissioners that there could be any insuperable difficulty in arriving at an amicable adjustment or compromise of the divisional line in question, if the conflicting legislation of the two States was removed; and with a view to that result, the repeal of the Act of Maryland of 1860, chapter 385, was recommended. The report was not printed in time for the action of that General Assembly, and the recommendation is renewed to your Honorable Body, in the hope that Virginia also will repeal the resolutions which were supposed to restrict its Commissioners in the joint commission of 1867. Then, if another joint commission shall be constituted, it will be