

Constitutional Section 14. "to revise simplify and abridge the rules of practice, pleadings and forms of conveyancing, and proceedings of the Courts of Justice in this State," was completed during the recess of this 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 His Excellency the Governor of Virginia, in establishing the boundaries between the two States in those acts mentioned, and regret to inform you that as yet nothing has been accomplished by that Commission. The Act of the State of Virginia authorizes 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 had 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 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 hereof 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 services that 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 United States, convened in the City of Philadelphia on the 6th July, 1852, to consider the propriety of erecting on "Independence Square" a monument in commemoration of the Declaration of American Independence; with a request that I should bring the subject to the attention of the Legislature of this State. Nine of the thirteen original States having already determined to participate in the execution of this design, the object of this memorial is to obtain the co-operation of the entire number before the work is commenced.

The proposed monument, is intended to commemorate, in an enduring and appropriate form, the most important event in American History. I regard the monument as one,