

to the Committee on Taxation and Revenue, and 75 copies ordered to be printed.

Bill to be entitled, An act reducing the salary of the Governor's Private Secretary,

Was read the second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Engrossed bill to be entitled, An act to re-establish the records of the County of Jackson, and for other purposes,

Was read the third time; and on the question of its passage, the yeas and nays were:

Yeas—Messrs. Aldrich, Austin, Avery, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Mosely, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, J. M. Smith, Tweed, Watts, White—18.

Nays—None.

Said bill passed. Title as stated. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

House bill to be entitled, An act to empower Green R. Farmer and William T. Pebbles to assume the management of their estates,

Was read the third time, and on the question of its passage the yeas and nays were:

Yeas—Messrs. Aldrich, Austin, Avery, Brown, Costin, Crawford, Floyd, Ghent, Lorimer, D. J. Smith, Watts, White—12.

Nays—Messrs. Forward, Mosely, Sanderson and Tweed, 4.

Said bill passed. Title as stated. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

House bill to be entitled, An act to repeal an act entitled an act to prohibit the circulation of notes of foreign Banks of a less denomination than five dollars, approved February 14, 1835, was read the third time.

Mr. Sanderson moved that the Senate go into committee of the whole on said bill,

Which motion was lost.

On the question of the passage of said bill, the yeas and nays were:

Yeas: Mr. President, Messrs. Austin, Crawford, Lorimer, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, Watts and White, 8.

Nays: Messrs. Aldrich, Avery, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Mosely, J. M. Smith and Tweed, 11.

Said bill was lost. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

House resolution urging upon Congress the payment of certain Companies of Florida Volunteers;

Was read the first time, the rule waived, and read a second and third time, and on the question of its passage, the yeas and nays being called for by Messrs. Forward and Burritt, were:

Yeas: Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Austin, Avery, Brown, Burritt, Crawford, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Mosely, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, J. M. Smith, Tweed, Watts and White, 18.

Nays: None.

Said resolution passed. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

House bill to be entitled, An act to re-establish the county lines of St. John's county;

Was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled, An act relating to the mode of appointment and duties of Auctioneers;

Was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading tomorrow.

House bill to be entitled, An act to extend the tenure of the office of Register of Public Lands, Treasurer, and Comptroller of Public Accounts;

Was read the first time and ordered to a second reading tomorrow.

House bill to be entitled, An act to provide for the recording of marks and brands of cattle shipped from the State of Florida;

Was read the first time and ordered to a second reading tomorrow.

On motion of Mr. Crawford, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, 10 o'clock, A. M.

FRIDAY, December 15, 1848.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Rev. Mr. Choice officiated as Chaplain.

A quorum being present, the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Mr. Avery gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act prescribing a general method for the issuing of licenses and the payment of the tax thereon.

Mr. Lorimer gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act to empower William Newsom to assume the management of his own estate.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Burritt introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to provide for compensation of Physicians for professional attendance on Coroner's inquests.

Which was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Forward introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to provide for the election of a keeper of the public archives in the cities of St. Augustine and Pensacola, and to prescribe their duties, &c.

Which was read the first time, ordered to a second reading to-morrow, and on motion of Mr. Forward, 75 copies ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Lorimer was added to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Ghent introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to declare East River in Walton County a navigable stream.

Which was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

Mr. Tweed presented a memorial from certain citizens of the town of Milton, praying that they be allowed to surrender the charter of said town. Also, a memorial from certain other citizens of said town, protesting against the surrender of their charter.

Which were read, and referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Tweed, D. J. Smith, and Avery.

Mr. Floyd, from the Committee on Corporations, presented the following report, which was concurred in :

The Committee on Corporations, to whom was referred the memorial of merchants and citizens of Apalachicola, have had the same under consideration, and are of opinion that the prayer of the memorialists should be granted. They, therefore, report the following bill, and ask the passage of the same. R. J. FLOYD, Ch'n.

The bill accompanying the same entitled, An act to amend an act entitled an act to prevent the circulation of change bills, approved 15th March, 1844, was read the first time, the rule waived, read a second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Crawford, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, presented the following report, which was concurred in :

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens of Pensacola, praying that certain property may be exempted from taxation for the period of five years from 1st January, 1849, and who were instructed by the Senate to report a bill favoring the object of the petitioners, ask leave to report the accompanying bill, and recommend its passage.

JNO. L. CRAWFORD, Chairman.

The bill accompanying the same entitled, An act to exempt from taxation for five years certain property in the city of Pensacola, was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

A committee from the House informed the Senate that they had been instructed by the House to request of the Senate that they would return to the House the bill entitled, An act to incorporate St. Johns Lodge, No. 12, in the city of St. Augustine.

Which request was granted by the Senate, and Messrs. Forward, Costin, and Tweed appointed a committee to return said bill to the House. Which committee reported that the duty assigned them had been performed.

Mr. White, from the Committee on Taxation and Revenue, presented the following Report, which was concurred in :

The Committee on Taxation and Revenue, to whom was referred a resolution providing for the refunding of certain taxes overpaid by Auctioneers at Key West, have examined into the merits of the case, and are of opinion that the said resolution ought to pass. They therefore return the same, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration thereof. THOMAS M. WHITE, Chairman.

The resolution accompanying the same was read the second time, the rule waived, read a third time and passed. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Engrossed bill to be entitled, An act reducing the salary of the Governor's Private Secretary, was read the third time, and on the question of its passage, the yeas and nays were :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Avery, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Mosely, D. J. Smith, J. M. Smith, Tweed, Watts, White—16.

Nays—Mr. Floyd—1.

Said bill passed. Title as stated. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

Resolution for the relief of W. D. Moseley, was read the second time, the rule waived, read the third time, and passed. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

House bill to be entitled, An Act to provide for the recording of the marks and brands of cattle shipped from the State of Florida, was read the second time, and referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs. D. J. Smith, Sanderson and Floyd.

House bill to be entitled, An Act relating to the mode of appointment and duties of Auctioneers, was, on motion of Mr. Floyd, read the second time by its title, referred to the Committee on the Executive Department, and 75 copies ordered to be printed.

House bill entitled, An Act to re-establish the county lines of St. Johns county, was read the second time, the rule waived, read the third time by its title, and on the question of its passage, the yeas and nays were :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Austin, Avery, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Mosely, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, J. M. Smith, Tweed, Watts and White—18.

Nays—None.

Said bill passed. Title as stated. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

House bill to be entitled, An Act to extend the tenure of the office of Register of Public Lands, Treasurer and Comptroller of Public Accounts, was read the second time, and on motion of Mr. Forward, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Bill to be entitled, An act to repeal the road laws in and for the county of Franklin, was read the second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Bill to be entitled, An act relating to Fines, Forfeitures, Costs and other moneys adjudged to the State, was read the second time, and on motion of Mr. J. M. Smith, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Bill to be entitled, An Act to provide for the sale of the sixteenth sections granted by Congress to the State for the support of Public Schools, and for consolidating the School Fund, was read the second time, and on motion of Mr. Burritt, laid upon the table until Monday.

On motion of Mr. Lorimer, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, 10 o'clock, A. M.

SATURDAY, December 16, 1848.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Rev. Mr. Choice officiated as Chaplain.

A quorum being present, the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Mr. Mosely gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act to compel the Judges of the Circuit Courts to hold the terms of Court at the times and places prescribed by law.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Avery introduced a bill to be entitled, An act prescribing a general method for issuing of licenses and the payment of the tax thereon.

Which was read the first time and ordered to a second reading on Monday next.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Forward introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to repeal the 2nd section of an act supplementary to and extending the provisions of an act assenting to the purchase by the United States and ceding to the same jurisdiction of certain lands on the Island of Key West, for the purposes designated in said act, approved July 8, 1845.

Which was read the first time and ordered to a second reading on Monday next.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Forward introduced a bill to be entitled, An act relating to the duties of Tax Assessors and Collectors, and for other purposes.

Which was read the first time and on motion of Mr. Forward, laid upon the table and 75 copies ordered to be printed.

Mr. Ghent gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act declaring Yellow River in this State a navigable stream, and for other purposes.

Mr. Forward gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act establishing a Common School System for the State of Florida.

Also a bill to be entitled, An act to prescribe an equal and uniform mode of taxation and for other purposes.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Avery was added to the committee appointed to examine the offices of the Comptroller and Treasurer.

On motion of Mr. Burritt, ordered that 500 copies of the report of the Committee on Schools and Colleges be printed for the use of the Senate.

The following message from his Excellency the Governor was received and read:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Dec. 16, 1848.

Gentlemen of the Senate:

I hereby nominate Leslie A. Thompson, Esq., as Adjutant General for this State.

Very respectfully,

W. D. MOSELEY.

The nomination therein contained was advised and consented to by the Senate.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Lorimer introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to empower William Newson to assume the management of his own estate.

Which was read the first time and ordered to a second reading on Monday next.

Mr. Avery presented the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were read the first time and ordered to a second reading on Monday next:

Whereas, the fund for the establishment of two Seminaries of Learning, one to be located on the East and the other on the West of the river Suwannee, will soon amount to a sufficient sum, for the annual interest to be applied with advantage to the purpose for which it was intended; and whereas, the fund should be carefully preserved, and as little expended in the erection of buildings and purchase of apparatus as a prudent and wise policy will allow; and whereas, no plan is yet digested for the formation and establishment of the said Seminaries; and whereas, it is impossible for the General Assembly to obtain through ordinary channels such information as will enable them to decide in what counties the Seminaries should be placed—therefore,

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened,* That the several counties in this State be and they are hereby requested to report to the Governor in time to be laid by him before the General Assembly at their next regular session:

1st. A plan or plans for the formation and establishment of a Seminary of Learning.

2d. What amount in lands, buildings, or funds, will be contributed by the county or by individuals, if the said Seminary is established in said county.

3d. Such other matter as may have influence in determining the choice of the General Assembly, in its selection of sites for the two Seminaries.

Mr. Burritt presented the following Resolutions, which were read the first time and ordered to a second reading on Monday next.

*Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened,* That the Attorney General of this State is hereby authorized and required to file a bill in the Supreme Court of the U. States, to settle and quiet the boundary line between the State of Florida and the State of Georgia.

*Be it further resolved,* That all documents or other papers on file in the Executive Department, necessary to a preparation of the said bill and the prosecution thereof, shall be at the disposal of the Attorney General for the purposes aforesaid.

*Be it further resolved,* That his Excellency the Governor of this State be authorized to employ such associate counsel with the Attorney General, in the prosecution of said cause, as by and with the

advice and consent of the Attorney General, may by his Excellency be deemed necessary.

Mr. Forward, from the Committee on Engrossed Bills, presented the following report, which was received :

The Committee on Engrossed Bills beg leave to report as correctly engrossed, a bill to be entitled, "An act to amend an act entitled an act to prevent the circulation of Change Bills, approved 15th March, 1844."

WILLIAM A. FORWARD, Chairman.

Mr. Burritt, from the Committee on the Judiciary, presented the following report, which was concurred in :

The Committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred the House bill entitled, "An act to extend the tenure of office of Register of Public Lands, Treasurer and Comptroller of Public Accounts," have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report :

That by the Constitution of this State, article 3d, sec. 23d, it is ordered, that "a State Treasurer and Comptroller of Public Accounts shall be elected by joint vote of both Houses of the General Assembly at each regular session thereof." The Committee are not aware of any other law regulating their term of office—they recommend therefore, that the first section of said act be amended by striking out the words "Treasurer and Comptroller of Public Accounts." They further recommend that the second section of said act be amended so as to correspond with the first, by striking out the words "those officers," in the 2d line, and inserting "the Register," and by striking out the words "their offices" in the 4th line, and inserting, "his office."

And the Committee ask the concurrence of the Senate therein.

S. L. BURRITT, Chairman.

Mr. Burritt, from the Committee on the Judiciary, presented the following report, which was received :

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred a bill entitled, "An act relating to fines, forfeitures, costs, and other moneys adjudged to the State," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report the bill back to the Senate, and recommend the following amendments :

Strike out the word "ten," in the 5th line of the 1st section, and insert *twenty*. Strike out the word "any," in the 5th line of the 3d section, and insert "the." Insert the word "forfeitures," after the word "fines," in the 4th line of the 5th section. Strike out the words "an execution," in the 7th line of the 5th section, and insert "a writ of fieri facias, and shall contain the clause, or substance thereof, usually contained in such writs." Strike out the words "in each year," in the 7th line of the 6th section, and insert the word "thereafter."—Strike out the word "trial," and insert "hearing," in the 1st line of the 9th section. Also insert the words "upon the trial," after the word "on," in the 2d line of the 9th section. Strike out the words "good and sufficient," and insert "admissible," in the last line of the 9th section.

S. L. BURRITT, Chairman.

The following message from the House was read :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 15, 1848.

Hon. President of the Senate :

SIR:—The House has concurred in Senate amendment to the House resolution providing for the payment of certain overpaid taxes.

Respectfully,

W. B. LANCASTER,  
Clerk House Representatives.

Also the following :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dec. 15, 1848.

Hon. President of the Senate :

SIR:—The House this day passed Senate bill to be entitled, "An act requiring Solicitor's to make reports of the state and progress of cases, civil or criminal, in which the State is a party," with the following amendment : Strike out the word "ten," in the fourth line of the first section, and insert the word "thirty," between the words "within" and "days."

In which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Respectfully,

W. B. LANCASTER,  
Clerk House Representatives.

The amendment was concurred in by the Senate, and said bill ordered to be enrolled.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Engrossed bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act entitled an act to prevent the circulation of Change Bills, approved 15th March, 1844, was read the third time, and on the question of its passage the yeas and nays were :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Austin, Avery, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Mosely, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, J. M. Smith, Tweed—17.

Nays—None.

Said bill passed—title as stated. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

The following message from the House was read :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 15, 1848.

Honorable President of the Senate :

SIR—The House has ordered 75 copies to be printed of the following bills, to wit :

A bill to be entitled, An act for the relief of occupying claimants, and other purposes ;

A bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act to authorize the sale of the Equity of Redemption of mortgaged property, and for other purposes ;

Also, a bill to be entitled, An act to require licenses to be taken out by persons and subjects not hitherto taxed."

Respectfully,

W. B. LANCASTER,  
Clerk House Representatives.

Mr. Forward, from the Committee on Engrossed Bills, presented the following Report, which was received :

The Committee on Engrossed bills beg leave to REPORT as correctly engrossed, a bill to be entitled, An act to repeal the road laws in and for the county of Franklin.

W. A. FORWARD, Chairman.

Engrossed bill to be entitled, An act to repeal the road laws in and for the county of Franklin, was read the third time, and on the question of its passage, the yeas and nays were :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Avery, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Mosely, J. M. Smith and Tweed—14.

Nays—Messrs. Austin, Sanderson, D. J. Smith and White—4.  
Said bill passed. Title as stated. Ordered, that the same be certified to the House.

Bill to be entitled, An act relating to Fines, Forfeitures, Costs, and other moneys adjudged to the State, was read the second time.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson, the Senate resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on said bill, Mr. Tweed in the Chair. After some time spent therein the Committee rose, and by their Chairman reported the bill back to the Senate with amendments, and asked to be discharged from the further consideration thereof; which report was concurred in.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson, said bill was laid upon the table, and 75 copies ordered to be printed.

House bill to be entitled, An act to extend the tenure of the offices of Register of Public Lands, Treasurer and Comptroller of Public Accounts, as amended, was read the second time, the amendments ordered to be engrossed, and the bill as amended, ordered to a third reading on Monday.

Bill to be entitled, An act to provide for the election of a keeper of Public Archives in the cities of St. Augustine and Pensacola, and to prescribe their duties, &c., was, on motion of Mr. Tweed, made the special order for Monday.

Bill to be entitled, An act to exempt from taxation for five years certain property in the city of Pensacola, was read the second time, the rule waived, read the third time by its title, and on the question of its passage, the yeas and nays were :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Avery, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Mosely, Sanderson, J. M. Smith, Tweed and White—15.

Nays—D. J. Smith—1.

Said bill passed. Title as stated. Ordered to be engrossed and certified to the House.

Bill to be entitled, An act to declare East river, in Walton county, a navigable stream, was read the second time, the rule waived, read the third time by its title, and on the question of its passage the yeas and nays were :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Avery, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Mosely, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, J. M. Smith, Tweed and White—17.

Nays—None.

Said bill passed. Title as stated. Ordered to be engrossed and certified to the House.

Bill to be entitled, An act to provide for compensation of Physicians for professional attendance on Coroner's inquests, was read the second time.

Mr. White moved to strike out the words, "sum of twenty-five dollars" in the 3d and 4th lines of section 2; which motion prevailed.

Mr. Burritt moved to amend by inserting, in lieu of the words just stricken out, the words: "such sum as the Board of County Commissioners in each county may order and direct," which motion prevailed.

Mr. Tweed offered the following as an additional section, viz :

SEC. 3. That all expenses incurred by inquests upon the body of any slave or slaves, shall be paid out of the State Treasury: *Provided*, That in all cases of homicide, the expense incurred under the provisions of this act shall, on conviction, be charged by the State, with the costs of conviction, against the party convicted.

Which was carried.

Mr. D. J. Smith moved to amend the 2d section by inserting after the words "such sum," the words "not exceeding forty dollars;" which motion prevailed.

Mr. Floyd offered the following as an additional section, viz :

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That no physician shall be subject to fine or other penalty, for non-attendance upon any inquest in this State.

Which was carried.

Mr. Burritt moved to strike out the words, "Coroner or Justice of the Peace," in the last line of sec. 2, and insert in lieu thereof, "the Board of County Commissioners;" which motion prevailed.

The bill, as amended, was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday next.

House resolution asking Congress to grant a quarter section of land to Benton county for locating county site, &c., was read the first time, the rule waived, read a second and third time by its title and passed. Ordered that the same be certified to the House.

House bill to be entitled, An act to amend the law now in force relative to the organization of Patrols, was read the first time, the rule waived, read a second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on the Militia.

House bill to be entitled, An act prescribing time for which lands shall be seized for taxes, shall be advertised for sale, was read the first time and ordered to a second reading on Monday next.

House bill to be entitled, An Act to authorize the Circuit Court of Washington county, to be held at Mossy Hill Meeting House, was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading on Monday.

House resolution urging upon Congress the payment of the claims of the late Wm. Treadwell, deceased, was read the first time, the

rule waived, read the second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Claims and Accounts.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson, said Committee were instructed to combine said claim with that of W. D. Moseley.

On motion of Mr. Floyd, the Senate adjourned until Monday, 11 o'clock, A. M.

MONDAY, December 18, 1848.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Rev. Mr. Choice officiated as Chaplain.

A quorum being present, on motion of Mr. Sanderson, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Forward was added to the Committee on Taxation and Revenue.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Forward introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to prescribe an equal and uniform mode of taxation, and for other purposes.

Which was, on motion of Mr. Forward, read the first and second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Taxation and Revenue.

On motion of Mr. Floyd, ordered that 75 copies of said bill be printed.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Moseley introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to compel the Judges of the Circuit Courts to hold the terms of Court at the times and places prescribed by law.

Which was read the first time, ordered to a second reading tomorrow, and on motion of Mr. Sanderson, 75 copies ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Forward introduced a bill to be entitled, An act establishing a Common School System for the State of Florida.

Which was, on motion of Mr. Floyd, read the first time by its title.

On motion of Mr. Forward, ordered that said bill be laid upon the table, and 75 copies be printed.

Mr. Aldrich, from the Committee on Enrolled Bills, presented the following report:

The Committee on Enrolled Bills, beg leave to report a bill to be entitled, An act requiring Solicitor's to make reports of the state and progress of cases, civil and criminal, in which the State is a party, as correctly entolled.

LOUIS ALDRICH, Chairman.

Mr. White presented the memorial of the Board of County Commissioners of Jackson County, praying that the taxes to be assessed and collected in said County for two years be applied to the erection of a Court House, &c.

Which was read, and on motion of Mr. Avery, referred to the Committee on Taxation and Revenue.

Mr. Ghent presented the memorial of Thomas Liscoe, of Walton County, praying to be relieved from the capitation tax.

Which was read, and referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Ghent, Floyd, and Moseley.

Mr. Lorimer, from the Committee on Schools and Colleges, presented the following minority report:

The undersigned, one of the Committee on Schools and Colleges, to whom was referred the bill entitled, An Act to provide for the Sale of the 16th sections granted by Congress to the State for the support of Public Schools, and for consolidating the School Fund, not concurring in the views, nor assenting to the reasoning of the majority of the Committee, respectfully submits the following

#### REPORT:

"In consideration of concessions made by the State of Florida in respect to the Public Lands," the act of Congress grants to the State "section number sixteen in every township, or other lands equivalent thereto, for the use of the inhabitants of such township, for the support of Public Schools.

It is not at all necessary, in the opinion of the undersigned, in order to arrive at a just and proper understanding of this law, to look into or ascertain the nature, character or extent of the concessions alleged to have been made by the State in respect of the Public Lands. Whether these concessions secured the enactment or not, by which the sixteenth sections were granted to the State for the purposes therein mentioned, or in whatever light they were regarded by Congress, whether as constituting a consideration of such great moment as to induce the grant, still the object, purport and meaning of the act of Congress would be altogether unexplained, (if indeed there was any doubt as to its design,) by reference to the consideration as expressed in the law, or by argument founded upon the nature and extent of that consideration.

If the law of Congress had simply declared that, in consideration of concessions and renunciations made by the State, there be granted to her the sixteenth section in every township, there would be no doubt of the power of the Legislature over such sections, and no question as to the right of the State to dispose of, or manage the land so granted, in such a manner as to the Legislature might seem meet and proper. There would clearly be no doubt as to the power and right of the State over such a fund under the grant of the kind and description just alluded to; but it is obvious that the consideration expressed would throw no light upon the meaning of the law, as to whether the lands so granted should be consolidated, or whether the sections granted should be disposed of each for the benefit of the township in which it lies. It might, indeed, be argued with a great deal of force, in such a case, that the fund so granted should be consolidated—that the lands should be sold, and the proceeds distributed upon some just and equitable principle among the people of the State, for such purposes as the Legislature might designate. But