internal improvement than I am,) but from
a sense of what I conceive to be duty, I shall
perhaps be in error. I have not at the
time, nor have I now, the slightest doubt of
the power possessed & legitimate right to sell to the
other two comp.s. when we die, if in our judgt. the
interest of the State would thereby be promoted.
and I do think it for the reasons assigned in our
report to the Governor, otherwise I could not have
assented to those sales. But the same reasons
do not think applicable with equal force to this
case. But if they do, a state of things has since
arisen, which seems to me to present a difficulty
not then existing. The legislature it is true, are
at the last session sanctioning what we had done; but
only by a small majority in the House of Delegates.
and it is pretty apparent from their proceedings,
that if we had not actually sold & transferred the
stock, they would, as far as they could have
interposed to prevent a sale to those comp.s. and
it would seem, that if they intended, that we
should make any other sales to others of the other
comp.s. they would hardly have directed por-
tions of the proceeds of the sales already made, to
be applied to their purposes, to the direct prejudice
of the comp.s. with which the contracts of sale
had been made, and in violation of the understanding
of