

bringing forward everything which they thought could reflect credit on them. They claimed things which were not true. A lady had sent him a book which was used in the public schools of this State, in which it is stated that Rhode Island was the first State where religious toleration prevailed. This was a lie. Every one knew that Maryland was settled three years before Rhode Island, and that religious toleration was established here, but they had no means of correcting it. Charles Sumner had said that a slave had never been born on the soil of Massachusetts, and this was a miserable lie. He would read from a history of the settlement of Massachusetts, giving an account of proceedings on the bench in that State relative to slaves born there.

Mr. Brown agreed with the gentleman who had last spoken that the records of the early history of the State should be collected and preserved, but thought with the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Lee,) that the State should not go into the matter; it should be left to individual effort. He thought the researches of the Maryland Historical Society would accomplish all that could be expected.

Mr. Carter explained the reasons which had induced the committee to report this provision. There were many records which were of more importance than in a historical point of view, relating to the boundaries of counties, &c., and many of the old documents here were being constantly mutilated and carried off by antiquaries for the want of some proper person to preserve them. The compensation of the commissioner was not to be increased, but this was only added to his duties.

Mr. Jones thought the Maryland Historical Society would be able to do all that was necessary in this matter, and he hoped that every Marylander would feel it his duty to send every scrap of paper bearing on our early history which he had in his possession. His friend from Allegany, (Mr. McKaig,) had referred to the record of the council of safety in Washington county during the revolutionary war. He (Mr. J.) had never heard of this paper, but he wondered that Mr. McMahon, in his History of Maryland, had not mentioned it, or that it had not been brought to his attention. He (Mr. J.) had read a letter