

building without securing the foundation, would have been unwise, and therefore the Board thought it indispensable that this should be effectively done.

The work when commenced had of necessity to be completed, at least so far as to provide for the occupation of the building, by the General Assembly, the Executive and the Court of Appeals. The amount appropriated has been nearly all expended, and a large balance will be necessary to pay for work already done. A new roof has been put on the building of slate, and a thorough heating apparatus has been placed in the cellar, which was excavated for the purpose.

As is known to the General Assembly, the duties of the Comptroller's Office, do not admit of the incumbent, devoting much time to any work not transacted in his office, and the Comptroller has therefore been able to give but little of his attention to the details of these repairs. His Excellency the Governor, has felt a very deep interest in the repairs, and has taken the oversight of the details of repairing, ornamenting and furnishing the building. This kindness on his part, has very much relieved the Comptroller, and to some extent the Treasurer, the latter officer however, being able to devote much more time to the supervision of the work, than was within the power of the Comptroller.

The enhanced comfort of the legislative halls, and other departments, will commend the work to the approbation of the Legislature.

Upon the eve of retiring from the office, which I have occupied for so long a time, it is proper that I should renew the request made to the Legislature of 1876, that the several items of expenditure and the vouchers therefor, should be carefully examined and reported upon by a committee.— Especially is this necessary as to all items of expenditure, which have occurred since the examination and report made by the committee of the last General Assembly. The importance of such action appears to have been appreciated by the framers of the Constitution, the provisions of which require the appointment of a joint committee for such purposes, by the two houses at each session. Justice to the Comptroller also, requires that this duty should not be neglected.