

than the men who filled them, and the profits less important than the people who received and spent them—for the most part well.

My greatest obligations are not to persons but to institutions. Had it not been for the incomparable labors of the Maryland Historical Society, beginning more than a century ago, and for the more recent but not less able work of the state Hall of Records, many of the sources of our knowledge would not even have survived. Other materials, more fortunate, would yet be so ill arranged and inaccessible as to be of very little use to the inquirer. Time will, I trust, bring us an increased awareness of how great the debt we owe these bodies and the men who founded and administered them.

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