

again the commission under which Washington secured the independence of the Republic.

The care of the State House and the public grounds is now, by a variety of laws, resolutions and orders, left to different hands, not responsible to any officer having the whole control, care and responsibility. I recommend the passage of a law, such as prevails in every State, having a just pride in the preservation of her Public Buildings, repealing existing regulations, and providing for the appointment of the necessary watchmen, keepers of the House and grounds, by some competent authority, to which they should be directly responsible for the efficient discharge of their duty, and the proper care and good order of the public property; and making a regular appropriation, as now, therefor, to be expended under the direction of the appointing power.

The vouchers for the expenditures made out of the regular Contingent Fund, at the disposal of the Executive, are ready, with the accounts, to be laid before the Committee to be appointed for their examination; as well as those showing the use of the sum appropriated, as usual, in 1858, for the re-furnishing and repair of the Government House. It will be seen that this was almost entirely absorbed in the repairs, which, from the lapse of time and decay, had become indispensable for the preservation of the outside walls and the building itself. I preferred to submit to the inconveniences of insufficient furniture, in order that the property itself might have more thorough repair before many of them should be too late.

The various reports and returns which have been made to me, and which are necessary for your more complete understanding of the condition, in detail, of various branches of State service, are herewith submitted, as well as certain resolutions passed by other States, requesting that copies should be laid before this General Assembly.

I have thus, gentlemen, laid before you the information I have of the condition of the State and the public wants. Many of these are pressing, and will require appropriations of considerable sums, which, applied now, will save larger sums hereafter. The necessity for these expenditures, which have to be met, renders economy indispensable, and strengthens the suggestion I have laid before you, that it would be unwise, prematurely, to lessen the State Tax, while such necessities exist. That is not relief which takes off a burden for a moment, only to impose a heavier one hereafter. When the good of the State demands it, a light one is cheerfully borne; especially when it is remembered that so it must be, to enable us to keep our faith, respond to the demands of the public service, and the claims of public charity and duty. It is required, also, to enable the State to comply with her duties of protection to her own citizens, and to place her equal