

ed in a superior manner, the chambers of the Courts of Appeal and Chancery, and also the chamber of the House of Delegates and its adjoining committee room, completely refitted and furnished. The old Armoury has been fitted up as an additional committee room for the House of Delegates, and the office of the Adjutant General has also been put in order. The superintendants say they soon discovered that their alterations and repairs could not be contracted for in the gross, at any reasonable rates, and although, we doubt not, all proper economy has been used, some further appropriation will be necessary to pay for what has been done. The unpaid bills will be submitted by the superintendants to the Committee of Claims of the House of Delegates.

That part of the resolution which directed the building of a Wood House has not been executed. The superintendants state that they found it impossible to have a suitable building erected for the sum appropriated—\$300 and as no place had been designated or agreed upon, it was deemed best to submit the matter to you for further directions.

We take the liberty of submitting to your consideration the situation of the Executive Chamber and the propriety and necessity of having it, as well as other parts of the State House, repaired and supplied with suitable furniture, and we recommend that provision be made for painting the exterior of the State House from the roof, and also the hall of the principal entrance, and for such other repairs and improvements of the public buildings and property, as may be necessary for their preservation, and to keep them in proper order. The public circle around the State House being now enclosed at considerable expense, is, from its position, susceptible of being made an ornament both to the Metropolis and the State. Its natural advantages, long neglected, would with very little trouble or additional expense from year to year, following out a proper plan, be greatly improved by cultivation, and at the same time, the convenience and comfort of the Members of the Legislature be promoted.

In connection with this subject, we beg leave to recommend that the care of the State House and other public buildings and their appurtenances, be by law placed with a competent officer—charged with the keeping of the whole in good order, and that his duties be pointed out in detail by the Legislature. It is believed that such a provision for the care of the public property is important for its protection from injury and danger of destruction by fire. An officer of this kind placed under the superintendance of the Treasurer, Clerk of the Council, the Clerks of the Senate and House of Delegates, the Librarian, the Clerk of the Court of Appeals and Register of the Chancery Court, with power to make reductions from his pay for negligence, would enforce the strict performance of his duties and a due care of the public property. His pay and expenses being plac'd under the controul of his legal superintendants, who being on the spot, would have daily opportunity of witnessing and correcting any omissions of his duty, would