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OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

MARCH 15th, 1878.

Read and 250 copies ordered to be printed.

By order,

MILTON Y. KIDD,

Chief Clerk.

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# REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed by the House of Delegates, January 9th,

## TO INVESTIGATE THE REPAIRS

UPON THE

## STATE HOUSE.

1878.

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ANNAPOLIS:

George Colton, Printer to the General Assembly.

1878.

## Report of Select Committee.

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*To the Honorable,*

*The House of Delegates of Maryland:*

The select committee appointed by an order of the House adopted on January 9th, 1878, to examine into the expenditures by the Board of Public Works for the State House repairs, the constitutional authority for the excess over the appropriation made by the session of 1876, and the necessity for the same, beg leave to make the following report:

Your committee have examined under oath the Board of Public Works; George A. Frederick, the architect; Joseph M. Marshall, the carpenter; Joseph T. Jewell, bricklayer; J. H. Vansant, excavating and hauling; Swain & Banks, lumber; W. Bollman, iron beams and girders; J. W. Kalmey, painting; George G. Watkins, plasterer; Garthe & Loewenstein, slating; J. J. Harig, tinning; Seim & Emory, paints and glass; Bartlett, Robbins & Co., heating; Harrington & Mills, furniture; Renwick & Son, furniture; Jenkins & Son, furniture; J. C. Knipp & Bro., furniture; George W. Taylor, draperies; McDowell & Co., carpets; Cornelius & Co., gas fixtures; Emmart & Quartley, frescoing; Shirley & Son, spittoons; Samuel Child & Co., water coolers and other furnishings; Dufer & Co., iron railing and wire work; George Brewer, General Freight Agent A. & E. R. R.; Joseph Thomas & Son, mouldings, brackets, doors, frames, &c.; Jacob Green, lime, plaster and hair; James McAllister, cement; F. H. Davidson & Co., hardware; R. J. Davidson, plumbing and gasfitting materials; Daniel Caulk, who bid or proposed to superintend work; and Norman R. Price, agent of B. L. Solomon & Sons, New York, from whom the curtain goods were bought, and herewith submit the evidence taken for the consideration of your honorable body.

Your committee further report they have failed to find the constitutional authority for the expenditure over and above the appropriation of the session of 1876 of thirty-two thousand dollars, but they are of the opinion that when the evidence submitted is examined by the members of your body, they will see or conclude that it was impossible for the Legislature of 1876 to have known exactly what the condition of the building was, and therefore were unable to see exactly what was needed to repair, heat, ventilate, plaster, paint and fresco the State House, as ordered by the acts of 1876, chapter 194.

We think the evidence submitted will give a much better idea of the exact condition of affairs than we would be able to state, and therefore call your special attention to the testimony of George A. Frederick, architect, and the Board of Public Works. We think the Board of Public Works would have been negligent of their duty if they had not put the building in repair where they found it unsafe, many of its timbers being rotten and dangerous.

All the contracts seem, so far as we are able to judge, to be reasonable—with one exception hereafter referred to—as will be seen from the evidence of experts.

Your committee have no comments to make, preferring to submit the testimony and, from the evidence deduced, allow you to form your own conclusions.

Your committee further report the amount of money paid upon warrants of the Comptroller to be thirty-one thousand nine hundred and ninety-three dollars and ninety-one cents, and that there are, so far as we can find, the sum of seventy-nine thousand three hundred and ninety-four dollars and thirty-eight cents in bills of different parties, as annexed, yet unpaid; all of which seem to be proper except the one heretofore referred to of R. J. Davidson, whose evidence did not, to your committee, seem clear and satisfactory, and we therefore advise a reduction of his bill of twenty per cent. R. J. Davidson was an employed agent of the Board of Public Works to buy, at the lowest prices, such plumbing and gas fitting material as they might

need, and we do not think he purchased the required materials as low as he might have done, besides has charged the State full retail prices for what he himself furnished. We therefore recommend the aforesaid reduction or discount.

FRANK BROWN, *Chairman*,  
WM. SNOWDEN,  
JOSEPH HARRISON,  
GEO. W. SPENCER,  
B. L. HARIG,  
EUGENE HIGGINS, .  
S. COX, Jr.,  
W. CAMPBELL HAMILTON,  
EDW. L. F. HARDCASTLE.