

## STATE HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS.

The repairs upon the State House were commenced on the 15th of April, 1877.

The great uncertainty as to the amount of work to be done, which always attends the reconstruction of old buildings, compelled the Board of Public Works to employ by the day the necessary mechanics. This was done at a stipulated and reasonable price for each man, and a very competent person was selected to supervise the details and to see that no time was lost.

The building was soon found to be in a far worse condition than any one had ever imagined, and I am sorry to say that the cost of restoring it has greatly exceeded the appropriation, and the estimates of the architect. As the work progressed, and the defects were revealed, the truly dangerous and ruined state of the whole structure from its foundation to the dome was disclosed.

The Board of Public Works were then compelled to decide whether they would confine themselves to the amount of money appropriated by the Act of 1876, which was entirely insufficient, or whether they would properly repair the building and make it efficient for the uses of the State.

The latter alternative was adopted, and its thorough restoration was regarded as an absolute necessity. That the work has been faithfully performed no one who has watched its course can doubt, and while we may regret that years of neglect and original defects in building have caused so great an outlay at the present time, we have the satisfaction of knowing that the State of Maryland is today in possession of a capitol, which combines with the merits of age, the comforts and security of modern construction. I append a full and detailed report of the architect, George A. Frederick, Esq., in which he states with great accuracy the amount and nature of the work which has been done, the cost of the various items and the esti-

mate for the completion of the hall and dome. The summary is as follows :

Amount of appropriation expended.....	\$ 32,000
Balance due for work done .....	37,690
Cost of furniture as per detailed statement of Architect .....	37,250
Estimate to complete the hall, portico and dome.....	25,000
Total amount.....	\$131,940

Of this sum \$32,000 has been paid, \$74,940 is due for work done and furniture bought, and \$25,000 remains to be appropriated for the completion of the hall, dome, entrance and portico.

#### THE GREAT SEAL.

Resolution No. 5, of the Session of 1876, authorized and empowered the Governor "to have the Great Seal of the State so altered that it shall bear the arms of Maryland as represented upon the Seal furnished the Province in sixteen hundred and forty-eight, by Cecelius, Lord Baron of Baltimore." In compliance with this resolution I ordered a sketch to be made, and the new Seal to be engraved. When completed, it shall be presented for your inspection. The State of Maryland is the only State in the Union which bears the family arms of its illustrious founder, and as the motto was changed many years ago, and the crest does not at present conform to the original, the intention of the resolution was evidently to restore the harmony and beauty of the armorial bearings throughout, and to renew the ancient seal, which forms a part of the record of our early history.

#### CENTENNIAL.

The appropriation made by the Legislature of 1876, which secured to the State of Maryland a fitting representation at the Centennial Exhibition, was expended with great judgment by the Commissioners of this State, and no effort was spared by them to do full justice to the sentiment which prompted it. A full report of their action is herewith transmitted together with the diplomas which

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LETTER FROM GEO. A. FREDERICK.

*To his Excellency, John Lee Carroll,  
Governor of Maryland:*

DEAR SIR:—In response to your request, I herewith desire to make a brief report of the work done during the past eight months in connection with the repairs of the State House, Annapolis.

The limited survey which I was able to make during the winter of 1876, and which made it so apparent to the Honorable Assembly of the State of Maryland, that something had to be done to prevent the noble structure of an age so memorable in the annals of our country, and so directly connected with it, from going to utter ruin, was totally inadequate to give the faintest idea of the vast ravages of time, and years of neglect. As floor after floor was uncovered, disclosing a net work of rotted, and in some cases miserably patched timbers and joists, veritable man-traps, as apparently solid supports, were opened and found to be hacked and broken walls, supporting in this precarious way, hundreds of tons of incumbent weight, endangering human life, amid seeming security, it is indeed a matter of congratulation that its condition should have been discovered, and a frightful catastrophe, such as befell one of our sister cities a few years since, averted.

Work had scarcely been begun, ere it was evident that the funds appropriated were entirely insufficient to do what had been contemplated, and was found indispensably necessary, besides the work undertaken had to be finished, ere the close of the year, so as not to interfere with the meeting of the Legislature at the appointed time. Acting upon both requirements, I thought it best to turn my entire attention to the portions of the building necessary for occupancy, and to leave the dome and hall, except such temporary and essential repairs as were needed, and could not be dispensed with, until after the adjournment of the Assembly.

The thorough heating of the building and its necessary adjunct, effective ventilation, formed part of the contemplated plan. This had ever been one of the most important deficiencies, and had contributed much to the positive discomfort, and even endangered the health of all compelled to spend any time within it. I felt satisfied that no plan could be successful while the heating apparatus was kept where located, and no cellar nor suitable ventilating stacks existed. From examinations made at such limited points as were accessible, I had hoped the foundation walls were carried to a sufficient depth to enable me to secure a suitable cellar, simply at the cost of excavating and removing the earth. In this I was disappointed, and had, in consequence, and at a great expense, to underpin the entire structure, in depth varying from four to eight feet, and under walls from thirty inches to fifty-four inches in thickness. I was recompensed in securing an admirable cellar, well lighted and adapted to the purposes required.

I have built four ventilating stacks five feet square, and communicating directly with every apartment in the house by valve-registers.— In addition to this, I have made distinct ventilators in connection with all centre pieces over the gaslights where practicable, especially in the Senate and House of Delegates, thus ensuring a rapid removal of all impure or deleterious air, while registers of abundant capacity, bring in fresh, pure and warm air to take its place. Formerly the air on the first floor was introduced in the floors, thus forming receptacles for filth and impalpable dust, which dispersed throughout the room by the current of heated air ascending, was breathed by the occupants. Now the registers are placed in the walls, thus avoiding all the danger from this source.

The heating is done by hot water, carried through coils of iron pipe, and supplied by two large boilers, which, in mild weather, can be used separately, and in inclement, jointly, thus economizing fuel, or in case of needed repair, avoiding the danger of being without heat.

I will give a brief summary of the work that has been done, in addition to that mentioned.

The entire roof has been removed, the sheathing and decayed timbers removed and replaced, the whole felted with heavy asphalt felt and slated with peach bottom slate.

The entire cornice has been replaced, new gutters lined with best cross tin constructed in the same, with new down spouts to, and Terra Cotta drains through the grounds.

All the floors and ceilings have been taken out and new ones substituted. The ceilings of the Senate Chamber and House of Delegates,

and the floors of the Executive Chamber and Court of Appeals, which formerly were hung to the roof, which was scarce capable of supporting its own weight, much less more thrust upon it, have been made self-supporting by most substantial wrought iron plate girders, 18 inches wide and 24 inches deep, with double webs, and nearly two feet of additional height gained in both the Senate and House. The floor of the main hall also is constructed upon rolled iron braces, with arches of brick and concrete spanning the same. All the doors and their frames, all the window frames, their sash and inside shutters, as also their boxing, jams, architecture and casings have been renewed, the window recesses cut down to the floor and completed with panel backs and elbows, thus giving a great deal of additional floor-room, and on the second floor an admirable opportunity for the placing of the radiators, which before formed most unsightly benches at the expense of room in the various departments.

New floors have been laid throughout, with the best North Carolina yellow pine, on thorough counter ceiling. New baseboards and wainscoting has taken the place of old. All the gas-fitting and plumbing is of new and good material, and gives much additional convenience and effective service.

All the plastering has been renewed, that of the Senate restored from drawings, measurements and models made from the original casts. I much regretted, in this room, being compelled to remove the gallery, which, for want of time, could not be replaced. It was in a ruinous and dangerous condition, and I would respectively advise, if determined to reconstruct the same, it be done of a material not as perishable as plaster. Careful measurements were taken and accurate drawings prepared of every part, so that nothing will prevent its exact reproduction if such should be decided upon. At the same time, I cannot help but feel, that while its absence may divest the room of some of its historical romance, its loss as far as the proportions and comfort of the apartment is concerned, is a decided gain. All the walls have been painted in oil and the ceilings decorated in an appropriate manner in fresco.

The entire cellar floor has been paved with brick, on edge-laid in cement, the old stone walls repaired and repainted, new windows and entrance ways constructed with granite steps, sills and lintels, also new granite steps and frontispieces to the doorways of rear corridors on the first floor. Under the library, the dark lobby has been removed, the hall made bright and cheerful, the dressing-rooms remodeled, a new postoffice constructed, and the committee rooms done up and repaired.

All the wood-work throughout has been painted, grained and varnished in imitation of walnut and ash, and all glass has been renewed with best double-thick glass of Maryland manufacture. All the painting on the exterior has also been done in the most thorough manner.

The walk, or approach on the front, has also been straightened, adding most decidedly to the appearance of the house and to the noble statue of that most noble man, Chief Justice Taney.

In the Senate lobby a new postoffice, as also wardrobe accommodations, have been made in ash and ebony, polished, to agree with the furnishing of the apartments.

Your Excellency and honorable associates, the Comptroller and Treasurer, entrusted the furnishing of the various departments, subject to your approval and direction, in my hands. This trust, like the preceding one, I have endeavored to the best of my ability to fulfill, throughout the work, and to the whole of it I have given my personal attention, and have striven to my utmost to have it done economically and well, but not at the expense of substantiality. This was my prime object. I have tried to avoid all extravagance, but I wanted all good and to last. This I believe to be the truest economy.

The furniture of the various apartments has all been done by contract, and by good and responsible parties, having the confidence of the people and a well-earned reputation. The names of Harrington & Mills, Renwick & Sons, Jenkins & Son, and John Knipp & Bro., are a sufficient guarantee.

The furniture is made of ash and walnut, upholstered in leather.— The draperies and curtains are of raw silk, the object in both, although more expensive than woolen reps, was the avoidance of destruction by moth. The carpets, throughout, are of the best Body Brussels, six frame, especially selected for their wearing qualities.

The amount of money requisite to complete the entrance hall, entrance, portico and the thorough repair of the dome is \$25,000.— This contemplates the necessary renewal of the columns of the hall or scagliola. The tiling of the floor is marble, and a thorough repair and renewal of the plastering, as also the necessary work to the framing and outer-covering of the dome and its painting.

I append herewith a statement of the outstanding accounts and balances due, for the payment of which, provision must be made. I have kept those of the building account separate from those of the furnishing, and have also in the latter item given approximate sums expended in each department.

Building account, balances and amounts due as near as can be estimated and required:

Brick .....	\$ 1,100.00
Lime, Cement and Sand.....	1,350.00
Cut Stone.....	850.00
Iron work, cast and wrought.....	950.00
Tin and slating.....	1,250.00
Lumber and mill work.....	8,200.00
Heating apparatus.....	9,500.00
Drain Pipes.....	150.00
Carpenter .....	3,100.00
Bricklayer.....	8,00.00
Plaster and counterpieces.....	2,200.00
Painter and materials.....	2,890.00
Hardware.....	1,200.00
Hauling, cleaning and incidentals.....	1,000.00
Freight, steamboat and railroad.....	550.00
Plumber and materials.....	2,600.00
Total.....	\$37,690.00

While the above amount may seem large, in addition to the amount of the appropriation expended, it will scarce appear so when you consider that the entire State House, except the outside walls, has been rebuilt, and even the latter in many cases repaired.

## FURNITURE.

Cases and Bench Court of Appeals .....	\$ 2,000.00
Furniture for Court of Appeals.....	2,000.00
“ “ House of Delegates and Senate.....	7,650.00
“ “ Governor's dept. and Adjutant General's.....	2,700.00
Fresco decorations.....	3,150.00
Curtains, Lambrequins, etc.....	7,000.00
Gas Fixtures.....	4,750.00
Carpets.....	3,700.00
Repairing and renovating pictures, etc.....	2,300.00
Washstands.....	300.00
Window blinds, papering, etc.....	700.00
Furnishing sundries, etc.....	1,000.00
Total.....	\$37,250.00

## SUMMARY OF COST PER DEPARTMENT.

Court of Appeals.....	\$ 8,200.00
Senate and House.....	19,100.00
Governor's and Adjutant General's.....	6,700.00

Sincerely trusting the above may be satisfactory, I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

GEO. A. FREDERICK.