

informed is practised to a very great extent. I also recommend, that the agent for the State, when he has once received a sample from the Inspector, should be held to a strict accountability for any mutilation of the same, and upon conviction thereof, should be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, in the discretion of the Court. It might be well in view of the fact, that two of the Warehouses have been destroyed, to test the practicability of private inspections to that extent, rather than rebuild these Warehouses at least until two years trial of private inspection shall have shown the effect of its practical operations. I will not attempt to elaborate my own views, but will content myself with suggesting that the information necessary for an intelligent solution of any difficulties encompassing the subject, can readily be sought and obtained by corresponding, through a competent committee, with intelligent parties representing the various interests involved.

CONDITION OF STATE HOUSE.

During the last April Term of the Court of Appeals the Judges then upon the Bench, notified me that the floor of their Court room which is immediately over the Hall of the House of Delegates, was apparently giving away, and that they considered it dangerous to continue to hold the sessions of the Court therein. I summoned an architect from Baltimore, and had the building thoroughly examined by him. He not only pronounced their fears well founded, but informed me that the floor of the Executive Chamber was unsafe. Under his direction I had new timbers and iron braces put in, and all work done which was necessary to prevent a disaster such as occurred a few years since at the State House at Richmond. These repairs, which cost \$2,711.45, I paid for, out of the contingent fund, placed at my disposal.

Every Marylander ought to take more pride in having each succeeding Legislature for many years to come assemble in our old State House, around which cling so many proud historic memories, than in having it replaced by any modern structure, however grand.

But, I need hardly remind you, the State House is out of repair in many respects, and its heating apparatus is in wretched condition. I earnestly recommend that a liberal appropriation be placed at the disposal of the Board of Public Works, with full power within the limits thereof, to make such repairs, alterations and improvements to the building, and the means of heating the same as will better fit it for State purposes.

While I suggest that this duty be placed upon the Board of Public Works, I feel bound to attract your attention to the impropriety of requiring of the members of that Board the performance of any duty not incidental to their respective offices, which will necessitate their frequent absence from Annapolis, and subject them to great labor, annoyance and personal expense, as was the case with the duties required of them in connection with the new Normal School Building and the House of Correction.

STATE HOUSE CIRCLE.

As requested to do, by a series of resolutions passed by the Corporation of Annapolis, I call your attention to the fact that the bed of the street surrounding the State House, is not paved from the Governor's Mansion to Francis Street, and that the Corporation is desirous that the same shall be paved at the expense of the State.

THE GREAT SEAL.

By a Joint Resolution passed by the last General Assembly, the Governor was "authorized to have the Great

Seal of the State so altered, as to make it conform to the arms of Lord Baltimore, as represented on the title page of Bacon's Laws of Maryland, printed seventeen hundred and sixty-five, at Annapolis, by Jonas Green." Shortly after the General Assembly adjourned, I was assured by gentlemen who were instrumental in procuring the passage of that resolution, and who are well versed in heraldic lore, that the arms of Lord Baltimore are not accurately represented on said title page. Consequently I decided not to carry that resolution into effect until I had an opportunity to call your attention to it, as I now do.

PORTRAITS FOR INDEPENDENCE HALL.

I selected Frank B. Mayer, Esq., a prominent Maryland Artist, to make a copy of the heraldic device of the State panel, and of the portraits which I was directed by Chapter 404, of the Acts of 1874, to have painted and framed, and contribute in the name of the State to be placed in Independence Hall. When the paintings were finished, I forwarded them to the proper authorities in Philadelphia, announcing the State's gift in a communication, which I deemed appropriate to the occasion. The committee of ladies who have charge of the museum in Independence Hall, expressed their gratification at the receipt of the heraldic device in a resolution of thanks, beautifully engrossed, and the Mayor and Select, and Common Councils of Philadelphia acknowledged the reception of the portraits by resolutions, handsomely engrossed and framed, which declared "that the portraits of Thomas Stone, William Paca and Thomas Johnson, Governors of Maryland, and three of the foremost patriots of the Revolution, be accepted and placed in Independence Chamber in

the places reserved for them by the Committee on Restoration," and, "that the thanks of the City of Philadelphia are due, and are hereby cordially tendered to his Excellency, Governor James Black Groome, and through him to the State of Maryland, for their munificent contribution to the National Portrait Gallery of Independence Hall."

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING.

The Board of Public Works, at an early day after the adjournment of the last Legislature, gave public notice of its desire to purchase a suitable site for the State Normal School Building. A number of lots—most of them improved by buildings—were offered to it. All of them were examined, but none approved. After an interval, the Board succeeded in finding a lot which suited its purposes. It is located in a beautiful section of the city, at the northwest corner formed by the intersection of Carrollton and Lafayette Avenues. It fronts one hundred and fifty feet on Lafayette Avenue, and one hundred and twenty feet on Carrollton Avenue, where it is bounded on the north by an alleyway ten feet wide. Upon this lot has been erected a brick building, which has few equals in architectural beauty in Baltimore. It fronts one hundred and twenty feet on Carrollton Avenue, and one hundred and five feet on Lafayette Avenue, and has at the intersections of the two fronts a tower which rises to the height of one hundred and seventy feet to the top of the finial.

It contains ten class rooms, a reception room, an assembly room, an apparatus room, a lecture room, a library, a laboratory, cabinet, gymnasium, cloak and retiring room, an office for the State Board of Education, and a residence for the Principal. It affords ample accommoda-