

students in this department would be attracted to our State Library, for the purpose of being supplied with the necessary aids to their literary pursuits; as they might expect to find here books throwing most light upon the subject matter of their investigations. It may further be urged that no institution in this country can expect, with appropriations ever so liberal, to cope with similar ones in Europe, in which are hoarded up the gradual accumulations of ages. Such rivalry is beyond the range of hope, and your committee are of opinion that the true interests of the library would be best subserved by the endeavour to collect and preserve all such documents as would give correctness to our own history.

This may be effected in various ways and without any great departure from the main purposes of the institution. It is a fact, for instance, worthy of comment, that in the famous collection of Professor Ebeling, of Hamburg, transferred to this country by an act of private munificence, and comprising within it almost every work upon America, however rare, there may now be found a series of numbers of the "Republican Star," printed at Easton, on the Eastern Shore. Of this country journal, once extensively circulated and so valuable in the estimation of a distinguished foreigner, not more than one copy, it may safely be asserted, now remains within the limits of Maryland. The same remark applies with greater force to the Maryland Gazette, published in this city from seventeen hundred and forty-five till now. To any public institution it's earlier numbers would be of intrinsic worth, and your committee, while the very high price fixed upon it precludes them from recommending the purchase, cannot but indulge the hope that the general government, out of means more ample, will not omit to secure for the library of Congress a consecutive series of this journal, one of the earliest started in the Colonies. It deserves a place in some such repository, and a filial regard to the memory of our ancestors might prompt the most niggard spirit to covet the possession of so valuable a record at any price. Documents of this description, that exist in a form even more evanescent, become in time useful as books of reference to the historian.

The condition of the library, under its present auspices, renders any other than general remarks unnecessary. Your committee would, however, suggest the propriety of authorising the Librarian to purchase books for the use of the library in person, instead of the present mode by correspondence. Your committee are satisfied that the advantages which will result from the personal attention of the Librarian will be more than equivalent to the expenses to be incurred by adopting their suggestions.

They now submit to the consideration of your honorable body the resolutions accompanying this report

All which is respectfully submitted,

J. BOZMAN KERR, *Chairman,*

*On the part of the House, of the Joint Committee on the Library.*