On motion of Mr. Howard, the section was then passed over informally.

Section 5 was read.

Mr. Lee said the question of a historiographer, which, if it was not impolite, he would call a new fangle, had been referred to the committee on the legislative department, and by them rejected unanimously. It had been brought before the committee which reported this article. The committee had cast about to add some new duties to the office of commissioner of the land office, as it was said he had not enough to do, and as the office was important to the western section of the State, they had thought proper to retain it at a reduced salary, as they could not at first find anything which could be assigned to it. As to how this office had been added, he did not know. Mr. L. then stated his objections to the creation of this new office, which would open a broad field for useless expenditures.

Mr. McKaig said the State of Maryland had important records to preserve, but which in a few years would pass away and be totally lost in oblivion unless something of this kind was done. There were histories connected with the early settlement of the State which were not written, and in a few years would pass from the memory of man. Many of the old records were now being rapidly destroyed by the moth of time, and would soon be utterly lost if they were not taken care of. Other States had made provision for collecting and preserving all the early reminiscences of their settlement. The British Museum was for this purpose, and was regarded with much pride by every native of Great Britain. He (Mr. McK.) said preserve your glorious old memories of the revolution, collect your antiquities.

Mr. Wethered advocated the section. Maryland had glorious traditions, and why should they not be preserved at such a small expense as this? When in Europe he had bought maps of Maryland older than any to be found in this State. The Puritans of the North took great pains to collect all their antiquities. This remarkable people, who were sui generis, not generous, (laughter,) were indefatigable in the task of glorifying themselves and