

eral Laws, relating to sheep and dogs, and to re-enact the following section in lieu thereof ;

Which was read the first time.

Mr. Philpot, from the Select Committee, submitted the following

REPORT :

The committee appointed by the Senate to examine the portraits of the early governors of this State, (painted by Peal,) and to enquire where they are, and in whose possession at this time ; and also, as regards the purchase of them, and the propriety of procuring them to be placed in the Executive Chamber, beg leave to report that they have attended to the duties assigned them. And beg leave to state that upon application to the Mayor of this city, they were informed that the paintings alluded to were in this city, and in possession of the authorities of the same. Upon application to that body, the subject was taken into consideration, and decided that all the paintings, examined by your committee, could be purchased at such price as your committee might deem right and proper, provided they were not removed from the capitol of the State. Your committee beg leave further to report, that in their judgment, the paintings are well worth the expense of purchase and restoration.

In this connection, your committee cannot but acknowledge the analogy existing between art and the faculties of the mind. This truth is evident when contemplating memory, whose office is to remove the dust of time from the scenes of early life, and place them before the mental eye, in all their freshness and beauty ; mingling the old, who are surrounded by the tottering relics of age, with the pleasant hours of childhood, the gaiety of youth, and the sterner conflicts of mature manhood. Every mind is as it were a parchment ; upon it the deeds of each age are recorded, be they good or bad, pleasureable or painful. The record of one era seems, by the touch of time, to have been obliterated ; the innocency of childhood vanishes before the day dreams of youth, and they, too, grow dark and saddened as the sterner period of manhood arrives, apparently obliterating the past ; but old age, feeble and irregular, casts over all confused and darker shadows. It is thus that memory with buoyant step and skillful hands, sweeps away the dust of time, and with the light of truth brings back again the by-gone scenes of life.

So the skillful artist recalls to freshness and beauty the antiquated paintings, sweeping away the dust of time, and by his magic touch calls fourth from its gloomy grave the noble form, symbolical of virtue, grace and honor. Your committee further report that they have consulted an artist of this