

leave such matters to be worked out by your Honorable Body and by my successor, as you are ably competent to do.

I wish, however, to embrace this opportunity to express my best wishes for your success in accomplishing legislation of lasting benefit to the State, and alike creditable to you and to the State of Maryland, and which I am confident you will attain, guided as you are by a knowledge of her more pressing needs and by an enlightened public conscience.

JOHN WALTER SMITH.

Which was read.

On motion of Mr. Beasman,

Said message was ordered spread upon the Journal.

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#### PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND OTHER PAPERS.

Mr. Gill presented the following :

BALTIMORE, January 2, 1904.

To the Honorable,

The General Assembly of Maryland.

The Maryland Historical Society, which under the Act of 1882, chapter 138, was made the custodian of the Archives and ancient documents of the Province and State, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1902, chapter 2, respectfully submits this report of the progress of the work intrusted to it, and of all receipts and disbursements in connection therewith since its last report to the General Assembly.

There has appeared, and been distributed in accordance with the Act, Volume XXII of the Archives. This volume contains the proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly from March 1697-8 to July 1699, thus covering the close of the administration of Governor Nicholson, and a portion of that of Governor Nathaniel Blackiston. The great contrast which existed in the character of the relations between these two governors and the colonists is strongly set forth in this volume.

In the proceedings of the Assembly covered by this volume also appears one of the earliest records of the