

have been bound in volumes and kept in the Land Office ; but the effort then made by your memorialist to have a system adopted which would be creditable to Maryland, proved unavailing, so that he appeals once more, and this time, directly to your Honorable Body, for the speedy initiation of suitable measures. Our records show that several attempts have been made in Maryland for the examination and preservation of its State papers. As early as September 1693, not long after the establishment of a royal government in this Province in place of the Proprietary, an inquest of the records and documents was made by a commission which even then reported the neglected condition of our archives. Many State papers and records covering a period of several years had disappeared during the so-called "Protestant Revolution" in Maryland, nor have they been recovered to this day.

Manuscripts which I have seen, show a "list of books in the Council Office in 1765 ;" another contains a "list of Assembly Proceedings and of Council Proceedings, and of Upper House Journals delivered to the Governor in 1792, as received at that time from Doctor Upton Scott."

At the Session of the General Assembly, 1835--1836, Mr. David Ridgley, then State Librarian, made three reports which are printed in that Session's proceedings, and are of great value now as a partial schedule of the State's Record Books and Documents of the Proprietary and Revolutionary times, then still in our government's possession. Your memorialist ventures respectfully to recommend the reprinting of these three reports, as a guide in the future work which it is hoped you will inaugurate. Mr. Ridgely's account throws much light on the chaotic condition of this long neglected property. He found, he says, "a large body of papers, which, years before, had been carelessly thrown under the stairway as you ascend to the dome of the Capitol or State House ;" also, "in the vault of the old Treasury, the *remains* of two sea chests and one box, which, evidently, had contained records and files of papers, the nature of which he left to conjecture, the whole being in a state of ruin." But the lists of Records, Councils and Papers which Mr. Ridgely was fortunate enough to rescue from further decay, and wisely inserted in his reports, are quite large and amply descriptive. Many of these were, by authority, copied by him into folio volumes, though it is stated that after transcription, in many cases he threw away the *originals* as useless. Some of these have found their way into private collections and libraries, and may probably be recovered. Mr. Ridgely's discoveries were in the Treasury Department ; the Land Office ; the *Treasury Cellar* ; the State House ; the old Chancery Office