

and in Committee rooms. All were in disarray, dust and utter neglect. Doctor Ethen Allen, in 1861, alleged that Mr. Ridgely's reports do not show as still in the government's possession quite one-half of what he says he placed twenty-five years before in the Council Chamber.

Fifty years ago, that accomplished scholar and well-known citizen of Maryland, the late John Henry Alexander, examined the condition of our Archives, found the papers in disorder and decaying, and tried to enlist the sympathy of the Legislature for their *preservation*, at least. His reports, long after that time, in 1859 and 1860, disclose Mr. Alexander's labors, renewed in that behalf at Annapolis, at Rome, in Italy, and at London, in England. It was through his efforts mainly, that the Reverend Dr. Ethen Allen was employed to complete the calendar of Maryland State Papers, which still exists only in a folio manuscript volume deposited for security with the Maryland Historical Society, and constantly consulted by students as an index for their researches at Annapolis. These reports and the valuable report of Dr. Allen, are respectfully commended to your notice, and their reprinting will be of as much value as the reprinting of Mr. Ridgely's.

Your memorialist ventures to state his belief that a very short time spent by you in personally examining the condition and disarray of what is still left to us scattered in the public offices in Annapolis, would, without argument, result in your prompt determination to reduce our papers to order, and ensure their perpetual preservation. They are honorable records of Provincial and State History; nor is it impossible that, in many cases, what has been lost here, may be recovered by transcripts from the Record Offices in England. Your memorialist is quite sure of the correctness of this assertion, in as much as he inquired concerning certain missing records during the Embassy of our late fellow citizen, Reverdy Johnson, in England, and was assured by him, that the Earl of Clarendon, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, had promised every facility for the completion of our missing volumes or papers. Nor is the collection and preservation of the originals alone to be desired. Maryland ought to adopt the same system as other States in perpetuating, and also in promulgating her Provincial history. As a fair and just incentive, your memorialist respectfully solicits your attention to the following array of twelve of our oldest sister-States in printing and disseminating their Records.

Connecticut has published at Hartford, in 1857--1852, two volumes of "Records of the Colony and Plantation of New Haven :