

STATEMENT.

STATE LIBRARY,

ANNAPOLIS, *January 20th, 1865.*

To the Committee on the Library :

GENTLEMEN :—Under the instructions of the committee on the Library, I advertised for proposals to do the repairs and make the improvements and additions to the Library, and gave the contract to the lowest bidder. When the work was done, the Hon. Hopewell Hebb, Chairman of the committee on the part of the House of Delegates, examined the work and pronounced it “a most complete job.” The books, I am happy to say, are in the best state of preservation, and the improvement in the appearance of the Library is a full compensation for all expenditures. The appropriation made by the last General Assembly for the repairs and improvements was sufficient for all purposes and leave a small balance.

Contingent Fund.

On coming into the office on the 1st day of May, 1863, the retiring Librarian gave me a statement of the contingent fund, showing a balance to the credit of the Library of \$888.-41, being \$111.59 less than the proportionate part for the eight months remaining of the year.

This statement, I supposed to be correct and made my report to the last General Assembly upon this supposition, but only a few days before the adjournment of the session of last winter, I obtained from the Comptroller of the Treasury a statement showing that the amount of contingent fund unexpended on the day I came into office, (1st day of May, 1863,) was but \$731.41—just \$268.59 less than my proportionate part. This he afterwards explained to me to have grown out of the fact that the contingent fund for a number of years before, had been inadequate to the expenses of the office. On discovering this error, I immediately called the attention of the Chairman of the committee on the Library to it, but it was too late to correct it in my report. The unusual occurrence of a session of the General Assembly and Constitutional Convention in the same year, has been a heavy tax on my contingent fund for freight and express charges. Prices for freight and express have greatly advanced, as well as every thing else.