

Executive Department,

Annapolis, January 5th, 1838.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Delegates:

In pursuance of the authority vested in us by the General Assembly, we engaged the services of John V. L. McMahon, Esq., as additional counsel, to aid the Attorney General in the defence of a suit pending in the Court of Appeals, between the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and Robert Lemmon, one of the Auctioneers in the said city, under State authority, wherein the act of the General Assembly regulating sales by public auction was expected to be drawn in question. That suit has recently been argued, but the decision of the Court in the case has not, as we are advised, yet been delivered.

The fire proof Magazine which we were authorised by the last General Assembly to have erected, for the safe keeping and preservation of the powder and fixed ammunition belonging to the State, has been built, under the superintendance of the Adjutant General, on the south east corner of the Government House lot; and, we believe, is a substantial and suitable building for the intended purpose.

The loan of thirty thousand dollars, which had been authorised, for the purchase of a lot of ground and the erection of a new Tobacco Warehouse in the city of Baltimore, was negotiated early last spring by the commissioner of loans. Since then, the gentlemen who had contracted to superintend the erection of the building have been engaged in that work; and we understand that the Warehouse will soon be completed and ready for use.

Under the resolution of March last, relative to repairs, improvements and furniture in several parts of the State House, we appointed Richard W. Gill and Washington G. Tuck, Esquires, superintendants, to carry into execution the purposes of the General Assembly. They have had the dome of the State House painted in a superior manner; the chambers of the Courts of Appeals and Chancery, and also the chamber of the House of Delegates and its adjoining Committee room, completely refitted and furnished. The old Armoury has been fitted up as an additional committee room for the House of Delegates; and the office of the Adjutant General has also been put in order. The superintendants say they soon discovered that these alterations and repairs could not be contracted for, in the gross, at any reasonable rates; and although, we doubt not, all proper economy has been used, some further appropriation will be necessary to pay for what has been done. The unpaid bills will be submitted by the superintendants to the committee of claims of the House of Delegates.

That part of the resolution which directed the building of a wood house has not been executed. The superintendants state that they found it impossible to have a suitable building erected for the sum appropriated—\$300,—and as no place had been designated or agreed