

SHOULD BE RESTORED.

The Original Appearance of the Old Senate Chamber.

AN OBJECT-LESSON IN PATRIOTISM.

The Movement to Place the Room in the Condition It Was when Washington Resigned His Commission Is Heartily Indorsed by Baltimoreans.

The movement which has been started to restore as far as possible to its original appearance the old Senate chamber in the State House at Annapolis, in which room George Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, has created widespread interest, and has been the subject of much favorable comment in Baltimore and elsewhere.

The State Senate has already appointed a committee, consisting of Frank B. Mayer, of Annapolis, and J. Appleton Wilson, of Baltimore, to estimate the cost of the proposed restoration. It is said that most of the old material which was removed from the room under the administration of Governor John Lee Carroll has been preserved. It is suggested that another wing be built to the State House for a meeting place for the Senate and that the old room be used as a repository for relics of colonial and revolutionary times.

A number of Baltimoreans yesterday expressed themselves regarding the project as follows:

Mendes Cohen, of the Maryland Historical Society: "I have never understood how a man who should have had such a great personal interest in the old Senate chamber as ex-Gov. John Lee Carroll could have allowed such a desecration—for it was a desecration—as took place when the room was inflicted with modern improvements. THE SUN is engaged in a splendid work in urging the restoration of this historic spot. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Frank Mayer, of Annapolis, much of the debris was saved when the room was torn to pieces, and the task of bringing it into its old form will not be a very difficult one. A new wing should be built for the uses of the State Senate if necessary, for the old room was not made a whit larger by the changes which took place under Governor Carroll's administration and does not offer sufficient space for the needs of that body. Too much censure, in my opinion, cannot be given to those who had so little foresight as to demolish the time-honored apartment, and this effort to undo their unfortunate work should find an echo in every patriotic breast in Maryland."

Ex-Judge William A. Fisher: "It was a subject for great regret to many persons, and to myself among the number, when the alterations were made in the Senate chamber at Annapolis which destroyed the conditions existing in the revolutionary period. The chamber in its then form had become associated with an event not only most interesting and important in American history, but unique in the history of the world, and of the most conspicuous, if not the greatest, object-lesson of disinterested patriotism that occurs in any history. Happily time enough has not elapsed since the changes were made to eradicate the remembrance of the appearance of the chamber, and there are many paintings and engravings which represent it. It is, therefore, the part of wisdom, as well as of a decent reverence for the glories of the past in our country, to restore the chamber to its former appearance. The State of Maryland has just ground for pride in the connection of its people with the Revolution, and it cannot afford to part with so interesting a memento. The people of the State have reason to be grateful to THE SUN for taking the lead in this movement."

Rev. Dr. John F. Goucher, president of the Woman's College: "I have noticed with hearty approval the interest THE SUN is manifesting in the restoration of the old Senate chamber at Annapolis. It is most desirable the effort shall prove successful, so that coming generations may have the pleasure and inspiration which must come from looking upon the setting in which, in the years far gone, the scenes transpired so determining in their influence upon the development and ministry of our national life. The intense, assertive life of America needs to conserve its reverence, and every monument to perpetuate the memory of our indebtedness to the fathers will have a helpful effect upon the character of their sons."

Cardinal Gibbons: "There is entirely too much vandalism about the American people. Many historical landmarks have been destroyed that should have been preserved to posterity. The English take a pride in caring for such things and the same can be said of many countries on the Continent. In France there is preserved intact the room in which Joan of Arc slept. I am heartily in favor of restoring the old Senate chamber at Annapolis, even if a new wing has to be constructed for the use of the Senate. It marks a momentous period in the history of our country, and the people of Baltimore and Maryland should take a pride in placing it in its original condition."

Rev. Dr. W. U. Murkland: "I am a believer in preserving the only living monuments we have of the past, if our old buildings may be referred to in that way. The old Senate chamber ought never to have been desecrated by modern improvements. If the old materials have been preserved, which I understand to be the case, the old room should be restored."

Bishop Paret: "I am glad to learn that there is a purpose to restore the Senate chamber at Annapolis to its old appearance and replace its old furnishings and forms. It will help to keep alive some of the most helpful traditions and memories of our national life. I hope the purpose may be happily accomplished."

A special dispatch to THE SUN from Annapolis last night says: "Mr. J. Appleton Wilson was in Annapolis in consultation with Mr. Frank B. Mayer with regard to the restoration of the Senate chamber. After an investigation these two gentlemen have concluded that this will not be a difficult matter. When the old gallery was torn out, in 1876, Mr. Daniel Randall had the columns stored away in the loft of his stable for preservation, and they are still there. Some of the moulding is in the land office, and there is a photograph of the gallery before its removal, by Chase, of Baltimore. The carpenter who did the work of demolition was also consulted, and he can greatly assist in the work of restoration. Mr. Mayer has complete drawings of the woodwork which surrounded the niche behind the President's chair. Mr. Wilson is engaged upon the work of drawing the plans for the old fireplace, the chimney having been removed, and also in an estimate of the cost of the entire restoration.

"The committee has ascertained that the sashes which were taken from the windows of the State House by Governor Carroll were bought by the late H. C. Holliday and sent by him to his farm near Easton. Mr. Mayer has written to Senator Charles H. Gibson, who now has the farm, to ask him whether the sashes are still there and whether one of them can be procured for a pattern. The old sashes were made of walnut, but the frames of glass were considered too small to suit the modern idea. The committee is diligently searching for everything which was taken from the old chamber.

"Mr. Mayer has received a letter from Mr. John A. Needles, of Baltimore, telling him that he (Mr. Needles) has the old chair of the President of the Senate. Whether this is the chair occupied by the President of Congress (General Millin) when Washington resigned his commission is not known."