

from you, would put on foot an investigation and examination that could not but result in a suitable repair of the defects of which we are now speaking. Having thus ventured to present to your consideration a subject vitally important, not only to the well being of this department—but to the permanency of the noble edifice in which you meet to legislate. I shall pursue it no farther—as it will require but a slight investigation for you to be assured of the propriety and necessity of taking some immediate and efficient step to preserve it from decay and ruin.

I will take the liberty of calling the attention of your committee to the Octagon of the Hall; as a very eligible and in every point of view an advantageous location for the State Library; that part of the building could at no very great expense be handsomely and conveniently fitted up so as to beautify rather than injure the symmetry of the hall—and being in the centre of the building would be more equally convenient to each department of the State government than the room at present occupied. Independent of the 7000 bound volumes in the Library—there are from 30 to 40 boxes of books disposed in various places of this house, in consequence of the want of room in the Library to receive them and they alone are worth the trouble and expense of preserving.

In my report of last year, I respectfully and particularly called the attention of the committee to the subject of American Ornithology; it however, was never acted on by the committee. I again respectfully present it to your consideration—and in doing so, I shall not pretend to enter into the merits or history of American Ornithology—but shall content myself with merely a few observations connected with some extracts from highly respectable sources in which this subject is placed in such points of view—as cannot fail to interest you—and I hope, fully to justify my obtruding this subject again upon your attention.

America has produced, as yet, but two works in this department of Zoology—and they are—the “American Ornithology, or the Natural History of the birds of the United States”—by Alexander Wilson, eight volumes of which were completed before his death—and were said far to surpass any work of the kind ever published in Great Britian. This work is continued by the well-known Charles Buonapate, and sustains its former character.

The other work, and the one to which I would more particularly call your attention is the, “Ornithological Bio-