

the rules and regulations of the library, and which is herewith submitted as part of this report, it will be seen that a correspondence has been commenced with an American book-agent in London, for the purpose of securing copies of the works specified in a resolution of the last session. These are all valuable, as indicating the course of policy pursued at various periods by the mother country in reference to the colony here, and, your committee regret to add, are only to be met with by chance on the breaking up of old libraries. When obtained, they will find a most appropriate resting place upon the shelves of the State Library. We must, however, season our expectation for a while, till they can be gradually collected together by the diligence of the agent employed.

The recent discovery of MSS. at Rome, comprising within themselves authentic materials for Maryland history, is an additional incentive to exertions not to be intermitted. These have been authorised to be procured by a resolution of the General Assembly, and will enable Marylanders to point with honest pride to their earliest chronicler, identified, as he was, with the difficulties and dangers he narrates, and distinguished among his contemporaries in an equal degree "for learning and piety." In the variety and extent of his knowledge, Andrew White was excelled by few of the age in which he lived, and is placed by the sanction of impartial history in the same category with a John Winthrop.

For the purpose of expediting the research after these manuscripts, letters were promptly dispatched to Stonyhurst College, in England, a strong hold of Jesuit learning, and upon a gentleman, now in Rome, who has full access to the archives there, has devolved the task of securing whatever may be found of importance to the elucidation of the early history of Maryland.

In historical and political importance, these manuscripts hold a rank subordinate to no works, that the joint committee could recommend to be placed in the public repository under their direction, and they do not recur to the facts just cited with any view to vindicate the expediency of making such valuable matter more accessible. They supply original data hitherto unknown, and your committee do not feel justified in advancing arguments upon so self-evident a proposition.

The worth of a library depends upon the care with which the selection of books for it is made, and in respectfully suggesting such a rule for the selection as would tend to the elucidation of facts in connection with the history of the State, your committee have no disposition to lose sight of the immediate wants of any other department. But they do wish to make this to which they now invite attention, the paramount one.

With the singular advantages, which North Americans possess, for tracing out the origin and progress of their institutions, it is a matter of surprise that so important a subject should have been listlessly regarded. It should now be made a primary object, and no slight degree of credit, ~~it is believed,~~ would be accorded to any institution making itself subsidiary to an end so desirable. In course of time