

Under the Resolutions of the last General Assembly, in relation to the digest of the Laws, we appointed a director of the Digest, who has recently reported the form which he has devised for the work, and the division into such titles as he has thought proper, whereupon we have made the necessary appointments to ensure a prompt accomplishment of the work, as required by the General Assembly.

Reports have been received from the State Topographical Engineer and Geologist respectively, giving an account of their progress in the important and interesting works in which they are engaged, works in which Maryland has embarked with a zeal and perseverance that promises to develop resources which will insure success in every branch of industry connected with agriculture and commerce. The ability, zeal and industry with which the Engineer and Geologist have performed their respective duties are not only highly creditable to themselves, but give a sure guarantee of its full, able and certain accomplishment. The Reports, not being in a proper condition to be presented at this time, will be laid before you in a few days, in the most convenient form.

Under Resolution of the last General Assembly we appointed Davis Ridgely Esquire, "to examine every part of the public buildings where there may be reason to believe any papers or Documents, papers, belonging to the Executive or any other Department, may be found in an unarranged condition and out of place, to collect and arrange all such papers and Documents, and deposit them in the Office or Offices to which they may appear to belong." We are happy in being able to state that many valuable documents, dear to our State pride, and illustrative of some of the most important and interesting events in our history, have been rescued from destruction. Most of them are in a state of excellent preservation, but some, we regret to say, are so far destroyed as to require transcription. The accompanying Reports, which Mr. Ridgely has made from time to time to this Department, during the progress of his duties, and to which we ask your particular attention, will exhibit the nature, extent and value of his researches, as well as the zeal and fidelity with which he has discharged the duties devolved upon him.

All the other duties devolved upon us by Law and Resolutions, have received our attention, and the purposes of the General Assembly, in passing them have been carried into effect, to the extent of the means provided, or are now in the progress of execution.

In a few days it will become our duty, under the Constitution, to elect a new Governor and Council. Your present Governor is no longer re-eligible, and in now bidding you an affectionate