

My previous session, I have delivered to the Maryland Historical Society, such books and papers as appeared to be indicated by that resolution, and I have caused the receipt of the Society, embracing a catalogue of the books and papers, to be recorded with the executive proceedings.

By resolution, No. 54 of the last session, the Governor was directed to pay to the Commissioners appointed under resolution No. 86, of December Session 1845, in relation to the public buildings, the sum of three hundred dollars. Two of the Commissioners named in the resolution of 1845, claiming to have discharged the whole duty imposed by that resolution, and to be entitled to the whole compensation, I have paid them two hundred dollars, and have left the residue in the treasury to be paid as you may think right.

I have received, and now transmit for your information, the annual report of the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary. This document, prepared with more than ordinary ability, contains many valuable suggestions in reference to the management of the institution, & well worthy your consideration, and to one of which, I particularly request your attention. The report states, that there are now confined in the Penitentiary fourteen convicts who are, and a majority of whom were insane at the time they were sent to that institution, and the directors request such legislation as will authorize their removal to a more appropriate place of confinement. The benevolence and humanity of this suggestion will commend it to your consideration, and will be sufficient to command your favourable action.

Having, always entertained the opinion that the executive power of remitting the punishment prescribed for the infraction of the criminal law should be but rarely exercised, I have during my term of service granted *Nolle Prosequi* but in two cases, and I have not, except in a single instance granted a pardon without the recommendation of the judges before whom the party had been tried. If I have erred upon this subject, it has been an error of judgment, persisted in very frequently, when my feelings would have dictated a different course. I have however, the satisfaction to believe that the increased certainty of punishment, caused by such an exercise of this power, has lessened in some degree the frequency of crime; and that my course upon this subject is difficult and harassing to myself, has proved beneficial to society.

I have received, and now transmit resolutions of the Legislatures of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island in favour of the construction of a rail road across the continent of North America, and resolutions