

and servants, have made it impossible for the Corporation to meet its liabilities and have entailed upon it a debt of nearly \$8,000. Hitherto the State has contributed no means for the care of the Insane, except for buildings. All the current expenditures, improvements, repairs, &c. have been wholly dependent upon the resources above alluded to. The annual cost to the Hospital for supporting the insane poor is much greater than the amount now paid for them.

The Chief Executive officer as also the Board of Visitors estimate that the charge of \$150 per annum is requisite to supply to each lunatic pauper food, clothing and other necessaries essential to their health and comfort, instead of the amount now provided for under Resolution No 65 of December session 1838.

To liquidate the debt above mentioned and to make the improvements necessary to render the Hospital worthy to rank with similar institutions of other States, the aid and generosity of the Legislature is invoked with the earnest hope that the suggestions made for this unfortunate class of our citizens may meet with a cordial and ready response.

I have also received a communication from the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to superintend the building of the Hospital for insane persons near Catonsville stating that no less than \$50,000 would be required for it the coming year. They urge its completion as soon as possible. If the work be suspended, much damage will doubtless accrue to the walls, &c. by reason of their unprotected condition.

The Commissioners were at one time in hopes that the State would be spared the necessity of building this institution at its own expense on account of the liberal bequest made for the Sheppard Insane Hospital but it appears that the Trustees of this fund do not feel themselves authorized under the terms of the bequest, to make this institution a public one, in the free sense of the word, but only to permit such patients to remain in the asylum as may be pronounced by the medical superintendent as curable. It is not for the Legislature to decide whether this work at Catonsville is to proceed and if so to make such appropriations as will enable the Commissioners continuously to prosecute it, until completion.

Early Historical Papers.

At the request of several gentlemen who have been much engaged in historical researches, and upon their authority I beg leave to call the attention of the Legislature to the fact that there are now in existence in the Colonial Office in London, and in Zion College Library, many valuable papers which relate to the anti-revolutionary history of Maryland, without which the history of that period cannot be completely or correctly written. It is also, that there are still documents and papers amongst the archives in the Propaganda at Rome, of much historical interest, and illustrative of the early provincial