

In Council Annals of Pennsylvania 1810

Gentlemen

We should be most anxious, as we conceive, a very important interest of the State, were we toomet calling the attention of the Legislature, at the earliest period, to the deplorable condition of the public buildings in this place, and inviting them to cause such an examination of them, as will not only evince the necessity of immediate repairs, but also enable them to determine on the quantum of appropriation necessary to effect the object. As intimately connected with this subject, we would, at this time, beg leave to call your further attention to the propriety of also providing by law for the erecting of an Armory, Magazine and Gun house, at the seat of Government. The propriety as well as the wisdom of such a measure, will be readily perceived, when you reflect, that at present the State house is the only repository for the articles requiring such provision. That the State house should be appropriated to such purposes, is at all times endangering its safety, by the quantity of fired ammunition which it is found necessary the Governor occasionally should have under his care, by the attractive influence of so large a mass of steel, and so forth, as an Armory must necessarily contain; but above all, by the certain destruction which awaits it in the event of a war, and the capture of our Capital, by an enemy - All which circumstances and casualties, though they may be remote, are, nevertheless within the scope of possibility, and the reach of time.

We embrace this opportunity to transmit to the Legislature, the annual report of the Directors of the Penitentiary, made in obedience to an act of Assembly passed at November session eighteen hundred and nine, entitled, an act concerning crimes and punishments; as also a letter from the honourable William Tilghman, President of the Athenaeum, a literary institution, in the city of Philadelphia.

The hon^{ble} the President of the Senate and
The hon^{ble} the Speaker of the House of Delegates

We have the honor to be
with great consideration and respect

Samuel Sprigg