

pended for such materials and labor, and pay him five dollars per day for his own services. It was, also, agreed that three thousand dollars should be advanced as the repairs progressed, and that the balance remaining due, with interest, should be paid, if not sooner, immediately after the termination of the ensuing session of the Legislature. Under this contract, Mr. Dushane commenced the work, and in as short a time as possible, completed it in the most satisfactory manner, placing the building, it is believed, in a state of security against further danger, and at a cost of three thousand six hundred and thirty-four dollars and ninety cents. Of that sum, three thousand dollars has been paid from the contingent fund, leaving the balance to be provided for by the Legislature, and it is recommended, that in the passage of a law or resolution for that purpose, provision should be made for charging the whole expense incurred, to the account of the tobacco fund.

After consultation with the Attorney General, and under the advice of that officer, I directed suit to be instituted against the contractor, for the erection of the Warehouse and the surities in his bond, for the recovery of damages sustained by the State, in consequence of his failure to perform the contract, according to its terms and specifications, and, I am informed that the case will be tried and decided, during the winter term of Baltimore county court.

In the month of March 1848, a set of balances, intended for the adjustment of standard weights and capacity measures, was received, for the use of this State, from the United States. No suitable place of deposit having been provided for them, by the Legislature, they were, from necessity, temporarily placed, without being unpacked, in one of the committee rooms of the House of Delegates, where they now remain. By resolution No. 54, of December session 1842, the Governor was authorised and directed to distribute to the Levy courts and commissioners of the several counties of the State, each, one standard of the different kinds of weights and measures, to be received from the United States.

Under the authority of this resolution, copies of the standard yard measure, were prepared, at considerable expense, by John H. Alexander, the agent of this State appointed for that purpose, and have since been distributed, under an order of my immediate predecessor. By resolution No. 38, of December session 1845, the Governor was directed to settle Mr. Alexander's accounts, and all further proceedings under the first named resolution, were ordered to be suspended until the further action of the General Assembly. In the absence of additional legislation, no suitable depository for the balances now in the possession of the State can be provided, nor, can standard copies be made for distribution. A circular letter of Professor Bache, United States superintendant of weights and measures, descriptive of the balances, accompanied with a report from that officer, and a drawing of a building appropriate for their preservation and use, is herewith transmitted.

The laws for the government of the militia of the State are wholly inefficient, and that important branch of the public service is so entirely disorganised, that there is not only no enrolment of