

REPORT.

The undersigned appointed a committee under an order of the 18th ult., "to inquire into the expediency of erecting a house for storing fuel, and a fire proof building for the preservation of the Records of the State, and otherwise improving the public grounds," beg leave respectfully to report:

That they have examined with care the different subjects embraced in the order, and are unanimously of the opinion that an appropriation for the purposes therein indicated is highly expedient and absolutely necessary.

The first consideration which forced itself upon the attention of the committee, was the fact, that the present condition of the Public Buildings is one of entire insecurity. There is no water to be found within the State House Circle, and the neighborhood affords a very small supply. If a fire should break out in the State House, there would be no means at hand for its extinguishment, and the whole building might be destroyed for the want of a timely supply of water. Several of the State Capitols have been consumed by fire, and among them, the old State House of Maryland. It is criminal neglect to refuse to provide the means of preventing the recurrence of such a calamity.

The committee have ascertained that three tanks or cisterns may be constructed at an expense of \$1200, each to contain about 9000 gallons. These would be supplied from the roof of the State House, and if judiciously placed would afford a supply sufficient for any emergency. A pump placed in one of these would furnish water for the daily use of the State House. The committee recommend the construction of one cistern in the rear of the State House and one on either side of the building.

The same desire to render the building secure against fire, induces the committee to condemn the practice of storing fuel beneath and around the State House. There are two furnaces under the building and the slightest carelessness might cause its destruction.