

In consequence of the present plan of piling large quantities of wood in the rear of the building, the grounds are converted into a common woodyard, the turf destroyed by carts, and the whole premises rendered unsightly and disgraceful to the State, while the fuel is exposed to waste and injury from the weather. The committee therefore recommend that provision be made for correcting these evils and they have embraced this object in their plan of improvement.

They found on examination that in different parts of the State House are collected vast quantities of valuable records. One class of these is stored in the Executive Chamber, Armory and office of the Adjutant General, and some in the dome of the building.— These consist of interesting original documents connected with the early history of the province and with the thrilling event of our Revolutionary struggle. Many of them are unpublished manuscript letters and orders from the hand of Washington and his associates. They are now crammed away in confusion, and are almost valueless from the difficulty of finding them.

The Archives of the Senate and House of Delegates constitute a second class. They are now carelessly crowded into insufficient cases in the Committee rooms and it is next to impossible to find any paper connected with previous sessions. This confusion is the necessary result of the want of proper room for arranging them, and it will become more a matter of complaint each year, as the records increase.

In the Court of Chancery and Land Office are vast quantities of valuable papers, upon which depend the titles to most of the land in the State. In the office of the clerk of the court of appeals are lodged the extracts sent from each County, of all deeds recorded in the State. These extracts, would supply the loss occasioned by the destruction of any clerk's office in the State, and unless they are properly preserved there would be no means of supplying such loss. It seems absurd to send extracts from deeds, recorded in fire proof buildings in the counties, to be preserved in a house in no degree fire proof.

In the same office are deposited the engrossed bills as passed by the Legislature. In many of the States of the Republic no other evidence of the existence of a Statute of Maryland is admitted, except a copy taken from the engrossed bill and certified by the officer having the custody of them. It is unnecessary to attempt to show the importance of these various records and the positive obligation resting upon the State to provide for their safe keeping. They are now no safer than if they were lodged in any private House and an unlucky accident might destroy every vestige of their existence in an hour. They should be properly arranged in some fire proof building and the Committee recommend the erection of a suitable structure for this purpose.

The committee are of opinion that a commodious fire proof record office might be built on the site of the Cannon Shed, within the public circle. In the basement could be stored the fuel required for a year, and also the cannon and other property now in the cannon shed. The basement might also contain a substitute for "the disgustingly conspicuous building known as the Public temple." The

in Maryland which has offices of record as unsafe as those in the State House. It is full time that Maryland should imitate the example of her sister States in this respect to some extent at least.

The committee respectful report the accompanying bill.

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