

At December session 1827, a resolution was passed, authorising the Governor to procure a portrait of the late Colonel John Eager Howard, "a native of the state—one of the most distinguished officers of the war of the revolution, formerly Chief Magistrate of the State; and at all times one of the most honorable and virtuous of our citizens." Our attention having been called to this resolution by the letter of William Steuart Esq. (who was then a member of the Executive Council) herewith submitted, and which satisfactorily accounts for the delay in carrying it into effect, we engaged Mr. Sully to paint said portrait; which has been received and placed in the House of Delegates, as required by said resolution.

We herewith lay before you a report, with several accompanying statements, of the Directors of the Penitentiary, shewing the account of profit and loss of its operations, its progress and present state, with a detail of facts and many interesting speculations and suggestions in relation to the penitentiary system, and the general subject of criminal punishments, which appear to us to be made with much ability and in a candid and liberal spirit. This subject, being one of great importance, will, of course, engage that serious attention from you which it justly merits.

The communication from John C. Derickson, Esq. the Commissioner, and John H. Alexander, Esquire, the Engineer on the part of this state, for surveying the coast between Cape Charles and Lewis Town Creek on the Bay of Delaware, will afford you all the information in our possession, in relation to that survey.

All the other minor matters of business, committed to our charge by the legislature, have received our attention, and been executed, or the necessary steps taken to carry into effect the wishes of the general assembly.

A vacancy having occurred in the representation of this state in the Senate of the United States, occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. E. F. Chambers, we invite your attention to the subject with a view to prompt action on your part. There seeming to be no imperious necessity for filling the vacancy by the Executive, and the Legislature being soon to convene, we deemed it advisable and respectful to leave the selection to you, on whom, under any circumstance, the appointment would ultimately devolve.