

ment of the amount levied to the President and Commissioners of the Public Schools for said counties for 1866 ;

Which was read and referred to the Committee upon Education.

Also the following memorial :

*To the Honorable, the President and the members of the Maryland State Convention, in sovereign convention assembled :*

The undersigned, fully satisfied, that he reflects the wishes of many citizens of our State, would respectfully submit to your Honorable Body the expediency of creating the office of a State Historiographer—an officer, who shall be selected, so far as possible, without reference to partizan considerations, and whose principal duty shall consist in the task of collecting and arranging the loose Colonial Papers, examining our early archives, obtaining extracts and transcripts from English State Papers and Records relating to the Province of Maryland, and superintending the publication, in successive quarto or folio volumes, and with a strict adherence to the original text in every particular, of such early documents as will aid the citizen in studying, and the historian in thoroughly illustrating the interesting History of our Colonization. To undertake, in the present inaccessible and chaotic state of our Papers and Records, to write a real History, would involve such sacrifices of time, labor and money, as no historian, however public-spirited or enthusiastic, could reasonably be expected to make. But, by arranging and classifying our documents, multiplying copies through the agency of the Press, and bringing them in contact with the active, living mind of the State, books of history would undoubtedly be produced, of which every son of Maryland could be justly proud. Nor are we without high precedents in favor of the proposed measure.

So early as the reign of William and Mary, England commenced the publication of her old State Papers, and has since gone back to the very days of the Conqueror, including her Dooms-Day-Book, and many other documents of the richest and rarest character. New York and other States of the American Union have followed the noble example of England ; and there is no reason why Maryland, which has so large a store-house of early documents, and such a rich mine of historical lore, should lag so far behind her own sister States.

But one of the strongest recommendations in support of the proposed measure, is derived from the present state of our historical literature, so far as it has already come within the agency of the press. The picture is indeed most melancholy. It may be said, without exaggeration, that, while we have