

fications of the Historian, combining extraordinary industry, research, taste and accuracy of discrimination, in his critical, moral, and philosophical reflections upon the events recorded, that entitle him to the gratitude and remembrance of his native State. Few citizens, however well qualified, would have undertaken a task of so much labour, and demanding so much time from other pursuits, without any certain hope of emolument. Gratifying his own laudable ambition for literary fame, and possessing in a high degree, a mind above any pecuniary consideration, like other distinguished men of letters before him, he has written a book, risking every thing in regard to success, to rescue from oblivion important matters of history, and to bring down to posterity a narrative of olden times. The book itself with all its treasures still remaining in manuscript without the facilities of multiplying copies, has heretofore continued in comparative obscurity, known only to a few friends who were acquainted personally with the virtues and untiring industry of the author while living, until it was presented to the State for official examination. The author so distinguished in his life for all the private and social virtues, for his singular and industrious habits, and his lively curiosity to search the records of by-gone times; having been called away from his earthly career before the full accomplishment of his wishes, nothing remains for him but a posthumous fame to which he is eminently entitled, but which cannot be awarded to him without the patronage of his native State. The author while living, published in one volume an introduction to the history of Maryland, which was printed at Philadelphia in the year eighteen hundred and eleven, at too great a distance for him to be furnished with the proof sheets as they came from the press for his examination, in consequence of which, many errors, some of them important, crept into that volume. In the present manuscript he has commenced with corrections and additions of several pages, intended for the greater perfection of that volume, and as a frank and ingenuous apology to the reading public.

1st. In regard to the matter of the history, it would be consuming too much time, and increasing this report to an inconvenient length, if your committee were to bring in review every particular. A few, therefore, of the prominent things will only be referred to, taken from the great mass of facts.