

ROOMS OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
BALTIMORE, *November 12, 1883.*

TO THE HONORABLE

THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND:

Gentlemen:—At a meeting of the Maryland Historical Society, held on the 12th of November, 1883, the Committee to which the custody of the Archives of the State had been confided, reported as follows:

To the Maryland Historical Society:

Gentlemen:

The Committee appointed by you at the last Annual Meeting of the Society to take charge of the Archives, then recently deposited by the State, has much pleasure in handing you, and through you to the General Assembly of Maryland, the first volume of its labors, and with the volume the following

REPORT.

Many reports have been made to the State concerning the Archives, both by Committees and individuals appointed by the General Assembly. With but few exceptions these reports were directed more to the manner in which the Archives were cared for than to the Archives themselves. The first full report seems to have been that of the Commission appointed in 1722. They kept a record and made a tolerably full report to the Assembly; it referred particularly to the condition of the Land Records, the Judicial and Testamentary Proceedings. Such of the volumes as needed it were repaired, others lacked indices which were supplied, and many needed copying to save their contents. Four of the volumes copied by their order are now in our possession. In 1776 a Committee of the Council of Safety made a voluminous report. In both these reports only bound books were noted. Coming down to our own times, Mr. David Ridgely, in 1835, being then the Librarian of the State, was directed by the Assembly to examine the various offices and report upon the State Papers in them. The result of his examination was printed in 1835. So far as the bound