

return, in diverting from the paths of crime to usefulness and industry, many who would hereafter add to the expense of her Penitentiary. So prudent an expenditure, and such true economy, is that which pays for the *prevention* of crime; that no appropriation ever made by the General Assembly has been put to better use.

Liberality in such things is the surest economy in the end; and I respectfully recommend all these institutions, and their claims, for such aid as the sound condition of the State finances permit, and the exigencies of the public service require.

I also submit, for your information, the report made to me by John H. Alexander, Esq., who was commissioned to procure certain documents relating to the history of the State, in pursuance of an Act of the last Assembly, passed on the recommendation of my predecessor in office. From it you will learn the condition of this matter; and from the report of the Rev. Mr. Allen, whose thorough acquaintance with the State records and archives, made him the fittest person to express an opinion, you will see the state of these, and the necessity and propriety of some step for their future preservation and the publication of the more important documents. Their recommendations deserve your consideration, and invite your speedy action.

The last General Assembly provided for the building a fire-proof place of deposit and Record Office, where important documents and papers belonging to the State could be preserved, without risk from fire, which, at that session, had threatened to destroy the State House. They also made provision for the repair and improvement of the State House, and for heating it without the risk of fires within the building. You will not fail to perceive that these most desirable improvements have been made, as far as the appropriation permitted, in the most satisfactory manner. The Hall of Delegates has been greatly enlarged; the wing in which the Library is kept rebuilt; the Court of Appeals provided with suitable accommodation, and the whole building made more comfortable and convenient. The Northern portion of the main building, containing the Senate and Executive Chambers, needs extensive repair, for which it is necessary that you should make provision. I venture to suggest that an indispensable condition in such appropriation should be, that the Senate Chamber, with which are connected so many associations and Revolutionary memories; and which is justly admired for the beauty of its proportions and decorations, should in none of these respects, and in no way whatever, be changed or altered; that there should be only a renewal of what is useless or decayed, in an exact repetition of the part taken away, so that the room may remain as it was when the Congress of the Confederation sat there, and on the day when they received