

or to build others in their stead on different sites; but as it appeared that the latter could not be effected without incurring a great additional expense, so much greater (as the committee conceived) than would be counterbalanced by any "public interest or convenience," to be derived from "a change of sites," they were of opinion that it would be inexpedient to make such change. Connected with this part of the duty prescribed to the committee, it may not be improper that they should state to the House the representations of sundry individuals who allege, and offer to prove, that the designation of the present site by President Washington, who possessed full power, having been always considered by him as part of the permanent plan of the city, they purchased at very advanced prices, and improved lots, on the faith of those designations, near those sites; the supposed permanency whereof has ever since sustained the value of all adjacent and contiguous property; but that, if those sites were now to be altered or abandoned, without some equivalent public establishment being made thereon, they apprehend that this property would become comparatively valueless, during the lifetimes of the present holders at least. The committee, however, desire it to be understood that other views and considerations, having induced their decision on this member of the resolution under which their inquiries were directed, did not enter into the discussion of, or give any opinion on the force and validity of, those considerations.

From the suggestions of the architects consulted, and also from the observations of the committee, they are of opinion that parts of the walls, arches, and columns of the late buildings are in a state requiring a small expense for workmanship and materials, to preserve them from injury by the weather, and from falling down, thereby endangering the vaulting which supports some of the floors, and which, at present, is very little, if at all, weakened by the burning; but as there is no money applicable to the payment of such expense, inconsiderable as it may be, the committee beg leave to suggest the propriety of an appropriation for that object.

The committee think it not irrelative to the object of their inquiries, though it is not specifically enjoined, to state also that the several banks within the District of Columbia, desirous of facilitating an object so interesting to the district, have made a formal and binding offer in writing, to advance on loan to the Government, upon reasonable terms, the sum of \$500,000, to be applied exclusively to the purpose of rebuilding or repairing the President's house, Capitol, or public offices.

Conformably to the foregoing statement the committee ask leave to report a bill.

13th CONGRESS.]

No. 376.

[3d SESSION.]

PURCHASE OF THE LIBRARY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, NOVEMBER 28, 1814.

Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH, from the Joint Library Committee of Congress, reported:

That, in pursuance of the resolution of Congress, passed on the 21st of October last, your committee have received from Mr. Samuel Harrison Smith, agent for Mr. Jefferson, precise terms of sale of his library, in which the number of volumes is stated to be six thousand four hundred and eighty-seven, and the estimated price twenty-three thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars. To these terms your committee have conditionally acceded, and they have contracted with the agent of Mr. Jefferson for the purchase of his library, according to the catalogue and number of volumes stated, at the price before mentioned, subject to the ratification of Congress.

They, therefore, present the following bill to authorize the purchase of the library of Thomas Jefferson, late President of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed, to cause to be paid to the Joint Library Committee of Congress, or their order, the sum of twenty-three thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars in Treasury notes of the issue ordered by the law of the 4th of March, 1814, to be by them applied to the purchase of the library of Thomas Jefferson, late President of the United States, for the use of Congress.

13th CONGRESS.]

No. 377.

[3d SESSION.]

BOOKS AND PAPERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND LIBRARIES OF CONGRESS LOST BY THE CONFLAGRATION IN 1814, AND THE STATE OF THE CONTINGENT FUND.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 12, 1814.

Mr. PEARSON, from the committee to whom were referred the communication of Patrick Magruder, clerk of the House of Representatives, relative to the destruction of the library of Congress, and records and papers appertaining to the office of the House of Representatives, made the following report:

That they have satisfactory evidence that the library of Congress, consisting of volumes agreeably to the catalogue herewith submitted was destroyed by the enemy on the 24th of August last; and, also, the manuscript records, papers, and secret journal of Congress, mentioned in the communication submitted to this committee. In