

REPORT

Of the Committee on the Public Buildings, accompanying "A Bill making appropriations for the Public Buildings, for the purchase of a Lot of Land, and furnishing a supply of Water for the use of certain Public Buildings."

JANUARY 7, 1819.

Read, and, with the bill, committed to the committee of the whole, to-morrow.

The Committee on the Public Buildings REPORT:

That the Committee have examined the public buildings, and entertain the opinion that more has been effected towards their completion the *past*, than perhaps in any of the preceeding years. They think the cause of the failure to complete the wings of the capitol, may be attributed to the magnitude of the work, and other causes assigned by the architect in his report. The appropriation made last April, for finishing the wings is found inadequate, and the additional sum of fifty-one thousand three hundred and thirty-two dollars is required to complete the same. This large deficiency is accounted for by the architect, whose estimate, together with a letter from the commissioner is herewith presented.

In order to progress with the centre building of the capitol, the committee propose to make an adequate appropriation, as they think that a competent number of workmen should be constantly employed thereon.

The foundation of the south portico of the President's house having been laid, and as its completion will add greatly to the general convenience of the building, the committee think it ought to be finished. As it must be desirable to finish the President's house as soon as possible, the committee also recommend the building of the north portico. By an estimate of Mr. Hoban, superintendent of the President's house, which is also presented, it appears that the further sum of three thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars is required to complete the gates, the iron railing, and the enclosure north of the President's house.

The offices to the President's house are so small, and inconvenient, as to induce the committee to recommend an addition to be

made to the office west of said house. The committee find that some plan is necessary to be adopted for conveying water to the several executive offices, as well as the President's house, for extinguishing fires and for other purposes. They understand that there is a lot conveniently situated, with a fountain thereon, fully adequate for the contemplated purposes. That it is believed the lot can be purchased and pipes leading to the several buildings constructed, for the sum of nine thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars. They therefore recommend that this important object be carried into effect, provided said lot can be purchased for any sum not exceeding three thousand dollars. The committee have thought it their duty again to inquire, as to the time necessary for finishing the wings of the capitol, and the answer of the commissioner gives the assurance of their completion before the probable meeting of the next Congress. From the forward state of the wings, the committee think the commissioner's expectations will be realized. They therefore recommend the following resolution:

Resolved, That the house now occupied by Congress, be returned as soon after the present session, as the public convenience will permit.