

STATE LIBRARY

1851 3691

The library, being in a building that is not fire-proof, is of course liable to be destroyed by fire. That the loss in such an event would be irreparable is evident to all. For further details of these several points, I beg leave to refer to the

Very respectfully,

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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STATE LIBRARY, February 13, 1852.

*To the President of the Senate :*

SIR:—In obedience to an order of the Senate, of the 11th instant, directing “the Secretary of State and the Librarian to inform the Senate whether the books, records, and other documents and public property, in their several offices, are preserved in safe and sufficient places of deposit, secure from fire and moisture, and whether any further provision is necessary for their better protection,” I have the honor, as State Librarian, to submit the following statement, viz. :—

1. In consequence of the accumulation of the Massachusetts state documents, and of the documents of other states, procured by exchange, and of books purchased annually by the trustees, the small apartments appropriated for the use of the library are entirely insufficient for receiving the books, with any arrangement of them upon shelves convenient for reference.
2. In the basement story there is so much moisture, that, with all the care that can be exercised by means of fires in the winter, and the opening both of the windows, and the cases, in the summer, the books become damp and dingy, the covers often become mouldy, and the leaves of some are actually decaying. This is an evil for which there is no sure remedy except by removal.

3. The library, being in a building that is not fire-proof, is, of course, liable to be destroyed by fire. That the loss, in such an event, would be irreparable, is evident to all.

For further details on these several points, I beg leave to refer to the closing part of my annual report.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

BARNAS SEARS, *Librarian.*