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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE ERECTION OF

THE STATE CAPITOL.

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1859.

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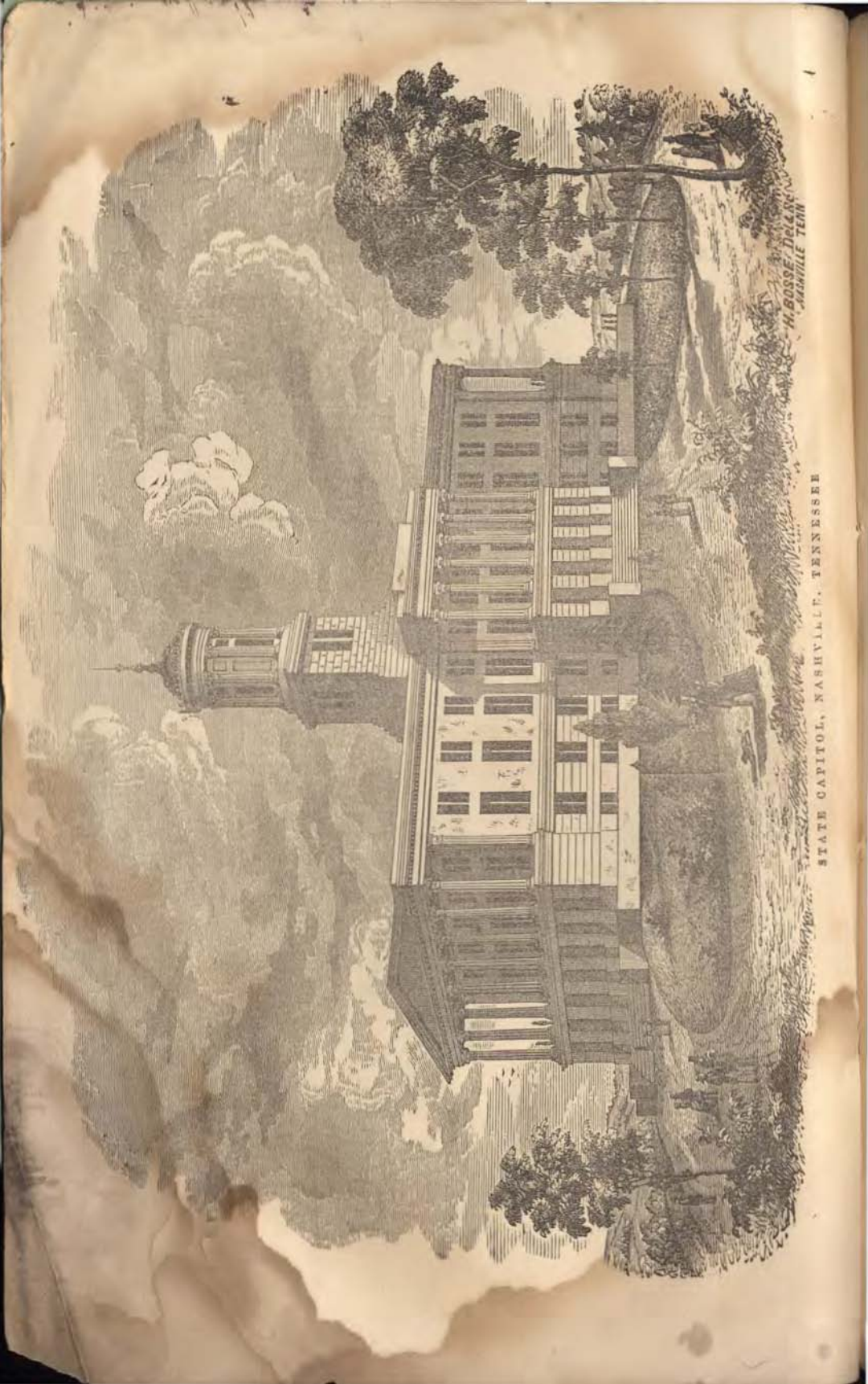
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STATE CAPITOL, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

H. BOSSE, DELIN.  
NASHVILLE, TENN.

REPORT  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE ERECTION OF

The State Capitol,

OCTOBER 1, 1859.

*Respectfully  
of J. W. Gillespie.*

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NASHVILLE:  
E. G. EASTMAN & CO., PUBLIC PRINTERS.  
1859.

And the expenditures of the Board have been for the same time as follows, viz :

Paid Penitentiary for dressed stone furnished, etc., etc.,	- -	\$8,728 06	
And for materials, labor, salaries, furniture, fixtures, and incidental expenses,	- - - - -	\$35,990 82	
			44,718 88
			-----
Leaving in the Treasury unexpended,			\$2,822 20

My last Report showed that of the appropriation made in 1855-6, there remained unused, seventy Bonds of \$1,000 each, out of which the Governor has handed over to the Bank of Tennessee forty-five, for which it has passed to the credit of the Board only \$39,900, or \$5,100 less than their amount, notwithstanding the Act granting it (1855-6, ch. 268, p. 555,) made the appropriation a specific one of \$150,000 cash, as it directed the Bank to honor the checks of the Commissioners for *that sum*, not making the amount to be received at all dependent on the assumed or real value of State Bonds.

This reduction of the amount of the appropriation, added to a similar one previously made, and noticed in my last Report, has thus far reduced the assets of the Commission to the extent of \$12,000. And as there remains yet to be handed over to the Bank \$25,000 more of Bonds, there will be a still further reduction, dependent on the price the Bank places on them—most probably decreasing the appropriation to the extent of \$15,000 in all.

This uncertainty as to the sum to be realized from an appropriation of this character, causes great embarrassment to the Board, inasmuch as it leaves entirely undetermined what amount it can safely calculate on having at command, or to what extent it may prudently enter into contracts predicated on it.

It may be argued, that in a pecuniary point of view, it matters

not, as both the Bank and the Capitol building are the property of the State.

This is in the abstract true; still, the Commissioners feel embarrassed in making contracts in advance of the means they have *actually in their treasury*; because, in so doing, they are liable to incur obligations beyond what the Bank may allow them as a credit for any future deposit of Bonds to be made by the Governor; and, beside this inconvenience and perplexity, they feel a reluctance to having the amount of State Bonds charged against the construction of the Capitol thus swelled twelve or fifteen thousand dollars, beyond the amount actually received by the Board.

Beside other work of less importance since the date of my last Report—

There has been erected around the building an extensive cut stone promenade, of the most substantial and durable character.

The southern crypt has been substantially paved with heavy stone flagging, resting on solidly cemented masonry.

The northern crypt has been fitted up in good style, with all conveniences for the reception and safe custody of the public arms of the State.

A large amount of blasting around the public grounds has been done, preparing them for receiving the contemplated enclosure, besides grading on the surface, together with the accumulation of a considerable amount of dressed stone, intended for the foundations of the enclosure.

In addition to which, the Board has contracted for the iron balustering of all the stairways of the building, including also, iron stairs from the base to the roof of the tower, for fitting up and shelving the Library room, together with suitable gas posts and lamps for the four main entrances to the building—all in the most substantial manner, and in a style corresponding with the other parts of the building.

The balustering of the stairways and the tower stairs are very

nearly completed; and a portion of the balustrades, cornices, shelving, and fixtures for the Library are already received, and are now being put up in a satisfactory manner by the contractors.

In fitting up this apartment, no material whatever but iron, will be used—thus securing against the possibility of danger from fire the valuable works it is destined to contain. For the iron work thus alluded to, there will have to be paid some \$25,000, or about the sum remaining unexpended of the appropriation of 1855-6, leaving the Commissioners without means to progress with the enclosure of the grounds, etc.

In consequence of the temporary occupancy of the room intended as a State Cabinet—having been granted to the United States Courts—no shelving or cases adapting it to the purposes it is intended for, have as yet been provided.

The State Geologist being desirous of having some safe repository for the many mineralogical and other specimens of value collected by him, has made application for some suitable apartment; but having none such vacant, his request could not, of course, be complied with. If, however, possession of this room is resumed by the State, it will require but a few weeks time, and a very inconsiderable expense to prepare it for the reception and safe keeping of any specimens or objects of interest which your Geologist may have to put in it. And I doubt not he already has many such, and which, without some such place for their safe keeping, will be lost or destroyed.

At its last session, the undersigned did not ask of the Legislature any appropriation whatever.

If, however, it is the intention of your Honorable body to have the work of enclosing, grading, and ornamenting the grounds proceeded with, an appropriation for that purpose will be desirable at an early day; and should it be deemed advisable to further extend the public grounds on the west, I would suggest that an additional appropriation be made for that purpose—the sum of which, to be fixed after the probable worth of half the square



fronting the western face of the building be ascertained and reported on by a committee of your own body.

Of the stone work necessary as a foundation for the iron superstructure of the enclosure around the building, I would suggest that the State convicts are, in all respects, competent to dress and prepare it for setting.

And should it be the determination of the Legislature to have the stone prepared by the prison, I would respectfully suggest, that the present arrangement by which it furnishes it to the Commissioners at a fixed price, and for which it receives payment of them in cash, is the very best plan that can be adopted, by which to save money to the State ; a plan, as experience has fully demonstrated, superior to that of having set apart the labor of a given number of the convicts. The State owns the quarries, and has at command a cheaper and more available force of laborers than can be found elsewhere ; and, as previously stated, in all respects capable of executing the work required of them.

In order to preserve the building from damage, and it and the public grounds from being made the resort of vicious, unruly, or evil-disposed persons, the Commissioners have found it necessary to keep employed a watchman during a part of the day and night ; but as he is supposed to be unclothed with official or legal authority, his efforts to carry out the intentions of the Board, are in a great measure, unavailing.

I would, therefore, respectfully suggest to you the passage of a law, giving to such watchmen or custodians of the public grounds and building, as may be appointed by the President of the Board of Commissioners, such powers as are possessed by police officers of the city of Nashville, and also subjecting depredators on the building and grounds to such punishment as, in your judgment, you may deem fitting.

In an appendix to my last Report, will be found a statement showing the actual cost of the Capitol building, including purchase of grounds, interest paid, furniture and fixtures, and also inclu-

sive of penitentiary labor, to have been, up to the 1st October, 1857, \$835,262 60 ; since when, as per this Report, there has been expended the further sum of \$44,718 88. Thus making the entire cost of it, including furniture, etc., etc., to be \$879,981 48, up to this date.

For every item of expenditure made by the Board of Commissioners since its organization, there will be found on file in its office full and complete vouchers, showing for what each and every expenditure has been made.

To an examination and investigation of these vouchers, they invite such committee as you may appoint, and of which committee the appointment is respectfully asked.

Should other or fuller information in relation to the undertaking confided to the management of the Commissioners be deemed necessary, it will at all times afford pleasure to the undersigned to respond to any inquiries made of him.

All of which is respectfully submitted, by

SAM. D. MORGAN,

President of Board of Commissioners for the Erection of the State Capitol.

