

The Members of Council have much regret in stating, almost in the outset, that the hopes so ardently and so reasonably entertained by their predecessors, of the Society's sharing, along with other Literary Institutions, the bounty of the Legislature, were entirely disappointed. No grant was obtained, either for the purchase of Audubon's great work on Ornithology, which was applied for as calculated to be peculiarly beneficial in this country, or for the general objects of extending our collections, and increasing the sphere of our usefulness.

While your officers submit to you, the necessity under which you are laid of acquiescing in the decision of the Honorable House of Assembly, they conceive that justice to the Society itself, as well as to the public at large, for whose benefit it exists, requires a particular and formal dissent from the acknowledged principle on which this refusal is grounded.—*Such Societies*, it is said, *ought to be supported by voluntary contributions*. In acceding to this position, advanced by one of its Committees, the Honorable House must surely for the moment have forgotten, that a large portion of its grants in the same Session, were made to other similar establishments formed for very similar purposes, and differing from this, only in being more local and limited in their objects.—These establishments, namely for Education, are of the very highest importance, and cannot but receive the complete sympathy of this Society. Still they are limited to particular places, to persons of one age, and mostly of one sex.—But this Society, like other Societies constituted on the same principles, exists for the benefit of all ages and conditions, being intended to develop the resources of the country, to lay open its capabilities, and to enable all its inhabitants to profit by its inherent riches,—its hitherto untouched productions. The Society