

Experience has shown that the amount of financial support a department of archives may expect from its community is everywhere directly dependent upon the realization that community has of the need for the preservation and continuing care of its public documents. Also experience has shown that this realization of its need for the care and preservation of its documents has always been developed in a community<sup>x</sup> by that necessarily small group which is particularly informed in the matter.

In our case, valuable preliminary work has been done by several members of this Society. The building under construction at Annapolis testifies to the sympathy with which their suggestions were received by the State authorities.

The responsibility for continuing this work; for arousing public interest; for procuring the necessary legislation, rests with you, who are here tonight, and others like you, who are alive to its urgency.

It has been aptly said that, 'the care which a people devotes to the preservation of the monuments of its past, may serve as a measure of the degree of civilization to which it has attained.'