

REPORT.

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of Maryland:

As required by their charter, the Board of Managers here-with present their Ninth Annual Report of the condition of the House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents. In performing this duty, by way of preface, they may be permitted to say, that while their cares have been increased by an enlarged number of inmates, this heavier charge has, however, only brought with it a deeper sense of their responsibilities, and, they trust, an earnest determination to perform with more faithfulness the labors assumed by them.

Since the opening of the Institution, four years ago, there have been admitted to its benefits, 581 children of both sexes, of whom 152 have been indentured in various parts of this and other States, about one-half of the number to farmers,—and 130 have been discharged to the care of their parents or relatives. There were in the House during last year, in all, 381 inmates, from which deduct those discharged, indentured, &c., say 100, and the number remaining on 31st December, ultimo, will be shown to be 281. From these figures some idea may be formed, not only of what the Refuge has done, but of what it is still doing in the work for which it was established. But its adaptedness to its work and its usefulness to the community can only be fully understood when its records of commitments are examined, and the home and moral histories of the inmates are written out in their details of neglect, destitution, ignorance, pernicious influence and associations and early delinquency.

In another place we have given the mere money cost of effecting the work of melioration in which the Board is engaged, and gratifying as in the comparative smallness of the sum, yet this should, after all, be only a secondary considera-