

OCCURRENCES AT THE PENITENTIARY.

Since the present administration of the Penitentiary two convicts succeeded in making their escape; one has since been recaptured, the other is still at large. The Committee are satisfied, however, that in neither case were the officers of the Institution at fault. They have examined with great care and minuteness, witnesses under oath and they have not been able to elicit any fact going to show negligence or inattention upon the part of any of the officers. In every institution of the kind all over the world, convicts have made good their escape. Efforts are frequently made; oftimes they are discovered in time to prevent escape. Indeed instances of escape are so rare, that when they do occur a great deal is said about it. Some account for it in one way, some in another, but the fact is, no one can account for it in any other way than a superior amount of shrewdness of the prisoner over those having them in charge. A great deal has been said and written about the taking of the arms out of the Penitentiary previous to the fall election of 1858. To this subject your committee have devoted much time, they have examined many witnesses, all under oath, and after the most patient and tedious investigation *they have not been able to find any proof of the charge*, and are constrained to say in justice to the Warden, that he *stands free and entirely acquitted of it*. They believe the report originated in the height of political excitement from some irresponsible person or persons, as they were unable to find any one who would swear under oath to the *fact*. Your Committee therefore in justice to the Warden say, that no such occurrence took place so far as they have any evidence, and that his whole connection with the Penitentiary as Warden, has been straight forward and highly creditable, not only to himself but to the Institution. All the rumors affecting him (the Warden,) injuriously have been well sifted, and your Committee are proud and happy to state they were all as groundless as the one particularly noticed above.

THE COLORED CONVICTS.

Your Committee recommend that a law should be passed, requiring the Warden to sell at once the negroes, free and slave, who are now in the Penitentiary and the proceeds thereof to accrue to the county or city wherein said negro was convicted, and they also recommend that a law should be passed requiring the Courts to sell for life, all negroes free and slave convicted of crimes, the sentence of which would have been incarceration in the Penitentiary, the proceeds thereof to be used in like manner as above stated; and they believe this