

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY,  
 Baltimore, Dec. 19th, 1829. }

*To the Board of Directors  
 of the Maryland Penitentiary:*

The Building Committee are happy in being able to report to the board, that the new wing, intended for solitary confinement at night, is now complete, and prepared in every respect for the reception of the convicts.

In compliance with an article of the law providing for the erection of the building, the convicts were employed, as far as was practicable, in the preparation of the materials, and general execution of the work. Besides the ordinary laboring, the carpenters' and smiths' work, the painting, and a large portion of the plaistering, were performed entirely by convicts.

The cost of the building, inclusive of the labor of the convicts and every other expense, has been \$46,823 44. The amount charged during the last year for the labor of convicts was \$3,466 50; which, added to the amount reported 30th November last, makes the whole amount charged on this account \$9538. This sum deducted from the whole cost, leaves the amount of actual expenditure on account of the building \$37,285 44—exceeding the loan \$7285 44, which last sum has been paid from the funds of the institution.

The Building is one hundred and seventy feet in length, forty in width, and forty-six feet high. It is covered with a strong slate roof, and is, in every possible particular, fire proof. The interior presents a peculiar and very beautiful appearance. From the ground floor, to the semi-circular brick arch surmounting the whole, a hall fifteen feet wide separates the ranges of cells, of which there are five stories, and affords an unbroken view of each. The cells are rendered accessible by small galleries projecting three feet from the wall on each side, at the level of each story. Each gallery is complete in itself—the floors being laid upon strong iron fixtures in the wall, and the whole are so constructed as to oppose the least possible obstruction to ventilation.

The whole number of cells is three hundred and twenty. Each cell is eight feet six inches in length, three feet seven inches in