

from itself, while thus useful, the means of sustaining itself.

This period is effectively the opening of the institution under the State's control, and nothing discouraging is to be argued from the past fortunes of the institution, nor from its actual necessities. It is now, it is true, destitute of many conveniences and attractions essential for the relief and even the bare accommodation of the persons whom its retirement and succour should invite, or for engaging the attention and patronage of those who may have such a place of refuge to select for those under their care. But all this only results from the fact of having yielded the establishment to lessees as an enterprize of individual profit, and when traced to such causes, the actual circumstances and comparatively humble character of the institution, only illustrate what has long been received as indisputable, that such an institution is emphatically a concern for public endowment and guardianship, and should be under a state's immediate and active administration. No other supervision can ensure the care and assiduities, and solace, which must be thoroughly disinterested, to be ample and adequate, prompted by a benevolence which is limited by no fear of pecuniary loss, and sustained by reasons commensurate with the utmost capacity of the institution, and the most expanded liberality and kindness. The views and usages of all civilized society assign this interesting office of humanity in the establishment and conduct of such institution, as an appropriate function of the state.

To enable it to discharge this sovereign duty to society, the state is now the proprietor of a spacious edifice and extensive grounds, which have cost in all \$159,500, of which sum the state has contributed \$61,000 out of her treasury, and \$20,000 from the proceeds of lotteries, and the present worth of which property is estimated at \$125,000. That a property of such value, and consecrated to so high a social object should be allowed to decay, or be entirely inefficient to the state, cannot be imputed as a purpose of the Legislature: and yet the present situation of the establishment is such, that such must be the result, if repairs be not effected and various provisions be not made for it in furniture, and changes in the internal arrangements of the buildings now imperiously required to render it a comfortable abode for inmates of the institution. It is also to be remembered that an establishment of this description cannot be supplied and prepared piece-meal, so as to attain its proper rank, and to prosper on its own earnings. It must not in any part,