

more attractive to distant purchasers. The purchaser who find in this market every variety of goods he desires, at once terminates his journey, and buys in his stock; and thus the hand loom weaver is benefited by a more extended demand for his goods. If the Penitentiary ceases, one item of attraction will be removed; the inducements for distant purchasers to resort thither will be diminished, and they will go where they can find the largest supply and greatest variety. By this means hand loom weavers, as well as other manufacturers of domestics, will be injured. It is not contended that such would be the effect of a discontinuance of the Penitentiary system, for it is doubted whether it would have any effect at all, but such certainly would be its tendency.

All the testimony taken by the committee on this subject, with exception of the weavers themselves, negatives the idea, that the manufactures of the Penitentiary conflict injuriously with the petitioners. Their suppositions are unfounded, though doubtless acted under a thorough conviction of their correctness. It is due to them that their complaints should be patiently heard, and respectfully considered.

Having received all the testimony in relation to the manufacturers, and how far they came into conflict with the private manufacturer, the investigation should have terminated. But a majority of the committee thought proper to extend it further, and the undersigned acquiesced in that determination, though he believed the committee had no right to do so. The committee was raised to examine the complaints set forth in the memorial, and for no other purpose, they were not invested with power to examine the institution, except so far as its manufactures were concerned. Certainly the House delegated us no power to *examine persons on oath in reference* to any matter much less on a subject on the police of the institution. The committee, however, determined to proceed with the investigation in reference to the police, and economy of the establishment, and they were urged to this course by representations of Dr. Baxley, one of the directors, that great abuses existed in the institution. Interrogatories were prepared in order to bring out these abuses if they really existed; and the directors were requested to answer on oath. A part of them refused to answer on oath; but freely answered as a board and as individuals without oath, as required. No attempt was made to conceal, every thing was exhibited which the committee desired