

but in the moral and religious condition of the prisoners, as the happy consequence of the new system.

The sum already expended upon the new buildings, is 44,494 dollars, and the entire cost, when they are completed, will not be less than 50,000 dollars. When the extent of the buildings, their substantial and durable character, together with their fitness to the important purposes for which they are intended are taken into consideration, this sum will not appear large. The State of Maryland may then congratulate herself upon possessing, at a comparatively moderate cost, a penitentiary establishment, which in the substantial construction, the arrangement and proper adaptation of the entire suit of its buildings, is probably inferior to few or none of the other similar institutions of the Union. It remains only for its authorities, by a strict enforcement of discipline, and a judicious and faithful administration of its concerns generally, to insure to the State all the important advantages and happy results of which the penitentiary system may be productive.

Notwithstanding the manufacturing operations of the last year have been unusually profitable; yet, the excess of the cost of the new buildings beyond the sum loaned by the State in aid of their erection, has occasioned such a reduction of the active capital of the institution, as cannot fail to produce inconvenience, and materially to restrict the advantageous management of its fiscal concerns. Still the manufacturing operations of the penitentiary may be carried on, and its high credit maintained with its present means, while the labor of the prisoners continues productive. But when it is considered, that upon nearly all the manufactories of the institution, and the other proceeds of its labor, a long credit is allowed; and that the stock of goods at particular seasons of the year, accumulates, and remains on hand a considerable time; it is obvious that the institution cannot have the same ability to avail itself, as fully as heretofore, of the advantages which purchases with cash, instead of credit, generally afford. The important material of wool is generally sold for cash, and the still more important material of cotton yarns, and other materials cannot always be purchased upon credit with equal advantages. It is also to be noticed, that the manufactures of the institution