

necessary wants of the convicts, whose condition is rendered thereby as comfortable as is compatible with their deprivation of liberty. The convict is thus given to feel, that, while justice has exacted of him the penalty for crime, it is satisfied with a forfeiture consistent with humanity, and does not impair the righteousness of its sentence by an alliance with oppression and tyranny; and thus feeling, he yields with greater submission to the decrees of law, and his judgment is more open to conviction as his heart is to reformation.

Whilst the efforts of the directors seem to have been primarily directed to these great objects, they do not appear to have been inattentive to the consideration that the prisoners should be made to furnish their own support as far as is consistent with necessary discipline; and this will be seen by their last annual report, which shews a large increase upon the profits of the preceding year, and nearly equal to their entire maintenance, including all the expenses for the conduct and government of the institution.

The directors have been ably seconded in their efforts to promote the objects of the Legislature, by the warden, to whose capability to discharge the important duties of his office, the directors have borne testimony. An improvement in the looms by that officer, has resulted in a considerable comparative increase in the amount of manufactured cotton goods, at the same time that his suggestions in regard to the food of the convicts, has resulted in a very great improvement of its quality, *and with a small saving of expense to the institution.* [See Doc. A.]

Although not required to report specially upon all the officers of the Penitentiary, your committee cannot omit to speak of the able and efficient manner in which the clerk has discharged his duties, and of the many facilities afforded to them by that gentleman in their investigation of the financial and general affairs of the institution. His peculiar ability as an accountant, is equalled by his thorough knowledge of prison science; and his promptness, and accuracy, in imparting information, while they evinced his perfect acquaintance with the affairs of the Penitentiary, likewise indicated the deep interest he feels in its prosperity.

The committee are of opinion that one person to be termed "Purveyor to the Maryland Penitentiary" would be sufficient to attend to the duties, now performed by the two agents. And for the purpose of satisfying ourselves with regard to this matter, we obtained the opinion of the Board of Directors, [Doc. B.] which sustains that previously formed by the Committee. We shall hereafter offer a bill for the appointment of such an officer, &c.

2. General condition of the Prison.

The buildings and premises generally are in a good condition; cleanliness, and ventilation, are properly regarded in the prison cells and workshops; the clothing of the convicts appears comfortable, and the bedding well appointed and ample; the food is plain,