

for borrowing money to pay salaries or purchase materials; the credit of the Penitentiary is always good, and commercial revolutions do not so seriously affect its operations, as where the manufactures are subject to sacrifices, for the purpose of raising funds to pay salaries and make the purchases."

Your committee are firmly persuaded that true economy dictates the making of a similar arrangement in our Penitentiary, so far as it can be done; and that the interest of the State may be promoted by the change, we recommend that the salaries of the officers of our Penitentiary be paid at the Treasury, in quarterly drafts from the Directors, to the amount of those salaries. To ensure economy in the management of the Institution and the application of its funds only to legitimate and necessary purposes, we have a provision in the bill accompanying this report, requiring the Directors to transmit to the Treasurer at the end of each year an accurate detailed statement of all its receipts and expenditures during the year, (and this statement to be duly sworn to by the Warden and Clerk,) and if there shall be any surplus in the receipts of the prison over its expenses, to pay the same over to the Treasurer of the State. We have also provided in the bill which accompanies the report, for an annual statement of the same kind to be made by the Directors to the Governor of the State, duly sworn to by the Clerk and Warden as before. With these guards and restrictions imposed upon the officers of the Penitentiary, your committee are of opinion, that no objections can arise to our adopting a similar usage to that which has so long prevailed in the Virginia and other Penitentiaries, with signal advantage to those Institutions. It will be remembered that from the erection of our Penitentiary in 1811, to the year 1828, the salaries of its officers were paid at the State Treasury, as we propose they shall be paid hereafter, and that this usage was only abandoned because the manufactures of the Institution were then very profitable, and more than equal to the payment of its expenses. The period of its manufacturing prosperity was between the years of 1820 and 1832, when printed cottons had scarcely entered the market as rival fabrics; but since that time, competition has so reduced the profits of its manufactures, that it has been a small tax upon the Treasury ever since. In this regard, however, we do not find our Penitentiary differing from the majority of the prisons of the country. On looking at a number of their reports, it appears that not more than one out of three pays its expenses, and even these have to seek periodical appropriations from their State Legislatures, for repairs of their building and machinery. By reference to page 79 of the report of "the Joint Committee of the General Assembly of this State, that was appointed at December session, 1836, to investigate the affairs of the Penitentiary," it will be seen that the Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Bond, a Director of the Institution at that time, and one of the