

the Treasurer to auctioneers and agents of foreign corporations to issue hereafter from the office of the Comptroller.

The continuance of the present system of taxation in full vigor will enable the State to devote some portion of its revenue to deserving objects which call loudly for its aid. The committee would feel that they had left an important duty unperformed if they omitted to call the attention of the Legislature to the present condition of the Maryland State Hospital for the Insane. At the session of 1852, this noble charity was founded by the State, and a small appropriation made. The commissioners reported to the last Legislature that they had secured a suitable site, agreed upon a plan and actually commenced the building. No appropriation was made by that Legislature, and the subject is now brought to the notice of the House, in the hope that it may receive favorable attention. By the terms of the third section of the act of 1852, chapter 302, the commissioners were directed "to proceed with the erection of the hospital as rapidly as the appropriations made by the General Assembly from time to time will permit." It needs no argument to show the sacred nature of the obligation resting upon the State, to contribute to the care and protection of that unfortunate class of its citizens who are the objects of this Charity, or to prove that its plighted faith would be violated if it suffered this noble enterprise to languish. At the last session, the belief was entertained that individual munificence would complete the design without aid from the State, but this belief proved unfounded, and it seems clear that the work must be performed, by the State, if it is to be accomplished at all.

The intermission of a session of the Legislature for the year 1855, renders it necessary that the demands for that year should be provided for at this session, and an appropriation bill is now reported for that year with that for the current year.

Twelve years since, the State seemed almost insolvent—its solemn contracts unfulfilled, and its credit gone. It is now prosperous and honored among the nations of the earth. The wisdom of its rulers and the patriotic efforts of its people achieved this glorious result. If the same wisdom and patriotism shall continue to direct its councils and influence its citizens, Maryland will soon present a spectacle, at once the envy and admiration of the world. That this consummation is near at hand, the committee cannot allow themselves to doubt.

A. B. HAGNER, Chairman.