

REPORT.

The Committee to whom was referred the memorial of the Commissioners of the Insane Hospital, have given the subject that careful consideration which it so justly merits.

The subject of Insane Hospitals is one which certainly demands the serious attention of the Legislature inasmuch as every citizen of the State is directly or indirectly interested in the beneficent objects of this Institution, as he knows not at what time some untoward circumstance may cause him to require its aid. The patronage of State has been wisely and providently extended to the promotion of those interests, which enhance the happiness and prosperity of its citizens while in the enjoyment of the physical and mental faculties, with which they have been endowed by their Creator, according to their wants, as developed by their energy and enterprise.

This policy has been adopted and extended to a deserving class, but who at the same time do possess the powers of sustenance and self-preservation.

The committee believe that the interest of the State is deeply involved in neglecting, thus far, to extend their liberal aid to those unfortunate beings, who, deprived of reason, and consequently of self protection, are dependent upon the State for their restoration to society.

In the State of Maryland, according to the last census there were 900 Insane and Idiots, of whom the State has only accommodation for 125—about one sixth of the whole number.

This fact induced the General Assembly of 1852 to appoint commissioners to purchase a suitable site for an Insane Hospital, and to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for that purpose. The commissioners with a laudable zeal, and aided by the munificence of some private citizens of Baltimore city, purchased a site for the purpose. Its location near Baltimore city is beautiful and commanding, and reflects great credit upon the judgment and taste of the commissioners and the building, according to the plan adopted by the Board, will be one, of which the State may proudly boast. It is intended to accommodate 250 patients, (one half