

ties at all times within the legitimate sphere of their duty. These suggestions are of too much practical weight to need more than the expression of an earnest desire on my part that you will give to them the consideration to which they are fairly entitled.

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY.

I would particularly recommend to your notice the condition of the Maryland Penitentiary. There are now confined within the walls of that institution six hundred and sixty-three convicts of all classes—an aggregate greatly in excess of the capacity of the buildings. A careful inspection of its various departments satisfies me that its affairs have been well managed by the present able and efficient Board of Directors; and that every thing has been done to place it upon the best possible footing, with the limited means at their disposal. The enlargement of the Institution has become a necessity which cannot much longer be postponed, without detriment to the claims of humanity as well as the financial interests of the State. The space upon which the institution is located is entirely too contracted, and the buildings are of such limited proportions and inconvenient arrangement as to require prompt enlargement and adaptation to existing wants, which could only be advantageously accomplished by the selection of another site, or the purchase of additional grounds to those already occupied. I am not prepared to say, in the absence of reliable and detailed estimates, whether the appropriation of the present site with such additional improvements as might be found practicable, or a removal to a more convenient and suitable location would be most advantageous to the State. With the daily increasing growth of our population, and the reforms which have been adopted so successfully elsewhere in the establishment of improved systems of prison discipline, I feel constrained to express the opinion that the State of Maryland is far behind many of her sister States in the provision which she has heretofore made for this unfortunate class of her citizens. In some of the details of the management there are evils and omissions which should be remedied. The proper classification of the prisoners is strongly urged as a most valuable feature in all such institutions—especially should the more youthful offenders be kept separate and distinct from association with the experienced and hardened criminals. In the present arrangement of the buildings, this would be difficult if not impossible. The want of a permanent Chaplain, who could devote the whole of his time to the moral and religious improvement of the convicts, and who could give valuable aid to the Executive in his exercise of the pardoning power, is also severely felt. The importance of introducing by law a system of abatements in the period of confinement, graduated