

## HOUSE OF REFUGE.

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This reformatory institution was visited and thoroughly examined by your committee, who were gratified to witness the good management and active industry shown upon all sides, and of which you will find a fair and truthful exhibit in the Sixteenth Annual Report of its Managers, which has been placed before you. The Refuge is kept in a state of cleanliness and good condition, thus placing before its juvenile inmates an example which will be apt to influence them through life in the management of their own affairs, they forming like habits from which they will not be apt to depart. The managers of the Refuge are much in need of more building accommodations in which to work the 350 boys and 30 girls under their charge; and to enable them to do this ask, in addition to the regular appropriation made them annually by the General Assembly, a special appropriation of \$15,000, with which to build an additional wing, and your committee feel justified in recommending the necessary legislation to secure the same. Of the mental improvement of the numerous children in the Refuge, your committee had ample evidence, and were greatly gratified by an exhibition of the same by some of them. In reading, elocution, music, &c., there are indications of future distinction, if proper care continues as it now is, to be manifested and bestowed upon these unfortunate children by the competent superintendent, his assistants and the generous-hearted citizens who so liberally contribute of their time and substance for the improvement of the condition of those committed to their charge.

Reformatory institutions for children who, from immoral association and lack of proper instruction are betrayed into crime, are of modern birth, conceived and operated by christian effort for the melioration of social evils and the suppression of petty crime. A shelter is provided for the juvenile offenders against the majesty of the laws of God and man—to be thrown into jails or State prisons for petty offences and compelled to associate and mingle with offenders grey in crime, would give precocious development to the latent evil of the heart, and aggravate rather than cure the evil.

The provision made by the House of refuge system, while it by no means lessens to the mind the gravity and