

REPORT.

To the Honorable,

the General Assembly of Maryland:

GENTLEMEN:—By their Act of incorporation the Board of Managers of the House of Refuge are required to report annually to your Honorable Body the condition of the Institution. In presenting this, their sixteenth report, they have reason to congratulate themselves on the increased evidences of the wisdom of their organization and the usefulness of their labors, and at the same time they embrace the opportunity of renewing the assurance of their earnest endeavors to secure the continued confidence of the community by a careful performance of the responsible duties they have assumed.

Since the opening of the Refuge, in 1855, sixteen hundred and thirty-eight children have been under its discipline, of whom thirteen hundred and ninety-four were boys, and two hundred and forty-four were girls. At the close of the past year there were three hundred and eighty inmates in the House, which has been about the general daily average. The appended report of the Superintendent will supply all other necessary statistical details, which are not without their special interest, and to which attention is respectfully requested.

By the annexed statement of the Treasurer it will be seen that the total of expenditures on general account during the last fiscal year was \$51,149.00. From this sum deduct a payment of \$4,116.26, on account of 1865, and we have \$47,032.74 as the actual cost of the care-keeping of the inmates, which, the average number being as already stated, is at the rate of 34 1-100 cents daily per capita. This a large advance on the cost before the late war; in 1859 it was as low as a small fraction over 22 cents. The contrast will show how heavily the prices of mere common supplies have increased; and how stringent an economy must be practiced to sustain so large a household, even with the somewhat increased means so necessarily bestowed during the last three