

# REPORT.

To the Speaker, and  
Members of the House of Delegates  
of Maryland:

GENTLEMEN :

The undersigned composing a select Committee, appointed by your Honorable Body, with instructions to investigate the affair of the Maryland State Penitentiary, and report to the House of Delegates, &c., having discharged the duty assigned them, would beg leave most respectfully to report as follows :

## CONDITION OF THE PRISON.

A careful inspection of the present condition of the prison discloses a state of affairs which elicited expressions of astonishment from your Committee, although we had been led to expect a good deal from the statements set forth in the last annual report of the Board of Directors of the Institution.— We found not only ample verification of the correctness of the statements made in the Report, but *much more* of which to complain and your Committee unhesitatingly pronounce the Maryland Penitentiary “*a nuisance*” of the worst kind; *a burning disgrace* to the State, and an *outrage* upon the poor unfortunates who are confined within its limits. Without attempting to further discuss its condition we would call your attention to the following facts.

The Penitentiary property covers an area within the walls of 4 acres, 2 roods and 28 perches, and of the entire area, there is 1 acre and 39 perches occupied by the various buildings now crowded within the enclosure, to the number of fourteen, large and small. The original plan of the buildings, was such as to provide a Warden’s house in front, a Dormitory on either side of this house, and in the rear, the necessary workshops. Our first examination was of the

## EASTERN DORMITORY.

This is a brick building, 150 feet in length by 40 in width, containing 320 separate cells, arranged in stories, four in