

a condition of affairs, if an infectious or contagious disease should make an incursion within the walls of the prison, the mortality therefrom would be startling.

In the judgment of the Committee, the General Assembly should not longer delay the investing the Directors of the institution with the full authority for constructing proper dormitory departments, and the placing at their disposal the amplest means to that end. Considerations of humanity suggest that the work should be promptly accomplished.

The financial condition of the State, and the great weight of taxation that is pressing down the energies of its citizens, render it, in the judgment of the Committee, inexpedient either to purchase a site elsewhere and construct thereon suitable buildings, or to purchase additional grounds on the northern or eastern limits of the prison walls, with a view of erecting buildings on the new space acquired. The first measure would, it is believed, involve an outlay of a million dollars, and the one last named would, perhaps, cost three hundred thousand dollars.

It would, to be sure, be most desirable to extend the boundaries of the prison; but it is the opinion of the Directors that both of the measures of improvement referred to, are dispensable under the existing condition of things viewed in connection with a depleted State Treasury and a tax burthened people. They think that two buildings for dormitory departments of the capacity of 80 by 40 feet, of five stories, might be erected, one on the right, and the other on the left of the inner gate of the prison, capable of accommodating at least 250 prisoners; and if further additional departments should in the future be rendered necessary, additions could be made to the wash house building for the accommodation of the female convicts, and the room which the last named now occupy, could be used for the accommodation of the males. The whole cost of these improvements will require an appropriation of sixty or seventy thousand dollars.

There is in your Committee no division of sentiment upon the theory that the State should do one of three things, and that is to purchase a new site on the margin of the city boundary, and erect buildings thereon for all the purposes of the institution, or extend the boundaries of the present site, and erect buildings thereon, or make the improvements last named in the preceding paragraph.

To the General Assembly the arbitrament of the question is submitted, as one invoked by considerations of humanity.

#### THE HOUSE OF REFUGE.

Upon their visit to this institution, the Committee were cordially received by Dr. J. J. Graves, in behalf of the Board of Managers, and were courteously shown throughout the