

healthful lodging of the prisoners, has been very advantageously expended by the Directors, and we have now suitable quarters for all the prisoners likely to be confined in our Penitentiary for years to come. This enlargement has added much to the improvement of the health of those confined and we are pleased to learn has largely increased the income from their labor. The convicts are now all provided with separate sleeping apartments, which has a most salutary effect upon the morals of the inmates, especially of the young, and those who are serving out the penalty of their first offences; they are not now, as formerly, thrown among the most hardened and dangerous characters, to take additional lessons in crime, and to become familiarized with the daring and (to many youths) fascinating life of the adroit burglar and successful thief, but are kept in their respective apartments, where they receive more befitting lessons from those, who in their Master's service, "visit those in prison," and minister to their spiritual wants.

In making these most desirable, indeed indispensable, improvements, the Directors have largely exceeded the means placed at their disposal by the General Assembly, and have incurred a debt of \$22,474 96. To meet this debt, and to provide means for the successful and economical management of this important State institution, your Committee beg leave to recommend that an appropriation of \$40,000 be made at the present session, which will enable the Board of Directors to discharge the indebtedness of the institution, and leave a moderate sum in their hands to meet the current demands upon them. The Directors can take advantage of the markets. Such has not been the condition of the guardians of this institution for many years past.

Your Committee are pleased, also, to bear testimony to the able and judicious management of the House of Refuge for white children, under its Board of Managers and the present efficient Superintendent. An inspection was made of the various apartments of the institution, including school-rooms and work-shops, and were much pleased with the manner of its arrangement and management. They found three hundred and fifteen boys and fourteen girls receiving its reformatory influences, under competent teachers, who are doing much in "lifting up" those who have "fallen," through idle and vicious parents, or through the corrupting influences of bad associations.

These children are all usefully employed, as follows: making shoes, 33; tailoring, 18; working on farm and garden, 12; baking and cooking, 5; cauling chairs, 65; engineer and at gas house, 3; attending refectory, halls and officer's rooms, dormitory, school-rooms and offices, 22; washing and ironing, 13; painting and glazing, 3; and grading, 11.