

Mr. Merryman, Chairman, on the part of the House, of a Joint Select Committee, submitted the following

### REPORT.

The Joint Committee appointed to visit the Maryland Hospital for the Insane, at Spring Grove, Baltimore county, to look after the interests of the State in that Institution, respectfully report, that they proceeded to the said hospital, and after making a thorough examination, found the title of the property is "vested in the President and Visitors of the Maryland Hospital and their successors forever, for and as a common State Hospital." That the President and Visitors have very extensive powers of purchasing any "messuages, tenement houses and real estate," and "all hereditaments of whatsoever nature, kind and quality, in fee-simple or in any other manner, and also all personal estate whatsoever." They also have full power and authority to give, grant, sell, lease, demise and dispose of the same, at their will and pleasure, as they shall judge most beneficial and advantageous to the good and charitable end and purposes of the Act of Incorporation.

Your Committee find that under the Act of 1827, chapter 205, the Maryland Hospital was declared to be a "common hospital" for the reception of all kinds of patients, until, by Resolution number 65, of the December session, 1838, the President and Visitors of the Maryland Hospital were enjoined to make the same exclusively a Lunatic Asylum, and to appropriate one-half of its capacity to the accommodation of the pauper lunatics of the State, to be treated at the expense of the county sending such lunatic paupers, and the Act of 1858, chapter 421, fixed the amount to be paid by the county sending a lunatic pauper to the Institution, at \$100 per annum. The amount now paid by the counties for the support of their pauper lunatic, is \$200 per annum.

The Committee find the title to the property vests in the President and Visitors of the Maryland Hospital, and while their powers are such as usually are granted to private corporations, yet they are extraordinary with respect to the power of alienating the property of the Institution, as they shall judge to be most beneficial and advantageous to the good and charitable ends aimed at by the State, in creating the hospital. And while the Committee do not think this power would be exercise, to the detriment of the Institution or abused, yet a wise and just policy requires that the State alone should exercise discretion as to the propriety of selling or disposing of any property belonging to it. The State has wisely reserved to herself the power to regulate by law this hospital, and she exercised that power when it was changed from a common hospital to an Insane Asylum, and she has also