

Mr. Lancaster, Chairman of a Select Committee, submitted the following

### REPORT.

The Special Committee appointed to visit the several benevolent and charitable Institutions in the City of Baltimore, have performed the duty assigned them, and respectfully report:

#### HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

In obedience to their instructions, your Committee visited the House of the Good Shepherd, under the charge of a community of ladies of that order. This is an Institution established for the reclamation of that unfortunate class of females who are addicted to vicious habits, and afford them an Asylum where they are shielded from the temptations and scorn of the world. The House was established in August, 1864, and since that time it has received one hundred and eighty-three voluntary applicants, and three hundred and seventy-two who were placed there by parents or guardians; of the whole number twenty-five died, forty were sent away, incorrigible, two hundred and forty-four were returned to their families or friends, and one hundred and forty-seven remained at the date of the visit of your Committee. The inmates are divided into three classes, totally distinct and holding no communication with each other. The first are the Penitents, numbering ninety; the second, the Preservation Children, forty-four; and third, the Magdalen Community, thirteen. Your Committee made a thorough inspection of all the departments, and found a most perfect system of management. The rooms are large and well ventilated, and at no moment of time are the inmates from under the immediate supervision of one or more of the ladies who have the charge over them. The inmates are taught habits of industry, and their morals are carefully guarded. The treatment, as far as your Committee was able to judge, is kindly and gentle, and certainly the Institution is doing incalculable good in rescuing the fallen and raising them again to a life of virtue and self-dependence. From all parts of the State applicants are received, and the pious ladies in charge have no other resources to rely upon for the maintenance of those who have been committed to their care than the bounty of the State, the charity of their friends and patrons, and the proceeds of the industry of the inmates. During the ten years of the existence of the House, its maintenance has amounted to \$73,809.48, of which the product of the work of the inmates was \$56,730.83. The ladies in charge devote their lives to this work of mercy without reward or pecuniary remuneration, and they require all who seek their protection and care to labor industriously for their own support, thus constituting habits of industry