

free intercourse between criminals; in addition to this, the basement cells of the Eastern dormitory (some 50 in number) are under ground, and unfit for the confinement of human beings—it is true the present warden, by flooring the brick pavement, has improved their condition somewhat, still they are not fit to be used.

A new dormitory, with not less than 150 cells should be erected as soon as the means of the State will permit.

There is another evil that requires Legislative action, it is too much the practice of the courts throughout the State, to send persons to the Penitentiary for small offences whose proper destination would be the County Almshouse, or the Insane Hospital. There are now in the Institution many of both classes, some who commit a petty theft for the sole purpose of being provided with a home, and others idiotic or insane at the time of commitment.

One case may be instanced by way of illustration, the commitment is from Calvert county and reads thus:—

“George Norfolk presented for feloniously entering the dwelling of Wm. Ogden and taking therefrom a bottle of whiskey, a pan of milk and some bread and meat. Verdict of the jury *Guilty, and insane at the time of the committal of the act and insane now*, and sentenced by the court to be confined in the Penitentiary house of the State of Maryland *until he shall recover his reason*, and be discharged by due course of law.”

This is virtually an imprisonment for life for the offense of stealing something to eat, the party being idiotic and insane at the time, and the effect is to transfer his support from the county to which he belongs, to the State at large.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

LAWRENCE SANGSTON, CHARLES H. PITTS, JOHN THOS. FORD.	}	Committee.
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Which was read; and

On motion of Mr. Durant,

One thousand copies were ordered to be printed for the use of the House.

[See Document K.]

On motion of Mr. Wallis,

Leave was granted to the committee on the Judiciary to introduce a bill to amend section 890 of article 4 of the Code of Public Local Laws;