

preference they would have to others, would constitute a natural relation at once equitable, interesting and respectful. The recovery by the State, of a large amount of money from the Federal Government, which by the action of a former Legislature, has been already dedicated to the support of primary schools, makes this an auspicious time to initiate the movement which I have thus imperfectly presented, and most cordially commend to your favorable regard.

### MARYLAND PENITENTIARY.

Herewith I enclose reports made to me by the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, for the years 1856 and 1857. This period has been one of great financial embarrassment to the institution, owing to causes which are fully stated in their reports. The entire destruction by fire of the north wing of the prison, thereby causing the loss of the labor of more than 200 of the most profitable hands, for upwards of three months, the cost of reconstructing said building with iron roof, and improved means for manufacturing, amounting to near eight thousand dollars, the high price of provisions, and all raw material, such as cotton, yarns, wool, &c., without any corresponding increase in the price of manufactured goods, together with the financial troubles that have affected the whole country, making the sales of goods manufactured in the prison less than the usual average, have caused the expenses of the institution for the two last years to be far greater than its earnings.

The actual difference between the earnings, and the expenditures for the year 1856 is stated to be \$13,318 30, eight thousand of which has been met by the annual appropriation of the State, leaving an actual deficit of \$5,318.30. The amount of manufactured goods and materials on hand at the date of the report for 1856 is stated to be \$24,172.41. For 1857, the deficit is stated to be \$26,189.92, independent of the annual appropriation of \$8,000 by the State; and the amount of dry goods and materials on hand, on the 30th of November last, amounting to \$20,473.08.

To relieve the institution from present and future embarrassment, the Board of Directors are of opinion that an appropriation of \$50,000, will be required from the present Legislature.

Notwithstanding the necessity of this large appropriation for the causes assigned above, I feel it my imperative duty to renew the recommendation made in my last message, for the enlargement of the prison buildings. The necessity for additional room increases yearly, and the maintainance of the proper prison discipline will soon become a matter of utter impossibility, with the present imperfect and insufficient accommodations.

The number of convicts in the prison on the 30th November last was 415, of which number more than one-third, nearly one-half are negroes. In connection with this fact, I beg leave respect-