

REPORT.

February 8, 1858.

Head and ordered to be printed.

By order

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Maryland:

In presenting their seventh Annual Report since the re-organization of the "House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents," being for the second year of its actual operation, the Board of Managers not only comply with the requirement of their charter, but they take pleasure in having the opportunity thus afforded to express their acknowledgment of the appropriation made for the support of the Institution, by the General Assembly at its last session, an act no less just in itself, than it was honorable to the State and gratifying to every friend of humanity.

In making this acknowledgement the Board would, however, respectfully say, that it is to be regretted that the sum thus given, from its insufficiency has somewhat limited the systematic operations of the Refuge. In their application to your honorable body, after a careful estimate, first, of the probable number of inmates that under the law would be committed to their charge, and then of the amount necessary for their support, they set down the annual sum required at \$15,000, but as the act only appropriated \$10,000, they must necessarily be restricted in their work. So far this has not been to a degree affecting very seriously the ability of the Board to carry out the object of the Institution. But such a result cannot be anticipated for the future, inasmuch as every year must add to the number of inmates, until the full capacity of the building is reached. With this certainty of increase in number concurrently arises the necessity of an increase of means for their support. But it is fortunate that the sums of this increase are not equal, for it is cheaper *pro rata* to take charge of three hundred than of two hundred inmates, as in both cases the same number of officers is required, whose salaries form a most important item in the cost per head, and so in fuel, light and other general charges of expenditure. Now, the average number of