

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable,

The General Assembly of Maryland.

The undersigned, a citizen of Maryland, at the last meeting of the Legislature, in common with thousands of citizens of the State presented a memorial, representing to the General Assembly a grievance of which they had just cause to complain, and which they felt it their duty as well as privilege, to present to the Legislature and to seek such action as would secure the end concerning which they petitioned.

It is due to your petitioner, and the great principles which were involved in the petition, to say that the committee to whom they were referred, greatly misapprehended the memorial, as will be seen by reference to the report of the committee upon it.

The memorial set forth the fact, that there were private prisons in the State, belonging to and under the control of a despotic foreign power, with rules and laws established in the time, when the most despotic principles prevailed in Europe, that have ever crushed the liberty of man; that these rules are the established rules in all these prisons in this country, that the same despotism prevails in them now in our midst that did in Europe, when this despotic power trampled upon the rights and liberties of the people, and made even kings and kingdoms bow and obey their despotic command.

These prisons under these rules and laws have quietly, and without suspicion on the part of many, grown up in our country, beginning with great modesty, and containing very quietly, until they were planted in many of our States, and with funds furnished from different sources, they have acquired a size and present as formidable an institution as any of our county jails or State prisons.