

REPORT

Of the Joint Special Committee appointed to examine into the affairs of the Maryland Penitentiary.

To the Honorable, the

General Assembly of Maryland:

The committee to whom was referred the affairs of the Maryland Penitentiary and the condition of the same; respectfully report, that they have acted in pursuance thereof, and to the extent of their ability, have, during the very time allotted them in consequence of the press of public business endeavored to discharge the duty so enjoined and take occasion to say at this stage of their report that from the character of the institution and the various phases it presents and the needful reforms that might naturally be suggested, from its peculiar character, for want of time we have not been able to fully canvass its interests, and present such a report as will embrace recommendations that would correct all the grievances under which the institution labors and place it upon a footing and inaugurate a system that would at once operate to the honor of the State, the benefit of society, and the reformation of the unfortunate inmate.

WARDEN AND DIRECTORS.

The committee take great pleasure in conceding to the Warden and Directors great credit for the urbanity of manner they exhibited, and the willingness they evinced to aid the committee in the prosecution of their labors for which they have their unaffected thanks.

No fact was elicited during the cursory examination of the committee into the expenditures of the establishment that would accuse the warden or directors of a lack of economy.

INTERIOR OF THE PRISON.

The first business of the Committee was to make a survey of the interior of the prison, to examine into its various apartments and their several uses, which gave them the opportunity of witnessing the operations going on therein, the operative departments of the prison a very important feature of the institution, were reviewed with great interest and from a superficial glance nothing present-