

NECESSITY OF DEFINING THE POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Board of Directors, in the opinion of your committee, require the benefit of legislative action, so that there can be no difficulty as to their powers. Your committee are inclined to the opinion, from the fact that the present law under which the Directors act, confers no power, by language, and yet may be construed to a dangerous use of it.

THE SYSTEM OF BOOK KEEPING.

The system of book keeping adopted years ago in the institution, and carried on to the present time, is in the opinion of this committee, a bad one; and, in this connection we take occasion to say, that no censure is intended to be cast upon the present gentlemanly clerk. According to the system, the books have been faithfully kept; but from their character, a considerable amount of time, and more than could be appropriated, would have been required to give them and the accounts a thorough examination. A new system should be inaugurated, so that at a glance, at any time, the true condition of the institution, could be found out; by which means, fraud could be better guarded against.

LAWS THAT GOVERN THE PENITENTIARY.

Your committee are of the opinion, that the entire laws, now governing the penitentiary, should be remodeled; in other words, the present laws should be repealed, and one general law enacted, that would reach and protect all the various interests connected with the prison, and mark out plainly, every line of duty. *The attention of the Legislature is most seriously and earnestly invoked to this subject.*

THE SLEEPING APARTMENTS OF THE PRISON.

One other most important and melancholy fact exists, that appeals forcibly to the Legislature for action; the sleeping apartments are wholly insufficient to accommodate the number of inmates. There are some four hundred and fifteen, and as our State is increasing in population, and crime being likely to increase, it is difficult to determine or calculate the results, if some change is not made in this particular. It now operates in a two fold way against the discipline of the prison, subjecting its inmates to barbarisms that dishonors our high toned civilization, and must force the prison to a precipice, awful to contemplate.

In the first place, the present dormitory is not in a condition to accommodate comfortably, more than three hundred men, whilst there are some four hundred and fifteen inmates. The lower cells are damp and cold, whilst the upper are suffocating with fetid air. In mid-winter, the condition of this dormitory at night, when the inmates are in their cells, is most repulsive and horri-