

Of this sum \$20,000, represented by the premises now occupied by the Institution, could manifestly not be used until when the new house being finished, these premises may be disposed of. And the Directors could not feel justified in beginning with only \$15,000 in hand the erection of a building originally estimated to cost from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Fortunate it was, not only that the Directors undertook no new enterprise; but that they had in reserve the interest from this invested fund to bear them out in meeting the current expenses of the year, for which the annual appropriation of the State in support of its beneficiaries proved no longer adequate.

Calculated at a time when the prices of all articles used in domestic economy were much lower than they are at present, the allowance granted by the State of \$200 for the maintenance and education of each beneficiary is not now sufficient for the purpose, and should in simple justice be increased. From the Report of the Committee on Finance it appears that even after the use of the interest derived from the investment of the \$15,000 building fund, a deficiency occurred in the treasury at the close of the year. This deficiency the Board has been compelled to meet by the withdrawal of a portion of the principal of that fund. After an application to the Legislature of 1864, for an appropriation in aid of the building fund had proved unsuccessful, the Directors had abandoned all hope of being able to prosecute at an early day the design of the building, when in the course of the summer the condition and prospects of the Institution attracted the attention of several members of the City Council of Baltimore, and were by them so favorably introduced to the notice of that body as to lead it to make the liberal appropriation of \$10,000, to be drawn equally from the levies of 1865 and 1866, in aid of the building fund. Immediately on receipt of information of this action on the part of the City Council, the Board of Directors determined to proceed with the building to the extent at least of the sum thus appropriated, and having materially modified the original plans so as to bring the estimates down to a sum about equal to that which it had expected to spend upon the larger design, in times more favorable for building, gave out a contract for the excavation and foundations. To meet its engagements under this contract will more than exhaust the appropriation of the Council for the year 1865. It is to the Legislature of Maryland that the Board therefore renews its application for assistance. Up to this time the State has shown herself not backward in providing for the wants and seeking to throw light upon the dark path through life of this peculiarly afflicted class of her citizens. It was with no little pleasure and pride that this Board heard recently from the mouth of a gentleman, who