

to pay the cost of maintaining them. If not, the expense could be lightly borne by the several counties and the city of Baltimore, and thus the resources of the Penitentiary be relieved from a heavy charge.

I venture to suggest, also, the expediency of reducing the number of Directors of the Penitentiary, and of increasing their pay. I believe such a step will promote the efficiency of the Institution; and I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that the pay now received by the Directors is not adequate compensation for the duties they are required to perform.

I respectfully suggest the propriety of measures to ascertain the will of the people in regard to the assembling of a Convention to reform the Constitution of our State. The time for such ascertainment, as fixed by the Constitution itself, has arrived; and the singular condition of our State and National affairs renders it imperatively necessary for us to look to changes in our organic law.

If, in your discretion, you deem it proper to take the step I have indicated, I suggest the propriety and economy of so framing the Act for that purpose that Delegates to the Convention may be voted for at the time when the people shall vote for or against a Convention. Of course, if the vote be against a Convention, the election of Delegates will be void.

Although the matter has been settled judicially, I deem it due to myself to explain the part I have taken in reference to the late contest for the office of Comptroller of the Treasury.

The Legislature of 1860 declared that A. Lingan Jarrett, Esq., was duly elected Comptroller, in consequence of alleged frauds and violence at the election in Baltimore city, in November, 1859. With the grounds of that decision I had