

(B)

BALTIMORE, March 21, 1861.

To the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary :

GENTLEMEN :—

With the view of arranging so as to enable me to make another contract with you, I propose to ask you the following questions, viz :

1st. Would you rebuild the shop so as to afford the largest possible amount of yard room, and enable me thereby to dispense with a portion of the dry houses ; building say 25 or 26 feet wide, two stories, one end of it for the accommodation of machinery, &c., say 40 or 50 feet square, with cellar under such portion of it as might be wanted, and shed for boiler and engine ?

2d. Would you buy my boiler and engine at fair price, say \$2,000, to be put and kept in order by me, and to be paid for as may be agreed by the labor of the prisoners for which I may contract ?

3d. Would you contract for, say thirty-five first class prisoners, as far as you may have them, the same as worked for me before—that I may select, at fifty cents per day, and ten to fifteen second class at twenty-five cents—this latter class to be healthy and strong, but say short term, and such as you always have, that cannot be employed to better advantage, either by the State or a contractor, the fifty cent men at all times to be first class ; and if upon trial of, say one month, any such shall be found not to answer the purposes for which they were taken, to be exchanged. All to work for three months, as they are taken to learn at twenty-five cents per day—I to take such portion of them from time to time as I may require them—and take all by a day to be agreed upon ; and have the privilege of increasing from time to time, as I may want them—the fifty cent men, say to the number of sixty, and the twenty-five cent men to the number of twenty-five ; and to have such labor as may be wanted in fitting up the shop for commencement without charge ?

4th. What will you charge for the rent of the shop, and boiler and engine, including water rent ?

Which I respectfully submit.

Very truly,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. DUVALL.

Question. Look at paper B, now presented to you, and say whether it is in your hand-writing ?

Answer. It is.