

Penitentiary, and to employ, according to the terms of his contract, the number of convicts agreed upon and as regularly as agreed upon; that your memorialist has been unable to obtain the necessary supply of materials for manufacturing purposes, owing to the fact that, by the existence of war and the blockade of ports, this supply has been cut off, and that even if this difficulty were removed, it would be found to be impossible, or nearly so, to dispose of the articles when manufactured, because the usual and customary markets are closed against their reception.

Your memorialist, finding himself thus deprived of the power to continue the manufacture of goods at the Maryland Penitentiary according to his contracts, has applied to the Directors thereof for a modification of his contracts, but in vain; they insist upon a literal compliance therewith, even if by so doing your memorialist will be ruined; that finding no relief can be had from the Directors, your memorialist has appealed, as he now does, to your Honorable Body for relief in the premises; and he now prays that such a settlement shall be made as to you may seem just, and that such modifications and alterations in his contracts may be made as will do justice to both parties, and at the same time secure to the State such income and revenue as can be obtained from the Maryland Penitentiary in the existing circumstances and condition of the country.

Your memorialist would further state, that owing to causes already set forth, he will be compelled, unless some material change be made in his arrangements with the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, or some unexpected change should take place in the affairs of the country, to discontinue his manufacturing business at the Penitentiary, in which event there will necessarily be a large loss in the revenues heretofore derived from that Institution.

CHARLES MURDOCK.

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*To the General Assembly of the State of Maryland:*

The Memorial of John H. Duvall and William Howard respectfully states, that on the fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, one of your memorialists—viz., John H. Duvall—entered into an agreement with the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary to rent the blacksmith's shop at the Penitentiary grounds, in the city of Baltimore, and certain yard room for the storage of wood, and for hiring of thirty male convict prisoners, to be employed in the man-