

Of the location, it is unnecessary to speak, as the district around Catonsville is well known, both for salubrity and beauty. It is gratifying, however, to reflect that for so important and benevolent an institution, a site combining so many advantages as "Spring Grove," has been selected.

Recognizing the imperative claims which that large class of our fellow-beings, whom an All-wise Providence has deprived, permanently or temporarily, of their reason, have upon the liberal bounty of the State, and knowing that as yet no adequate provision has been made for their care, your Committee noticed with feelings of deep regret the small progress which has been made during the ten years which have elapsed since Maryland resolved to erect a home and an asylum for the insane.

Two reasons counsel that this work should proceed to completion as rapidly as possible: first, for the sake of economy; second, for the sake of humanity. It is evident that small appropriations, per annum, are soon exhausted. Workmen have to be discharged, and material is left in a comparatively exposed condition; that portion of the building which is erected, being only partially enclosed, is injured by the action of the weather, and the State suffers loss by the deterioration of its property. When the work is renewed, workmen have to be again called together, new contracts must be made, and increased expense incurred, all of which could be avoided by a steady and rapid progress. Thus, a liberal appropriation will, in the end, be the most economical.

Second, your Committee are informed, and the fact must be obvious to all who reflect upon the subject, that when the State resolved, by solemn legislative act, to extend her benevolent aid to the insane, an expectation was awakened in every county that the new home would soon be provided. As a natural consequence, the arrangements in the various county alms-houses, inadequate as they have always been, are becoming, year by year, more imperfect. It is deemed unwise to expend money when the State will soon have her well planned and thoroughly equipped asylum. It is, therefore, manifestly important, not only to proceed, but to proceed with liberal energy. Too long has the "*festina lente*," policy been adopted, while if, of any work, certainly of this, it might be argued "it were well it were done quickly."

Commending the Asylum for the Insane as presenting a most urgent, as well as most important claim of philanthropy, we ask an annual appropriation, for the next two years, of seventy-five thousand dollars.

A. A. LYNCH,  
*Chairman.*  
THOMAS J. MCKAIG,  
S. J. BRADLEY,  
JOSHUA WILSON;