

it; and to ask your influence with the General Assembly in procuring the same.

The general derangement of the currency and stagnation of trade, which so injuriously affect the general business of the country, have had their full disastrous effect upon the affairs of the Penitentiary.

Other manufacturing establishments may be discontinued when found to be unprofitable. But the necessity of employment for the prisoners, renders a discontinuance of the operations of the Penitentiary impossible, whether its labor be profitable or unprofitable, and its products saleable or unsaleable. The consequence, from the want of demand, has been to accumulate a stock of goods to double the amount of the actual available capital of the institution which remains on hand, inconvertible into means for meeting its payments, without great sacrifice, from the nominal market price, and which, if resorted to, would afford but a partial and temporary relief.

In the meantime, its engagements, as well for materials of manufacture as subsistence, salaries of the officers, interest upon loans, &c. are in no degree lessened, but must of course be provided for, as in times of prosperity, when its manufactures of every kind, were sold as fast as made, and its capital was fully adequate to all its purposes.

The present state of things, it is evident, is entirely beyond the control of the directors, and can be mitigated only by the Legislature itself—whose province it is to provide for the wants of this great State institution, when other means fail.

The directors have asked, in a memorial to the General Assembly, an appropriation to the amount of fifteen thousand dollars, which they consider *indispensable* to a continuation of the operations of the institution—and which, upon a recurrence of prosperous times, they believe, might, not long after, be returned with interest.

For details of the actual pecuniary condition of the institution, we beg leave to refer to the accompanying statement.

With great respect,

We have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servants,

WM. MCDONALD,

T. KELSO,

THOS. WM. HALL,

WILLIAM H. HANSON,

JOHN G. PROUD,

THOS. E. BOND,

GEO. W. KREBS,

LYMAN REED,

THOS. S. SHRIVER,

JOHN ARMSTRONG,

WILLIAM CHILD,