

REPORT.

*To the Honorable,
The General Assembly of Maryland:*

Having discharged the duties required of us by the order which passed both branches of the Legislature, at its last session, we now proceed, as we were therein required, to report to your honorable body the result of our examination into the affairs of the Penitentiary of Maryland, and to make such suggestions for the improvement of the institution as have presented themselves to our minds.

Immediately after our appointment we met in the city of Baltimore,—and on the 23d of March 1837, organized by appointing I. D. Maulsby, Esq. Chairman, and Joshua Jones, Esq. Clerk. The Directors of the Penitentiary were then notified that the Committee would meet on the 15th day of May, then next, and enter upon the discharge of their duties. Accordingly on the 15th of May, the committee met, and we proceeded to draw up a series of general interrogatories in regard to all the subjects embraced in the order of our appointment. (See printed testimony pp. 1 to 8.) We then summoned before us every person, of whom we had any knowledge, who was at that time, or had previously been connected with the institution, either as director, keeper, or other officer, or who, from his relations to the establishment, as contractor or otherwise, was presumed to know any thing of its affairs. As they appeared, they were severally sworn, a copy of the interrogatories furnished to each, and they were required to return answers thereto either orally or in writing. The examination of witnesses was then commenced, and sedulously prosecuted, at the several meetings of the committee, until the mass of testimony, which accompanies this report, was collected. On many occasions, and at different intervals, the members of the committee visited the Penitentiary, and spent many hours in making personal examinations of the buildings, the workshops, the dormitory, and every other department of the institution.

We are not mindful that any point has been left untouched, or any question uninvestigated which, if touched or investigated, would have enlightened the committee and aided them in the performance of their duties.