

most accurate and satisfactory experiment that has ever been tried of the relative merits of the two great systems—the Pennsylvania and the Auburn. We should then have both in operation in the same prison, and under the same general direction. In these cells, the young convicts might be confined and given work to do, on their first conviction, and thus be effectually deprived of all evil communication with the other convicts. [See testimony, page 142 ]

Whether the present organization of the government of our Penitentiary be properly adapted to secure all the advantages of the Auburn system, and to maintain a just accountability among all the officers, and whether customs had grown up which were at variance with a just regulation of the affairs of the Institution, in any or all of its departments, or whether the laws passed in relation to it had been properly observed and enforced, were subjects which early presented themselves to our attention and earnest consideration. With this view, we felt it to be due to the nature of our appointment to institute a strict and searching inquiry into the general history of the establishment, for the purpose of developing errors and abuses in its administration which might exist or have heretofore prevailed, because such full and extended information can alone indicate the means of correcting evils or guarding against their future occurrence. We accordingly summoned before us, and generally and specifically interrogated, a large number of witnesses. We permitted the answers given by many of them to take as wide a range as they themselves desired, and allowed all accused the opportunity of defence,—to tell his own story in his own way,—and also gave those who made the accusation the time and the right of making it good, if possible.—Much will, therefore, be found embodied in the testimony which we would rather had not been written, and we should even now exercise the right of striking it out, but we are unwilling to give even the slightest ground to an accusation of unfairness. When our investigation was about to close, we gave timely notice to all in any way interested, that on a day named, no more testimony would be received. On that day the examination of witnesses closed, and all the testimony, of every kind, received by the Committee, is herewith submitted, and made part of this report.

By the act of 1809, ch. 138, the Penitentiary was placed under the direction of a board of twelve directors, and seven were constituted a quorum. By the act of 1826, ch. 229, two of the directors were appointed to specific duties, and by a subsequent act of the Legislature they were denominated the Executive Committee. They alone of all the directors were allowed by law a *per diem* compensation for their attendance at the institution, but their powers, as directors, were equal to those of the other members of the Board, at its meetings for the transaction of business. The directors, at their meetings, by the act of 1809, before alluded to, were authorized to make such orders and regulations for promoting the objects of the