

THE FINANCES.

The Maryland Penitentiary has always held a high reputation for the character of its manufactures, and its great pecuniary results. This branch of their duties has doubtless received a due share of the attention of the directors, and while looking to the enhancement of the value of labor in the prison, it is feared that they were too justly obnoxious to the charge of having advanced its prosperity in this respect, at the great neglect of the more important designs of penitentiary punishment—the prevention of crime, and the reformation of the criminal. But when we reflect upon the history of this institution from its organization to the present time, and view the dangers which have frequently threatened its very existence, we cannot omit the expression of great amazement at the manner in which it has surmounted the difficulties and embarrassments by which it has been surrounded; and at the untiring energy of its authorities in obtaining for it the great character it now possesses as an extensive manufactory, besides its great progress as a penitentiary establishment. Until the year 1827, it was supported by annual appropriations by the State in addition to the slender proceeds of its labor. Up to the year 1811, the State had advanced on account of erecting and improving the buildings, &c. the sum of \$89,500: and up to the year 1828, the sum of \$107,685 89, on account of salaries of the officers. The means of the Penitentiary were so limited in 1820, when a new organization took place, that its active capital was found to be only about \$20,000, with a debt of more than \$38,000. Yet with this discouraging prospect before them the new board undertook the apparently hopeless task of renovating its fortunes, and building up such an institution as its original founders anticipated in its creation. The Legislature discovering, on the part of the directors, a zealous determination to carry out of this great design, and imbued with a becoming sense of the obligation of the State to aid in its accomplishment, in 1821 authorized a loan of \$28,000, for the payment of the old debts, to which amount they had been reduced since the new organization. At this period the prospect was most gloomy indeed. Without means, without credit, without every thing save zeal and exertion,