

on the part of its authorities, the destiny of the Maryland Penitentiary seemed to promise nothing but utter destruction to all the hopes of its friends. Fortunately this loan was granted by the State, and negotiated in time to relieve its pressures. And from that time we may date its first appearance among the profitable penitentiary establishments of the country; yet, perhaps, successful in nothing save the avails of its manufactures. Less attention was paid to discipline than was necessary to the proper conduct of a prison for reformatory purposes, because the chief object now seemed to be to make the institution, as much as possible, dependent on its own resources. The directors may well be excused for bending all its means to this end, with the hope of relieving the State from the burden of its support, and the prison itself from the odium of being a charge on the public treasury. The affairs of the institution must have been most prosperously conducted, in 1826, for its repute had so increased as to cause the Legislature to make another loan of \$30,000, for the purpose of erecting a new dormitory: and the same spirit now continuing to exert itself which had so lately sprung up in its behalf, further loans were made of \$8,000 in 1827, and \$20,000 in 1830, and the same sum in 1836, towards the enlargement of the grounds and the erection of new buildings for work-shops for the introduction and more complete enforcement of the system of discipline which the State had now determined to establish within its walls. In 1826 the Legislature directed that all the expenses of the institution should be paid out of its funds so that its burdens were then increased by the sums before that time annually advanced by the State towards the payment of salaries, and it became necessary to look more carefully to the perfection of its manufacturing operations, to supply this new demand, and the interest and instalments annually required for the redemption of the loans then and since made on its account.

The loans of \$28,000, and \$8,000, have been paid off; and upon the others there is now due \$56,500 00, which, by the accumulation and necessary operation of the sinking fund must be discharged about the year 1850; that of 1828 for \$30,000 will be paid in 1843. The Institution will then be entirely free from debt, except such as all manufacturing establishments necessarily contract, for the prosecution of their employments. And if those employments shall be as successful as heretofore we may hope that the debt may be sooner discharged, unless the State should think it more conducive to the interests of the prison, and the attainment of its principal object, to devote its profits, over and above all necessary expenditures, to the further improvement of the buildings and grounds. Besides the sums thus advanced by the State toward improving the prison, its own funds have paid \$16,823.44 towards erecting the dormitory in 1829, and the further sum of \$9,908.58 in 1833 which was found necessary to complete the new wall and purchase of ground, which the loan of \$8,000 was intended to accomplish, and \$9,340.97