

were shoemakers previous to their conviction. If, then, the prison were demolished, it would turn out, for employment in the citizen shops of this State, five more journeymen shoemakers than they had before. In other words, the journeymen shoemakers, in a population of two millions, are injured by the shoe business in this prison, to the amount of five men's labor. Whether they are compensated for this injury by the care taken of the 43, the Trades' Union must decide. If we take the *cabinet makers* for an example, the injurious effect of the "monopoly" is somewhat meliorated. Our number is 16—of whom 15 were cabinet makers when they came to prison—so that the prison injures the out-door journeymen cabinet makers by the amount of only one man's labor. As it regards *blacksmiths*, as well as several other kinds of mechanics, the tables are turned—we have more men in prison who were formerly blacksmiths than we employ at that business."

After deliberately weighing the testimony, procuring all the information within their reach, viewing this question as one of political science, and having regard to the whole state in all its parts, the committee are constrained to believe, that the interests of the mechanics of the State *out of the city* of Baltimore are not in any degree injuriously affected by the manufactories of the Penitentiary; and are of opinion that the interests of the mechanics of the city of Baltimore, are affected, (*if in any degree*) to a very small and inconsiderable extent. The committee are satisfied from their examination and investigation that the abandonment of manufacturing in the penitentiary would be equivalent to a destruction of the institution, for without carrying on manufactures, it could not be supported except by the Treasury of the State. If then the Legislature be willing to support the penitentiary by a tax direct or indirect, and thereby maintain *idle* convicts, by imposing a burden on the honest labor of the whole State, they have only to enact that manufactures shall not be conducted in the institution, and then devise the means of support.—If in the progress of the improvements of the age, when all things are said to be in a state of advancing perfectibility, it be determined that criminals shall not work with the hands which God has given to his rational creatures for the purposes of labor, then it is hoped, although *it is doubted*, that philanthropy and the accelerated *march of mind* may be adequate to the discovery of some means, that will prove equal to the prevention of crime, and the reformation of criminals, which is the consideration most strongly entitled to the attention of the legislator and the patriot.

"Parum est improbos coerere pœna, nisi probos efficias disciplina." Coercive punishment is of little use, unless criminals are rendered virtuous by discipline.

The committee are however anxious to prevent even the *possibility* of injury to the honest labor of that portion of the citizens of Baltimore, who have felt themselves injured by the manufactories of