

CONCLUSION.

A patient investigation of the subject of crimes and punishments, and the effects of penitentiary confinement, in preventing the one, and obtaining the designs of the other, has led your committee to the following conclusions, which they now offer by way of suggestions, as directed by the order of their appointment. We have not considered it a part of our duty to furnish any specific plans or estimates for effecting any thing beyond improvements in the penitentiary itself. A revision of the criminal code was not confided to us, and we therefore only submit our opinions of the proper course to be adopted for the amelioration of the condition of men, and the prevention of much of the evil that results in the infliction of criminal punishments. The great length of this report prevents a full expression of the views of the committee, as the importance of the subject would require, if the questions involved were now for the first time presented to the consideration of the world. We deem it necessary to deal only in general principles the accuracy of which none can doubt. The details of these different plans can be submitted by those to whom that important duty may be entrusted. And while we most earnestly invite the attention of the Legislature to a thorough consideration of our recommendations, we feel a confidence that cannot be weakened, of their efficacy to produce the great and lasting benefits that the friends of humanity have always anticipated from their final consummation.

Among the most important of humane institutions for the perfection of man's civil and moral state, may be reckoned *Houses of Refuge*, for juvenile delinquents. Several of the witnesses deplore the want of such an establishment in the city of Baltimore, and we cannot too cogently enforce upon your favorable consideration, the propriety of supplying what necessity so loudly demands. Such institutions are in operation in this country, and the most perfect models will not be wanting when the state shall embark in this laudable enterprize.

If the great object of prison discipline can be effected under any circumstances, we have every reason to believe that the probability of reformation is a hundred fold greater with this class of criminals