

LETTER.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 22, 1829.

*To the Governor and Council
Of the State of Maryland.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN:

It has long been my opinion, that every good citizen owes some portion of his talent and time to the public service, even without an equivalent pecuniary consideration, in part return for the many advantages and blessings that accrue to him from a wholesome administration of the public concerns. Under this sense of duty, I consented to be named as one of the directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, with a willingness to remain two years in the service of the state, should it please the Governor and Council to continue me therein. To a person circumstanced as I am, without ever *feeling* the meaning of the word leisure, this has been a considerable sacrifice, and especially as that, for more than a year past, I have been continued one of the monthly directors, who have special charge over the police, and a general care of the business of the institution, in the recess of the board. I know that I have not performed the duties of this place negligently—it is not my practice to “do any thing by halves;” but being satisfied that I have accomplished my part of the obligation above suggested, in the present matter, I respectfully beg leave to revert to my original determination, and decline a re-appointment as one of the directors of the Maryland Penitentiary.

This duty, however, does not seem as if entirely performed, without offering some remarks, or suggestions, which occur to me from much close and practical observation of the various and important interests and business of the establishment; and permit me to add, that it requires no small degree of patience and perseverance to become even tolerably well acquainted with these. They are to be ascertained only by personal inspection. I speak