

be located. It is true that the benefit arising from these expenditures is chiefly confined to the city of Baltimore, and is very little participated in by the State at large, upon whom the tax of supporting the Penitentiary must fall, in the event of the labors of the prisoners becoming insufficient.

We think then it must appear, that the labor of the Penitentiary does *not*, in the *smallest degree*, operate to the disadvantage of the mechanics and artizans of this city; but on the contrary, that all classes of our citizens are more or less, directly or indirectly, *benefitted* by it;—but were it otherwise, does that afford an adequate reason for abolishing it? Should not the great consideration be, in this case, as in all others, *the public good*? Does it afford an adequate reason for stopping the labor of the Penitentiary, or directing it into unprofitable employment, *if it were true*, that a small portion of the city of Baltimore is injured by its operations, when the rest of the city and the state is benefitted, and the whole saved from *taxation*? Should, on that account, the burden of supporting four hundred criminals be thrown upon the state, by the levy of a tax of forty thousand dollars annually, to be attended with the further miserable effect of keeping such a number of human beings in idleness, to the exclusion of all hope of reformation, and victims to disease and death, as the necessary consequence of confinement without labor?

It is not necessary to enter into the general principles of humanity, morality, and political economy, in which the Penitentiary system had its origin in another state, and came to be introduced into this. These are, however, after all, by far the most legitimate and important considerations of the subject, and the only true grounds upon which the system is to be condemned or justified. It is not to be judged by the mere comparative good or evil which the labor of the convict may effect, in a pecuniary point of view. No enlightened citizen can be indifferent to the attainment of the most effectual mode of punishing, and reclaiming those of our fellow-creatures who offend against the laws, an object which has so long occupied the heads and hearts of the wisest and best of men, as well in other countries, as in our own.

The Penitentiary system has been adopted as the settled policy of the state, and sustained through all the fluctuations of political party, since the year 1807. It has undergone various modifications and improvements from time to time, and a large sum has lately been expended in the erection of extensive workshops, for the purpose of introducing a new discipline, which has been attended with admirable effects, both as a means of punishment and of reformation, in another state, and promises to be equally efficacious here. We should consider it adverse to a wise economy, and a ~~great misfortune to the cause of humanity and the reputation of the~~ state, if any legal enactment were made to interfere with the operation of the new discipline, or should be wanting to carry it into complete effect. The Directors confidently trust in the wisdom of