

REPLY
OF
THE DIRECTORS
TO THE
CHARGES AGAINST THE PENITENTIARY:

To ISRAEL D. MAULSBY,

Chairman of the Joint Committee of the Legislature, on the
Affairs of the Penitentiary.

SIR:—Having examined the testimony and statements which your Committee have received during their long and arduous sessions, the undersigned Directors of the Penitentiary, in behalf of themselves and a majority of the Board, who find themselves especially implicated by charges made therein, have the honor respectfully to present this their reply:

Your committee have seen fit, and we do not mean to question the propriety of it, to receive the statements of certain persons under oath, impugning us, not only in the discharge of our public duty, but also in our personal conduct towards them as parties; the derogatory character of which rests entirely upon bare assertion, without a tittle of disinterested evidence to prove it. Of this we do not complain, because in your character of a legislative committee, appointed to examine into the affairs and management of a great State Institution, you have doubtless felt it to be your duty. We only claim, as a measure of justice due to us, the accused, that we may be permitted, in our defence, the same latitude that has been allowed to our accusers; trusting that we shall be able, not merely by bare *denial*, which, indeed, might be deemed at least equivalent to their *assertion*, but by irrefragable evidence, or respectable authority, to disprove all that is derogatory in their allegations, and to show its utter falsity, or gross perversion.

In doing this, we have no doubt it will appear (if your own observation of the conduct of the parties during the investigation should leave any doubt of the fact upon your minds,) that the persons most