

prominent in the support of those allegations are voluntary accusers, actuated by personal considerations, under the specious pretence of the public good.

That the committee may be the better enabled correctly to appreciate the motives and conduct of our accusers, we deem it indispensable to state, that for nearly two years preceding the commencement of the present investigation, there had existed differences and dissension in the Board of Directors. That these derived their origin from a personal altercation between Dr. H. Willis Baxley and the Keeper (now styled Warden) of the Penitentiary, when the former was physician to the institution, some two or three years before. That upon Dr. Baxley being appointed a Director in 1835, he expressed and acted upon the intention of removing the Keeper from office; and went so far, it is believed, as to suggest, if not to speak to a person to supply his place. In this difference, and in the promotion of the same object, some of the other Directors united. That the then clerk (Mr. McEvoy) and physician (Dr. Reardan) being personal friends of Dr. Baxley, also became active partizans in the same cause. When the appointments of the clerk and physician had expired, the Board of Directors, in the exercise of their lawful authority and discretion, thought proper, for abundant reasons, to supersede those two officers by the appointment of the present clerk and physician.

It is well known to your committee, that in the early part of the last session of the Legislature, a committee of the House of Delegates was appointed for the purpose "of examining how far the manufactures of the Penitentiary conflicted with the mechanics of Baltimore." After the arrival of that committee in this city, some of the members of it informed some of the undersigned Directors, that they had been furnished by Dr. Baxley with certain communications reflecting upon the authorities of the Penitentiary, which were put in the form of interrogatories; but which, the committee, being appointed for a particular and different purpose, did not consider itself authorised to inquire into. Upon receiving this information some of the Directors and the Keeper urged the committee, as a matter of favor and justice to them, to proceed to investigate the abuses thus alleged by Dr. H. W. Baxley; and, in compliance with this desire, two sets of interrogatories were propounded by the committee—one of which related exclusively to the subject of the Penitentiary labor—the other to the personal matters presented by Dr. Baxley, and was, as the undersigned believe, in the very form of words prepared by him, or by an associate Director, learned in the law. The result of those inquiries being reported by that committee to the House of Delegates, led, in its consequences, to the present investigation.

We now proceed to reply, in detail, to such of the allegations as appear to us to require notice—beginning with those of Dr. Baxley.

To all that Dr. Baxley has said, in his answer to the 3d, 4th and 5th interrogatories of the joint committee on the subject of police and