

tended to that department as would bring its inmates under a similar supervision to that which prevails among the males, must be deemed equally important and desirable. It would furthermore, be highly desirable that both the male and female hospital departments should be new modeled; to provide separate chambers for the sick, at least for those in extremity, as equally contributing to health, comfort, and discipline. In fact, all the improvements now suggested, are essential to the completion of a well arranged and perfect Penitentiary. It is computed that the whole might be accomplished at an expenditure in money not exceeding ten thousand dollars,—as much of the requisite labor might be performed by the convicts.

The number of prisoners received into the Penitentiary the last year was 128, being an increase of 24 from the previous year, chiefly in the blacks, whose entire increase is 73, while that of the whites is only 55. Convicts among the blacks consigned to the Penitentiary have continued to increase, notwithstanding the Act of Assembly, prohibiting their being sentenced to confinement therein a second time.

For the state of the Penitentiary in regard to health during the last year, we beg leave to refer to the Report of the Physician, hereto annexed. With respect to the ill condition of many of the convicts when received into the Penitentiary, the fact stated by the Physician requires no confirmation from the Directors. A large number of the prisoners are received in as diseased and decrepid state of body, as depraved in mind—rendering their support a burthen upon the institution, when, as the Physician justly observes, they would be more proper subjects of a hospital or infirmary.

If the condition of the Jails of our State be such as are represented by Dr. Bond, Jr. and by other concurring information—humanity and a just regard to their merely unfortunate, and even to their criminal inmates, would seem to require legislative interposition for the alleviation of the evil. In respect to the Jail of the city and county, we have the most undoubted assurance, that the wretched condition of its inmates, and the want of every thing like decent accommodation in it, as stated in the report of the Physician, are not owing to any lack of care or humanity on the part of the authorities of the Jail, but to a deficiency in their authority or means to obviate the evils complained of, and which can be remedied only by legislative provision. As this subject involves the particular interests of the Penitentiary, as well as the cause of humanity, the Directors feel justified in recommending it to your Excellency to present it to the consideration of the Legislature.

Religious services at the Penitentiary continue to be performed on the Sabbath with the same regularity and devoted zeal, on the part of the reverend clergy of Baltimore, chiefly of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as have hitherto marked their voluntary labors; and the occasional visits and ministrations of several of the clergy of dif-