

those who complain—but that in fact, for all manufacturing purposes, it is really the *dearest* labor—let us inquire how the manufactures of the Penitentiary come into injurious competition with those of the private manufacturers of the market.

Is it not plain, that so long as free intercourse is open with the other States of the Union, and our market can be supplied with their manufactures, even those of their *Penitentiaries*, to any extent of demand whatever, the competition is *not* merely between the Maryland manufacturer and the 110 or 120 looms of our Penitentiary, but between the manufactures of Maryland and those of all the other states which send their manufactures to our market, including also their Penitentiary manufactures? The amount of domestic cotton and woollen goods supplied by other states and sold in Baltimore annually, is estimated at from seven to ten millions of dollars; so that the market for such goods is regulated and controlled by their supplies, in comparison with which the manufactures of the Penitentiary amount scarcely to *one per cent.* and have not the slightest perceptible influence upon the market. That this is the true state of the case, cannot be denied, and stopping the manufactures of the Penitentiary would not alter the case or benefit the artizans of Baltimore in the smallest degree:—because substitutes for the Penitentiary goods, coming directly in competition with those of the Baltimore artizans, would be introduced from other states to any extent of demand. But, on the contrary, the suspension of the Penitentiary labors would materially injure the mechanics and the community of Baltimore at large, as will presently be shown.

The goods made at the Penitentiary, which are chiefly complained of, are linseys and the cotton plaids and stripes; but these are all sold at much higher prices than the similar goods which, it is alleged, we are enabled to *undersell*. The plaids and stripes, for instance, are fixed at sixteen cents, and not sold under; while those of the privates rate at 12 to 14 cents. The linseys bear a similar proportion. The Penitentiary goods are certainly as much better, and it is not to be denied that the best goods are generally cheapest. But the manufactures of the Penitentiary, it is well known, are mostly sold to a different class of customers, who would purchase few or none of the inferior articles, even if those of the Penitentiary were not to be had. By far the greater part of those articles manufactured there, we think at least three-fourths, are sold to traders residing out of the State.

In the preparation of the various materials, such as yarns, leather, &c., used in the manufactures of the Penitentiary, a great number of our mechanics and other citizens find employment—many more, it is believed, than the number of those who complain that they are aggrieved. The erection of the buildings of the Penitentiary, from its establishment to the present time, embrace an expenditure of upwards of \$250,000. Besides which are the constant expenditures for the regular support of the institution, amounting always to large