

Hospitals have been procured and are herewith submitted. The plan it will be perceived contemplates the erection of two wings extending South two hundred and fifty two feet each from either end of the present building, and is designed, as directed by the resolution, to accommodate one hundred and fifty additional patients. The cost of the building if warmed and ventilated by air furnaces, is estimated at \$74,519; and if steam be substituted for the air furnaces, the increased expense will carry the whole out to \$81,519. The plan, too, is so arranged as that one half of each wing will be complete in itself and capable together of accommodating seventy five patients. Although the Hospital is now filled to its utmost capacity, there are not far from two hundred insane persons in the State, one hundred and twenty three of whom are in the Baltimore Almshouse, and eight in the Penitentiary, without the means of proper treatment for the mitigation or cure of the awful malady with which they are afflicted. However urgent maybe the demands of humanity in behalf of this unfortunate class of persons, and however clear the obligations of society to provide for their wants in view nevertheless of the proximity of the Hospital to the city of Baltimore, and the limited extent of its grounds it is questionable whether instead of enlarging the present building it would not be wiser and better to disperse the establishment and employ the proceeds with such appropriation as the Legislature may choose to make in the purchase of a sufficient quantity of land and the erection of an asylum upon the most modern and approved plan adopted, in all its arrangements for the comfortable accommodation, treatment and cure of insane patients, and of a style and character worthy the munificence of the State.

The subject of reform in the Constitution of the State by a Convention of delegates elected by the people for that purpose has of late so often considered and discussed will doubtless be again earnestly pressed upon the attention of the Legislature. That the Constitution does require revision and amendment, that it is in many respects unadapted to the spirit and progress of the age, and that it is susceptible of great and advantageous improvement is, on all hands, admitted. That the sovereign power of the people to change, alter or abolish the existing form of government and substitute a new one in its stead, at whatever time and in whatever manner a majority may think proper is inherent and inalienable, and that there is no provision in the Constitution of this State, which, correctly interpreted, either can or does impose restrictions upon its exercise, are propositions clearly sustained by a weight of argument and authority, placing them beyond the reach of successful repudiation. Every day swells the number of those who advocate the doctrine of popular sovereignty and insist upon its practical assertion by the people themselves; each succeeding election finds it a topic of increased excitement and agitation, furnishing renewed evidence that a large majority of the citizens of Maryland are favorable to Constitutional Reform, and that unless the wishes of the people in this behalf are gratified, the sanction of the Legislature will not, much longer be invoked. An Act of the General Assembly legalizing the use of the ballot box, in order effectually to test public opinion on this subject is all that is asked, and with due deference it is submitted, that this is a reasonable request and ought not to be denied.

Resolutions of the Legislatures of the States of Virginia, South Carolina, Florida
(Missouri)