

appropriated to make a commencement with, will be expended by the last of January; and to carry on the plans promptly and perfectly, it is estimated that the sum of from sixty to seventy thousand dollars will be required, during the year 1853, payable monthly, in nearly equal instalments. Your ability to contribute such an amount, in a single year, will depend upon the extent of your other appropriations. About three-fourths of the revenues of the State are derived from the direct and indirect taxes, less on account of the Public Debt, and from the three productive Internal Improvement Companies; which, by Article III, Section 22 of the Constitution, you are expressly inhibited from appropriating to any other purpose than the payment of the principal and interest of the Public Debt, until it shall have been entirely liquidated, or until the Sinking Fund shall be equal to that portion which may remain outstanding. The ordinary revenues are alone chargeable with appropriations, and with the general expenses of the Government. It may be difficult to meet the expectation of the Board; still, if you find it possible to appropriate the amount, which appears to be necessary for the speedy completion of the Asylum, without sacrificing other important interests, I would recommend you to do so. There can be no doubt but that there is much suffering amongst that large class of unfortunate beings, who, for the want of proper medical treatment, are daily becoming more confirmed in their said affliction. Humanity, as well as good policy, calls for legislative protection.

The experience of the past year fully demonstrates the propriety of the recommendation which I made to you, at your last session, in regard to the House of Refuge. I do not hesitate to express the decided opinion that there is no one measure, which can form an object of legislative solicitude, as important as the establishment of a House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents. The statistics of crime show the appalling fact that a very large proportion of the worst class of criminals consists of youths from the age of fifteen to twenty-two. Many of them when captured by the Law, and brought within view of the gallows or the Penitentiary, have disclosed circumstances of early poverty, neglect and abandonment, as the true causes of their vicious career, which reflect most discreditably upon society and the State. Their vices are, frequently, but their misfortunes. I have taken some pains to ascertain the truth of this assertion. If society is always so ready to punish it cannot be justified in refusing to prevent the commission of crime. It is your solemn duty to do this, at any cost. The delay of every year adds hundreds to the list of felons who