

civilization has devised no plan more efficient for the reformation of abandoned youth, than that to be found in Houses of Refuge. Such institutions do not contemplate the reclamation of those who, disregarding the lessons of virtuous parents and preceptors, are led by the promptings of a vicious nature into the paths of crime. They are designed, especially, to pluck the burning brand from the fire, - to rescue from vice those innumerable children of misfortune, who are only depraved because society has abandoned them to ignorance and the influence of evil example. The Penitentiary of Maryland testifies loudly upon this subject; and yet, when one such young criminal has been convicted, few have been suffered to go at large. Youth claims impunity; Courts, Juries, and the Executive are appealed to, in its behalf; and many are rescued from the corrupting atmosphere of the Penitentiary, by a natural sympathy for their tender years, who would have been adjoined fit subjects for the mild and corrective discipline of a House of Refuge. Hence, Baltimore City, also, testifies with a peculiar emphasis. I shall not deny, because I believe, that much of the blame is properly attributable to the inefficiency of the municipal regulations of that City; nevertheless, the State of Maryland has much to answer for, in her refusal hitherto to stretch out a protecting hand. If the authorities of the City of Baltimore deserve censure, for permitting crime to go unchecked or unpunished, the State may well be blamed, for not adopting such a policy as would strongly tend to reach the evil at its source. I sincerely hope that you will concur with me in sentiment; and, that you will make such a liberal appropriation, as will insure the early completion of the House of Refuge. Let it not be said that this Institution (which is intended for, and will eminently serve the whole State) must inure exclusively to the benefit of the City of Baltimore. This would, indeed, be an ungenerous and a shortsighted objection. Baltimore City contributes largely to the public revenues. She has a right to claim a just return for her contributions. Moreover, if she is permitted to become a nursery for young banditti and murderers, be assured that the Counties will not fail to receive their full share of the consequences.

The Board will ask you to pass an Act appropriating thirty thousand dollars for the current year, and fifteen thousand dollars for each of the three succeeding years. They hope to be able to negotiate whatever additional funds may be required, during the present year, upon the faith of these prospective appropriations. They ask but twenty five thousand dollars, in all, from the bounty of the State. Baltimore City