

delicate power which can leave a salutary effect. But whenever a belief shall be entertained of repentance and unfeigned reformation on the part of a convict, and a representation of the fact should be made by those who are best acquainted with all the circumstances in relation to his case, before and after conviction, an interposition of Executive clemency becomes a duty. And we are satisfied no Executive under such circumstances would ever refuse to extend that pardon to an unfortunate fellow being, which we all expect to receive from a just and merciful Providence.

The Penitentiary here, has been a considerable burthen to the State, but from the judicious management of its internal concerns, it is now capable of supporting its own expenses, and may be a source of revenue to the State. But there never was a greater error in Legislation than to look to a Penitentiary for pecuniary profit. It is true, the most judicious economy should be observed in its management, and the convicts should be made so far as practicable, to relieve the state from the burthens imposed by their crimes. The great object should be, and to which the attention of every legislator should be directed—to punish crime—to deter by example, and to produce reform. The expense of an institution that would effect these objects, would be trifling indeed in contrast with the permanent benefits arising from it; and the expenses must necessarily decrease with the diminution of criminal offences.

As connected with this subject, we recommend to your favorable consideration, an institution, which we understand it is in contemplation to establish in the City of Baltimore, for the confinement of juvenile offenders. To this house of refuge, all minors, who under our existing laws would be sentenced by the courts for criminal offences, to the Penitentiary, should be confined.

The humanity and sound policy of providing an entire separation between the novice in iniquity and the obdurate offender, must be apparent. It has been properly said, that in youth is the period to make permanent impressions; and to place an individual whose tender age must forbid the idea of his being confirmed in vice, in the constant association with hardened culprits, is revolting to all the kind feelings of our nature. Let us follow the laudable example set before us by the States of Massachusetts, New-York and Pennsylvania, in their liberal encouragement of institutions of this kind. The House of Refuge in Philadelphia, established by private donations and wisely endowed by the