

avoid at this time any heavy appropriations, and will, if adopted, avoid the necessity of selling so valuable an institution, under legal process, for the payment of outstanding claims.

Your committee need not urge upon the Legislature, the importance of such an institution, under State control, or enlarge upon its extended usefulness—these views will readily suggest themselves to every liberal mind, and every friend of humanity.

In compliance with the wishes frequently expressed by past Legislatures, and especially by the resolution of 1838, which conferred the appropriation already mentioned, this institution has been devoted exclusively to the purposes of a Lunatic Asylum.

The expenses to be met in its support, are supplied by the proceeds paid by the patients, not a single cent having been at any time appropriated for that purpose, nor is there the least doubt on the mind of your committee, that it will be capable at all times of self maintenance. During the past year, we are informed by the report of the president and visitors, that the cash received and due for board, was about \$17,000; the amount disbursed and due was \$15,000, leaving a balance in favor of the institution of about \$2,000, one half of which, is considered good, and will be speedily collected.

One half of the building is appropriated for the reception of pauper patients, who are now received at the low price of \$100 per annum. This rate is only found sufficient, by preserving a proportion between the different classes of patients; those of the better class, or pay patients, paying a higher board, enables the President and Visitors to receive pauper lunatics at a less price than is found by experience, to be the actual cost of maintaining them. This proportion between the two classes may be stated as 70 to 35. Whenever the increase is greater on the part of the paupers, the institution must fail. Your committee have informed themselves as to the charges in similar institutions throughout the country, and they find that \$125 is the usual price for lunatic paupers. The President and Board of Visitors, anxious however to extend the hand of charity towards this class of sufferers, do not desire any increase of charge to be made respecting them, or to be relieved from their reception. On the contrary, they have brought to the notice of your committee, facts and arguments in behalf of the lunatic paupers throughout the State, which have awakened their attention to their present deplorable condition. It is well known to the General Assembly, that the destitute condition of lunatic paupers in this State, is a melancholy fact, so notorious as to require legislative action. By the last census made out by the Marshal of the U States, it appears that there are at present within the State, 199 lunatic paupers. Your committee would draw the attention of the General Assembly to the policy, on the score of economy, if for no other reason, to the adoption of some plan