

and in order that the Executive may be kept constantly informed of the exact condition of the State's affairs in these corporations, the Governor, for the time being, should be constituted president of the board, with authority to preside at its meetings, and to decide, by his casting vote, all questions on which its members may be divided in opinion; and the Secretary of State should, also, be directed to act as secretary to the board, and charged to keep an accurate journal and record of its proceedings, the whole of which, together with such remarks as might be deemed proper, the board should be required to report to the Legislature, at each successive session. And to the end that the State may derive immediate benefit from the system, I suggest the appointment of two persons for this purpose, either by the Legislature or Governor, who shall continue in office, until superseded by others elected by the people. That the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal can be made available for every necessary purpose, no one will question who is at all familiar, either with its capacity for the transportation of tonnage, or with the region of country from which its principal trade is to be supplied, whether in reference to its fertility, the boundless extent of its coal fields, or the superiority of the coal itself, over any other in the world for steaming purposes on land or sea; and I conscientiously believe that a measure, the outline of which has just been given, if adopted, will infuse new energy into its management, and make it, at a much earlier day than otherwise, a large contributor to the public Treasury. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal completed, the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road extended to Wheeling, and the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road brought into connexion with the Pennsylvania improvements, in a few years the curse of debt which has hitherto rested on this State, will be converted into a blessing, and Maryland will take her place among the sisterhood of the Union, as great in the illimitable extent of her own native resources, and in the trade and population drawn to her borders from other sections, as she already is, in the intelligence, energy and patriotism of her people.

The reports of the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary for the last two years, containing as they do, much valuable information as to the present condition and future interests of that prison, will merit, and doubtless receive your particular attention. From these papers it will appear, that for the year 1848, the excess of the expenditures over the income of the institution, was \$12,947 91, and for the year 1849, \$7,054 46, the deficiency of the last, as compared with that of the preceding year, being less by the sum of \$5,893 45. The Penitentiary has always, since its establishment, down to the present day, labored under the inconvenience, and been subjected to the losses, consequent upon the want of a sufficient cash capital, to sustain its business operations, and, but for occasional appropriations made by the Legislature, and the private means generously advanced by the directors, its credit must long since have failed. From this circumstance, as both its purchases of the raw material, and its sales of manufactured goods are made on time,