

perpetual loss is sustained in the enhanced price of articles bought, and in discounts on paper taken for such as are sold. A tabular statement, appended to the last of these reports, will exhibit the fact, that in the ten preceding years, the aggregate amount of discounts on the business paper of the institution, was \$21,489 32, while from the reports themselves, it will be learned, that of the balances of the last two years, nearly one-fifth of the one, and more than one-third of the other, were for interest paid. Such facts are deemed sufficient, to impress upon the Legislature, the necessity of providing the Penitentiary, with sufficient means to relieve it from such sacrifices. The buildings and walls surrounding them, are represented to be in a state of dilapidation, requiring immediate and extensive repairs, the cost of which, including the State's proportion of the expense of paving "Farrest street," is estimated at \$10,000. The reports and documents accompanying them, with the many interesting suggestions they contain, especially in reference to insane and juvenile convicts, and several matters of prison discipline, are submitted to your serious and favorable consideration.

By the act of December session 1830, chapter 64, certain individuals in the City of Baltimore were incorporated by the name and style of "The House of Refuge," for the purpose of establishing an institution for the reformation of juvenile delinquents, to be conducted and controlled by twenty-four managers, of whom eight were to be appointed by the State. The objects of the corporation were not, at that time, effected by those who were named in the law. More recently, in consequence of the general prevalence and startling increase of crime and misdemeanors among youthful offenders, this benevolent scheme has been revived, with a hopeful promise of success. Managers on the part of the State, the City of Baltimore and the members of the association, have been appointed, and the corporation is now re-organised and actively engaged in seeking contributions from the liberality of private citizens, which, together with the subscription already procured from the municipal authorities of Baltimore, and such appropriation as the Legislature may deem proper to make, are relied on for the erection of the necessary buildings, and for the annual support of the institution. The reformation of convicts, by the infliction of appropriate punishments, is the primary end of all criminal jurisprudence; and however well adapted to the purpose, Jails and Penitentiaries have proved in the case of aged and obdurate offenders, it is now universally allowed, that the incarceration of juvenile delinquents in such receptacles, as a punishment for the first and often thoughtless and venial offence, exposed as they are, to the indiscriminate society of hardened and incorrigible felons, has been infinitely more efficacious in the confirmation of vicious habits, than in the restoration of character, and the reformation of morals. The prevention of crime, particularly among the young, imposes on society a much higher duty, than its detection and punishment; and to the attainment of this humane object, the economy of Houses of Refuge is thought to be admirably suited.

The accompanying reports of the New York and Philadelphia