

Houses of Refuge, will serve to inform you of the general scope, the annual expense, and the beneficial effects of those institutions. The Legislature, by the passage of the act above referred to, has committed the State to the policy of patronising a similar establishment; and when it is known, that there are, this day, in the Maryland Penitentiary no less than twenty-one persons whose ages, at the time of their conviction, ranged from thirteen to eighteen years, not to refer to the number of youth who in the course of the past twelve months, were confined in the Jail of Baltimore city and county for minor offences, the propriety of the measure will not be questioned. By that law, "the whole nett balance of the annual profit accruing from the State Penitentiary," not exceeding in any one year, five thousand dollars, nor to continue longer than five years, was appropriated to the use of the House of Refuge. As has been already seen, this resource is not to be relied on, and the passage of a law is recommended, making an immediate donation of ten thousand dollars, to be employed in the erection of the necessary buildings for a House of Refuge, and the appropriation of the annual sum of five thousand dollars, towards the expense of maintaining the institution, after it shall have gone into operation.

In the early part of the month of November 1848, information was received from the Inspector of Tobacco at the State Tobacco Warehouse recently erected on the corner of Conway and south Charles streets, in the City of Baltimore, that that building was in a dangerous situation, and liable at any moment, to fall. I immediately caused a survey of the building to be made by John Dushane and James Mowton, two highly respectable, intelligent and experienced citizens, under the direction of I. Nevitt Steele, Esq., the Deputy of the Attorney General for Baltimore county. After a careful examination, those gentlemen, on the twenty-fourth of the same month reported in writing that, in consequence of the settling of the girders, the roof which was dependent upon them for support, had been let down upon the walls, forcing a portion of the north and south walls of the main building, considerably beyond their proper position, thereby, for that and other reasons stated in the report, rendering the edifice extremely insecure and, without the immediate application of the remedies suggested, endangering the permanence of the whole pile. The repairs thought necessary, were estimated to cost \$4,500. Having no other means at my disposal, in the absence of the Legislature, I determined, in order to prevent the heavy loss which must have ensued from the exposure of the house to further risk, to apply to the payment of the costs of its repair, such portion of the contingent fund, as it would be prudent to expend for that object. Accordingly, on the fourth of the following December, I entered, on behalf of the State, into a contract with John Dushane, in which it was stipulated that, in addition to his personal superintendence, he should purchase the materials and procure the labor of all kinds necessary for the repair of the Warehouse, in consideration of which, it was agreed that the State should refund the money actually ex-