

therein referred to, was in due time, transmitted to him. A copy of the communication which accompanied the resolution, with the reply of that gentleman thereto, will be found herewith.

By resolution No. 92, the Governor was requested, to have full estimates made of the cost of additional buildings to the Maryland Hospital, suitable for the accommodation of the insane persons in the Penitentiary and Alms House of Baltimore city and county, and for the use of the insane poor of the State, and to report the same to the next succeeding meeting of the Legislature. Pursuant to this resolution, plans and estimates, prepared with care and approved of by the President of the Hospital, have been procured, and are herewith submitted. The plan, it will be perceived, contemplates the erection of two wings extending south two hundred and fifty-two feet each, from either end of the present building, and is designed, as directed by the resolution, to accommodate one hundred and fifty additional patients. The cost of the buildings, if warmed and ventilated by air furnaces, is estimated at \$74,519; and if steam be substituted for the air furnace, the increased expense will carry the whole cost to \$81,519. The plan, too, is so arranged, as that one half of each wing will be complete in itself, and capable, together, of accommodating seventy-five patients. Although the Hospital is now filled to its utmost capacity, there are not far from two hundred insane persons in the State, one hundred and twenty-three of whom, are in the Baltimore Alms House, and eight in the Penitentiary, without the means of proper treatment for the mitigation or cure of the awful malady with which they are afflicted. However urgent may be the demands of humanity in behalf of this unfortunate class of persons, and however clear the obligations of society to provide for their wants, in view, nevertheless, of the proximity of the Hospital to the City of Baltimore, and the limited extent of its grounds, it is questionable whether, instead of enlarging the present building, it would not be wiser and better to dispose of the establishment and employ the proceeds, with such appropriation as the Legislature may choose to make, in the purchase of a sufficient quantity of land and the erection of an Asylum upon the most modern and approved plan, adapted, in all its arrangements, for the comfortable accommodation, treatment and cure of insane patients, and of a style and character worthy the munificence of the State.

The subject of reform in the Constitution of the State by a Convention of delegates elected by the people for that purpose, heretofore so often considered and discussed, will, doubtless, be again earnestly pressed upon the attention of the Legislature. That the constitution does require revision and amendment, that it is, in many respects, unsuited to the spirit and progress of the age, and that it is susceptible of great and advantageous improvement is, on all hands, admitted. That the sovereign power of the people to change, alter or abolish the existing form of government and to institute a new one in its stead, at whatever time and in whatever manner a majority may think proper, is inherent and inalienable, and that there is no provision in the constitution of this