

REPORT.

The Committee appointed to visit and inspect the Penitentiary, have given to the subject committed to their charge, due attention, and devoted as much time to the examination, as the nature of their other engagements would permit.

They have agreed upon and submit the following report, in which they recommend essential changes in the financial arrangements which your committee think will, if sanctioned by the Legislature, result to the great advantage of the Institution. We also make such further suggestions for the better management and improvement of the moral and physical condition of the convicts, as have presented themselves from a personal examination of the different departments of the prison. We have availed ourselves, in making our report, of much valuable information derived from the examination of the laws governing similar Institutions in other States, and from the reports of their Directors.

We have visited the Maryland Penitentiary, and carefully examined its books and the whole interior arrangements, and inquired into its general management, and the nature of its productive resources. That inquiry has convinced us that the present mode of employing a majority of the convicts, will not, as stated in the annual report of the Board of Directors, raise a sufficient revenue to pay the expenses of the establishment. The manufactures produced by their labor have been very generally superseded by the products of power-looms, or the profits of making them, so reduced, that they have ceased to become remunerative. To make the necessary preparations that would be required to place the Penitentiary on an equality with manufactories constructed on private account, and which use power-looms in manufacturing fabrics which meet with a more ready and profitable sale, would require a heavy expenditure on the part of the State, which your committee do not think, at present, advisable. A gradual change in the mode of employing the convicts, seems to us to be the best course, at this time, to be pursued; and your committee are pleased to state that, the Directors are progressing in this change as rapidly as the means at their command will admit.