

less, the State of Maryland has much to answer for in her refusal heretofore to stretch out a protecting hand. If the authorities of the City of Baltimore deserve censure, for permitting crime to go unchecked or unpunished, the State may well be blamed, for not adopting such a policy as would strongly tend to reach the evil at its source. I sincerely hope that you will concur with me in sentiment; and, that you will make such a liberal appropriation, as will insure the early completion of the House of Refuge. Let it not be said that this Institution (which is intended for, and will eminently serve the whole State,) must inure exclusively to the benefit of the City of Baltimore. This would, indeed, be an ungenerous and a short-sighted objection. Baltimore City contributes largely to the public revenues. She has a right to claim a just return for her contributions. Moreover, if she is permitted to become a nursery for young banditti and murderers, be assured that the Counties will not fail to receive their full share of the consequences.

The Board will ask you to pass an Act appropriating thirty thousand dollars for the current year, and fifteen thousand dollars for each of the three succeeding years. They hope to be able to negotiate whatever additional funds may be required, during the present year, upon the faith of these prospective appropriations. They ask but seventy-five thousand dollars, in all, from the bounty of the State. Baltimore city has already contributed thirty thousand dollars, the last ten thousand of which will be paid out of the levy of this year; and private citizens have advanced an additional sum of nearly twenty-two thousand dollars. The State has, from the beginning, claimed a large representation in the Board of Directors, without having ever contributed a single dollar towards the establishment of the Institution. I sincerely trust that the House of Refuge will be liberally provided for by you, even should it be necessary to curtail or postpone appropriations for other purposes.

Although an allusion to such a subject may be regarded as unusual, nevertheless, circumstances seem to demand that I should refer to the policy of employing White Labor in the State Tobacco Warehouses, which was adopted by me, during your last session. The momentary opposition which this reform elicited, and the attempt by a few to use it as an argument against the whole system of inspections, justify this reference. The question was, by no means, a new one. It had, for many years, been earnestly advocated by a large portion of the laboring classes, as an act of justice to them; in which they were sustained, to a great degree, by public opinion. I disapproved of the system previously in force, for three reasons; first, because, I regarded it as a direct violation of the spirit of the laws regulating the inspection of Tobacco; secondly, because it held out temptations to criminal abuses; and thirdly, because it