

deserving of your careful attention. The exhibit therein made of the financial condition of the Institution, for the last year, is in the highest degree satisfactory, and reflects great credit upon the Directors and other officers, to whose intelligent and zealous administration of its affairs these gratifying results are principally to be attributed. During the eleven years antecedent to 1845, with only three exceptions, and from 1845 continuously to 1852 inclusive, the annual expenses largely exceeded the annual earnings. The institution, being always in debt, was constantly exhausted by the payment of discounts; and it was, therefore, never able to take advantage of favorable opportunities in the market to advance its manufacturing interests. I invited the attention of your predecessors to this subject, in my first Annual Message; and they accordingly relieved the Institution from its pressing liabilities, and gave it a fixed annual appropriation of eight thousand dollars. This timely assistance has produced the most salutary effects. It has since gone into the market with a cash capital, which enabled it not only to make its purchases of raw material on the best terms, but also to withhold or sell its manufactured fabrics, as circumstances might require. I will, however, take occasion in this place to remark that the degree of prosperity attained, in the last year, may not always be reached hereafter, inasmuch as there has been an unusual demand for its manufactures for the past twelve months. I am, therefore, decidedly of the opinion that it would be injudicious to deprive the Penitentiary of the annual appropriation granted by your predecessors, even were there not a special reason for its continuance, to which I will shortly refer.

The earnings of the Institution for the last year amounted to \$45,198.22, and the expenditures to \$40,659.94; showing the products of its labor to have exceeded the entire cost of maintaining the convicts, paying the salaries of officers, and discharging commissions and interest for money, by the sum of \$4,538.28. Deducting from the amount last given the sum of \$1,539.17, expended in enlarging the stock of machinery, tools, and other necessary articles, the net revenue for the year is shown to have been \$2,999.11. It appears, therefore, that the appropriation of eight thousand dollars for the year remains untouched; and the Institution is consequently in possession of a cash capital of eleven thousand dollars. It is to the manner of applying that surplus that I now wish to direct your attention. The Report will inform you that the dormitory of the Penitentiary contains three hundred and nineteen cells; sixty-six of which are on the basement floor, and are utterly unfit for use, in consequence of excessive dampness and the want of proper ventilation; whilst there are, at this time, three hundred and twenty-nine male prisoners (exclusive of the average number of fifteen sick in the hospital) to be provided for; with a probability that that number will be increased, before any of those now in the prison shall have been discharged by the expiration of their terms of confinement. Not only has the health of many of the convicts suffered severely, but the discipline of the Institution has been impaired, and the chances of escape increased, by transferring to the rooms of the hospital those for whom sleeping cells could not be provided. The statements made by the Directors, predicated upon the earnest representations of the Physician, have convinced me that it is absolutely necessary to enlarge the dormitory without delay. The Directors inform me, in their Report, that no satisfactory estimate of the cost has yet been obtained; but that it is their impra-