

sion that the addition needed can be made at an expense of six or eight thousand dollars; which is less, in proportion, than the original cost of the whole building. I, therefore, recommend that a law be passed empowering them to apply the surplus in hand (or so much thereof as may be found necessary) to that purpose. It cannot be done without the authority of an Act of Assembly, because the appropriation of eight thousand dollars already referred to, which forms a part of that surplus, is specially limited by its terms to the payment of the salaries of officers; and because, furthermore, the Directors are required, should the receipts of the year exceed the expenditures, to pay the excess into the Treasury.

It was to me a source of the deepest regret that the General Assembly, at its last two sessions, declined to grant to the House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents the necessary means for its early completion. But, it is much more to be lamented that the beneficial connection between that Institution and the State was thereby unavoidably severed. The Act of 1853, chapter 404, gives the control of the establishment to twenty Managers, to be hereafter selected exclusively by the members of the Association and the Corporate Authorities of Baltimore City; and not, as heretofore, in part by the State. As the just consequence of their refusal to bear a portion of the cost, the Counties consented to be deprived of all participation in the benefits of the Institution, by the repeal of so much of the fourth section of the Act of 1849, chapter 374, as authorized and empowered the Judges of the Circuit Courts for the Counties to order the removal to the House of Refuge of minors, under sixteen years of age, convicted of criminal offences. A great Public Charity, which ought to have been the pride and hope of the State, has thus been reduced to the dimensions of a purely local establishment. I sincerely trust that you may concur with me in the opinion that the policy adopted by your predecessors in this regard should not be continued. For my views generally, on this subject, I respectfully refer you to my last two Annual Messages.

I beg leave to call your attention to the Act of 1852, chapter 302, which provides for the erection of an Hospital for the Insane in this State. The fifth section, as you will perceive, evidently contemplates successive appropriations by the Legislature, for the furtherance and final completion of a noble work, to the initiation of which alone the fourth section appropriated ten thousand dollars. I earnestly recommend this most benevolent object to your liberality and fostering care.

At the risk of trespassing beyond the limits which I have assigned to this communication, I feel constrained to renew to you the earnest appeal I made to your predecessors in behalf of a general law for the regulation of the hours of labor; at least, in factories and public workshops, and wherever else mechanical employment may be found so systematized as to render the desired reformation practicable. I respectfully refer you to my last Annual Message for the reasons by which I was convinced of the eminent propriety of the measure proposed.

I submit for your action copies of a circular letter addressed to me by the Secretary of State of the United States, and of a Consular Convention between the United States and France, by which the President of the United States engages to recommend to those States of the Union, where aliens are not now permitted to hold real property, the enactment of such laws as may be necessary