

Under the present discipline, (and the building admits of no other arrangement,) the Penitentiary may be considered a school for vice, where the depravity of one, more conspicuous in crime than the rest is freely communicated and impressed upon the minds of those less wicked. Every effort should be made to perfect the Penitentiary system. Its institution forms a new era in the criminal jurisprudence of our State; and from its superior humanity and benevolence, over the former code, has a natural connection with our republican institutions, every feature of which is at variance with the cruelty of unnecessary sanguinary punishments.

It affords us the highest satisfaction to inform you that the subject of internal Improvement, so interesting to the citizens of this State, begins, at last, to assume a shape that promises speedily, beneficial results. The intelligent and enterprising individuals having the direction of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, aided by the United States Topographical Engineers, promptly furnished them, at their request by the government at Washington have so far completed the examination of the ground between the City of Baltimore and the Ohio river, as to ascertain the practicability of the undertaking, and enable the President of the Company to advertise for materials preparatory to commencing this important work the next session.

By the provisions of the act of incorporation, the State has reserved to itself, the right to subscribe for stock to the amount of one million of dollars; and upon so subscribing, to appoint four directors to assist in the management of the affairs of the Company; provided, the subscription be made within twelve months from the passage of the said act. The time limited for the state to make this subscription will expire on the twenty-eighth day of February next. It will, therefore be necessary if you should decide to take the Stock, to authorise the subscription, on or before that day, as no extension of the time can take place without the assent of the Company.

The amount of subscriptions to the Stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, have been such as lead us to believe that that equally important work will also have an early commencement.

With these two great works completed, Maryland would begin to realize those commercial advantages which from her geographical position, the fertility of her soil, the variety of her productions, the value of her fisheries and the abundance and richness of her minerals she is so justly