

from it; and the expenses must necessarily decrease with the diminution of criminal offences.

As connected with this subject, we recommend to your favourable consideration, an institution, which we understand it is in contemplation to establish in the city of Baltimore, for the confinement of juvenile offenders. To this House of refuge, all minors, who under our existing laws would be sentenced by the courts for criminal offences, to the Penitentiary, should be confined.

The humanity and sound policy of providing an entire separation between the novice in iniquity and the obdurate offender, must be apparent. It has been properly said, that in youth is the period to make permanent impressions; and to place an individual whose tender age must forbid the idea of his being confirmed in vice, in the constant association with hardened culprits, is revolting to all the kind feelings of our nature. Let us follow the laudable example set before us by the States of Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, in their liberal encouragement of institutions of this kind. The House of refuge in Philadelphia, established by private donations and wisely endowed by the Legislature, has produced incalculable benefits; for it appears from the reports of the managers, that in the courts of criminal jurisdiction, the number of juvenile delinquents has constantly decreased since its establishment.

The same good effects have been experienced in the other States, where the experiment has been tried. We trust the Legislature will concur with us in the propriety of affording aid to an institution, which we are satisfied, in the language of one of the great statesmen who have adorned our land, is "the best Penitentiary system devised by the wit and established by the beneficence of man."

The report of the Directors of the Penitentiary, will exhibit the present condition of that Institution. The pecuniary profits, they represent to be less than at the conclusion of the year, which ended November 30th, 1829, from causes not within their control. As these will be satisfactorily stated in the report now laid before you, we will not trespass upon your time by enumerating them. But as regards the prison discipline, the most gratifying account is given. The plans which have been pursued for the intellectual and moral improvement of the convicts, and for their ultimate reformation, deserve the highest commendation.

The disbursements as respect the State Tobacco Inspection in the city of Baltimore, being under the control of this department, it is incumbent upon us to state that the net proceeds in the year which ended on the 1st December, 1830,