

THE MANUFACTURES.

Upon no part of the duties devolved upon us has more attention been bestowed, or more solicitude felt, than that branch which involves the inquiry "whether the interests of mechanics of Baltimore, or other parts of the State, are injuriously affected by the manufactures of the Penitentiary." Fully persuaded that all voluntary labor, either of body or mind, is as much a source of income as capital; that labor is honorable, and, in this country, sure of reward; that every class of labor should be protected and made certain of remuneration,—we have entered upon the examination of this question with a painful interest.

A number of witnesses testified explicitly on this subject;—and that the Legislature and the citizens of the State, at large, may have a full view of the testimony on this point, and be prepared for a decision of the question from all the sources of information possessed by the Committee, we present a synopsis of the testimony on this head:

1st.—Wm. McDonald,
Thomas Kelso,
Th. Wm. Hall,
Th. E. Bond,
Wm. H. Hanson, and
John G. Proud,

In a joint answer, subscribed by each, testifies to the 43d interrogatory of the Committee, which is, "How are the journeymen weavers to be benefitted by the discontinuance of convict labor, in the branches alluded to? or would the whole benefit, if any, be enjoyed by the master weavers?"—"We do not think that either the journeymen weavers or the master weavers would be benefitted by the discontinuance." (See Testimony, p. 29.)

And, in answer to the 45th question, they say, "We do not think that the manufactures of the Penitentiary conflict with the private manufactures of the city at all."

To the 46th, they answer: "If the evils complained of exist, we know of no remedy—because we know of no species of labor, that would sustain the institution, that is not practised by some portion of