

the accounts and general policy of that institution, and to recommend such amendments in the Penitentiary Law as they may see necessary and proper." &c. And we herewith submit to you their report, which, in our opinion, does them greater credit, and is entitled to your very deliberate consideration. We also submit, herewith, the annual report from the Directors, exhibiting the state and condition of the institution and all its concerns on the first instant, which shows that they are managed with great prudence and propriety, and that the institution is in as prosperous a state, by means of present organization, could be expected.

That the Penitentiary system, as any is at present organized, has failed in a great degree, as a means of reformation, both here and elsewhere, is undeniable. Notwithstanding which every effort should be made to perfect it, and to ascertain whether our disappointed hopes have proceeded from any defect in the arrangements of those establishments, or from the settled depravity of human nature — defying the institutions of man, and to be operated on by the force of religion only. The system itself is a benevolent one. Let us then make the experiment of solitary confinement, as resorted to by some of our sister States, with sanguine hopes of success. Solitary confinement at night, after a day of silence and labour, is most painful to those without mental resources; more especially when the mind is destitute of the recollection of any actions but those of wickedness.

Should the Legislature approve of the experiment being made, a sufficient number of small cells could be provided, by means to be derived from the Penitentiary itself.

We would further recommend to the General Assembly, the propriety of so amending the Law, as to increase the punishment in all cases of second convictions, and that some other punishment than confinement in the Penitentiary be provided for a third, and every subsequent offence.

By virtue of an act entitled "A Supplement to the act entitled an act to establish State Warehouses for the inspection of Tobacco in the City of Baltimore", which authorized and directed us "to contract upon the best terms for building a fireproof Warehouse or houses for the inspection of Tobacco in the City of Baltimore, or to purchase and build the same, whichever we, in our opinion, should deem most conducive to the public convenience and interest." &c. We caused notice to be given of the provisions of the said act, and invited proposals for the sale of Warehouses and Vacant Lots, or which to erect them. And having received sundry proposals, both for the sale of Warehouses and of Vacant Lots, upon deliberate consideration we, on the seventeenth day of June last, determined to accept the offer of Williams & Donnell, Cumberland Dugan, and Mary Sheppard, herewith submitted. Williams & Donnell and Mary Sheppard, have complied with their respective contracts, and conveyed the property offered by them to the State; but Mr Dugan has declined to fulfil the contract for the property offered by him. We submit for your consideration the correspondence that has passed between Mr Dugan and his relatives thereto, that you may have a full understanding of the whole subject, and determine whether the contract shall be abandoned, or legal proceedings instituted against Mr Dugan to enforce his compliance in no hope being left of settling the business in any other way.

Under the act making it our duty on or before the first day of August next, (now last) to procure and deliver to the