

has already contributed thirty thousand dollars, the last ten thousand of which will be paid out of the levy of this year; and private citizens have advanced an additional sum of nearly twenty two thousand dollars. The State has, from the beginning, claimed a large representation in the Board of Directors, without having ever contributed a single dollar towards the establishment of the institution. I sincerely trust that the House of Refuge will be liberally provided for by you, even should it be necessary to curtail or postpone appropriations for other purposes.

Although an allusion to such a subject maybe regarded as unusual, nevertheless, circumstances seem to demand that I should refer to the policy of employing White Labor in the State Tobacco Workhouses, which was adopted by me, during your last session. The momentary opposition which this reform elicited, and the attempt by a few to use it as an argument against the whole system of inspections, justify this reference. The question was, by no means, a new one. It had, for many years, been earnestly advocated by a large portion of the laboring classes, as an act of justice to them; in which they were sustained, to a great degree, by public opinion. I disapproved of the system previously in force, for three reasons; first, because I regarded it as a direct violation of the spirit of the laws regulating the inspection of Tobacco; secondly, because it held out temptations to criminal abuses; and thirdly, because it was in derogation of the rights of the free white laboring citizens of the State. Upon the first point, it will be sufficient to say, that the Act of 1837, Chapter 43, in fixing a specific salary for the Inspector of Tobacco, and Resolution No. 68, of 1847, in providing, "that no Inspector or Inspectors shall be allowed or receive any larger sum for labor or other necessities furnished, than he or they have actually paid for the same," - strongly exclude the presumption that any perquisites, whether arising out of the employment of labor or otherwise, could be legally appropriated by the Inspectors. Yet, it was notorious that many of the Inspectors were in the habit of making large and unusual profits by the employment of their own, or hired slaves in the work of the Workhouses. Upon the second point, I may be satisfied in calling your attention to the one fact, that the New Constitution has carefully obliterated the last vestige of the system of perquisites; which, in itself, conclusively shows that the people have, at length, perceived the corrupting influence of this mode of remunerating public officers. And finally, I could not but regard the exclusion, from the public employment, of the free white laboring citizens of the State, as an unjustifiable invasion of their rights. Although but few of them can, under any circumstances, derive practical benefit from