

to have become thus afflicted, upon being satisfied of their mental derangement, and upon condition that when restored to sanity they should be returned to the custody of the State authorities.

I have been requested by the Directors in their Report for the year 1854, to recommend to your consideration the passage of an Act which will relieve the Institution from the necessity of annually complicating their books, by a statement of the various loans made by the State for its support. Some of these loans were made upwards of thirty years ago, and there is no probability that either principal or interest will ever be paid by the Institution. I therefore, see no loss or inconvenience that could result to the State, from the passage of an Act relieving the Penitentiary altogether of these charges, and respectfully recommend the same to your consideration.

The Board of Managers of the House of Refuge, are required, by the Act chartering that Institution, to report annually to the Legislature. There being no session of that Body last year, the report for that year was made to this Department, and is herewith communicated.

The object for which this charter was obtained has been vigorously pressed under circumstances of embarrassment greatly discouraging. It affords me pleasure, however, to say that obstacle after obstacle, however disheartening, has given way before the energy and perseverance of its projectors, and they now have the felicity to reap, in the consummation of their purpose of humanity and mercy, the rich reward of all their care and effort. By the liberal aid of private citizens, and the munificence of the corporate authorities of Baltimore the friends of the measure have at last succeeded in erecting, in the vicinity of that City a place of refuge for juvenile delinquents. The opening of the Institution was duly inaugurated the fifth day of December just passed,