

since are allowed in the weakness and decision of his  
resolutions, until at last the feebleness of youthful resistance  
gives way before the power of the tempter, and his charac-  
ter may be said to be formed, and his destiny sealed.  
We see not his career of incarceration and labor with  
his heart turned at an early age against mankind, of  
slacking never, or the one most unbroken affections  
awakened & strengthened, upon a career of crime, he  
advances by regular gradations of guilt, from petty  
offences to those of greater enormity; until at last  
he is detected in some dark and bloody deed, and on  
the scaffold, or a felon's cell receives with his man-  
nerful tread.

This great defect in our system of juvenile  
correction has long been a source of the most anxious solicitude  
to the Legislature and Philanthropist. Much thought has  
been bestowed upon the subject, and public opinion in  
our own, and other states, seems to have settled upon  
the House of Refuge as the most available substitute. The  
experience of those communities where the experiment  
has been been tried, has seemed to demonstrate the wisdom  
of this conclusion. Poverty, idleness and the want of proper  
parental care, are the most fruitful of all sources  
of delinquency among the young. Indeed, a dependence  
upon precarious charity, and the want of even a mod-  
estly comfortable home, has been the ruin of thou-  
sands of youths, who might have been saved by an  
institution such as this, where by a happy combination  
of the influences of the work shop, with some degree of  
moral training, habits of industry are taught, and the  
deficiency of proper parental oversight are in an  
measure supplied. Now for such an establishment  
may be successful in its work of reclamation and  
reformation it is not of course in our power to determine.  
That must depend on time and the degree of encour-  
agement it may receive. There is, however, good ground  
for the opinion, so generally entertained, that its  
influence must be powerfully felt within the field  
of its operations.

It is deeply to be regretted that by  
an act of the last General Assembly, all connection  
between the State and this noble charity was severed,  
and the original design of making it a State