

eventually fill a felon's cell, or expiate an offence against her laws by an ignominious death. The greatest dangers to liberty are of imperceptible growth. The freedom of States has been lost more frequently by dangers of slow and insidious character, than by conquest; and among the many causes conspiring to break down the barriers of liberty, there is recorded in history no one more potential than the workings of a depraved and ignorant population; and therefore it is the duty of all well conducted governments to guard against such evils before they become irremediable and beyond control.

The State of Maryland, year after year, spends thousands beyond the outlay, originally made, and the annual payment of interest in supporting an establishment designed for the correction and restoration of those who commit crime within her borders; and it is a duty which she owes her citizens, even as a means of economy, to lessen those payments by providing in time against the increase of crime in our midst, by taking the youthful offender under the care of her protecting wings, ere a fondness for depravity becomes too deeply implanted in his breast, and he be forever lost to the ties of society. Spare from the Treasury, for a few years only, an amount equal to that annually appropriated to the State Penitentiary, and the burdens of that institution will soon cease to be felt, and its support will no longer be a tax upon the community. According to the last report of the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, *fifty-seven* of the prisoners now confined within its walls, or more than *one-fifth* of the whole number, were convicted when under *twenty years of age*, and *three* of that number even under *fifteen*, while the astounding number of *one hundred and twenty-three*, or nearly *one-half*, were left orphans at an early age.

The city of Baltimore has already contributed in her corporate capacity, twenty thousand dollars to this noble charity, whose claims we advocate; and her citizens by individual subscriptions, twenty-two thousand dollars more, making in all forty-two thousand dollars; and yet the State, which appoints one-third of the Managers, and to which the House of Refuge stands related as a part of her criminal system—the State, in whose name, and in that of whose benevolent and good citizens, her Chief Executive laid the corner stone, and dedicated the building on behalf of her young; breathing on that holy occasion the fervent prayer that he sincerely and confidently hoped that it would receive the encouraging bounty of the State—the Government which has invested millions for the encouragement of trade, and spent millions more in unsuccessful projects, has refused to contribute thus far, one cent towards this benevolent institution, and cannot plead her poverty as a palliation for her refusal, while her coffers are filled with plenty and prosperity, and wealth abound in her borders.

The Committee recommend a small appropriation, much less