

structed; and when the cost of the transportation of the materials and other necessary charges are added, the total expense could scarcely fall below \$300,000. In such an isolated position, moreover, a large police force would probably be necessary to keep men thus tinged with every species of crime, in awe and subjection. There would be great temptations held out to friends and wicked and desperate associates to band together and to rush to such places for the relief of their fellows. There would also be much greater inducement to the convicts to mutiny themselves, in view of the increased facilities of escape. Now in the city by the ringing of a bell, hundreds and thousands could be summoned in a few moments to the rescue, to quell any insurrection. A few laborers, also, would be able to cultivate a great many acres, and it is hard to conceive how a sufficient number could be turned out in the open fields to make agriculture profitable, without affording them great chances of consultation and escape, unless attended by a strong guard. Considerable freight would be incurred upon the passage of provisions, raw and manufactured materials to and from such a place. It is moreover, very doubtful, whether persons engaged in the occupations in which the hands are now employed, would be willing to invest their capital in businesses so far removed from the trade of the city. If the State then should be required to furnish these outlays herself, here would be large and additional drafts upon her treasury. In addition, they do not believe the State could obtain any thing like cost or a fair remuneration for her present lot and buildings. For these and other reasons that might be assigned, your committee would recommend the purchase of a part of the city jail lot, now adjoining them, which they are informed could be obtained for a fair price, and the immediate erection thereon of a new building or dormitory and in such manner as has been before described.

According to direction, your Committee also visited the institution for the Instruction of the Blind. This was incorporated in May, 1853. In 1854, the State made a donation of five thousand dollars, and provided also four thousand more, for the instruction of twenty indigent pupils, instead of ten as formerly provided for in the Pennsylvania institution. Eleven of these have been admitted during the year upon warrant of the Governor. Four still remain in the Pennsylvania institution. The present location and building was purchased in April 1854. It cost as it now stands upwards of \$20,000, other necessary expenses have caused the debtor side of the institution to run up to about \$25,000. To meet this there has been donations, including that from the State, to the amount of some twelve or thirteen thousand dollars, thus leaving a debt of some twelve thousand dollars still hanging over it. The trustees are asking that this may be cancelled by the State. Your committee believe that the fostering