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STATE OF MARYLAND
JANUARY 1863
REPORT

R E P O R T .

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To the Honorable

The General Assembly of Maryland :

The undersigned the joint committee appointed by your Honorable Body, for the purpose of visiting and examining the condition of the Maryland Penitentiary, the House of Refuge, Insane Asylum and other reformatory and benevolent Institutions in which the State is interested, would respectfully report that in the discharge of the duty assigned them, they visited the Maryland Penitentiary, the House of Refuge, the Maryland Hospital, the Childrens' Aid Society, the Home of the Friendless, the Maryland Institution for the Blind and the Protestant Union Infirmary.

The first Institution visited by your committee was the Penitentiary. It may be but an act of justice to other parties for your committee to premise by saying that the shortest practicable notice was given to the institutions they visited, in order that they might see them in their ordinary and every day condition, and not prepared and done up for the occasion.

The Directors of the Penitentiary received our notice the evening preceding our visit. The inmates of the establishment were about to march into their dinner immediately after our arrival, your committee therefore repaired at once to the dining hall and witnessed the entrance of the inmates and examined their fare. The supply was abundant, though plain, substantial and healthful. The whole process from the moment of entrance to exit was conducted with perfect order and system. Your committee then proceeded to inspect the kitchen, bakery and store rooms, all of which were found in good condition; from thence they proceeded through the dormitories, cells, wash rooms, female department and hospital, your committee found all these in the very best and most cleanly condition, evincing a systematic preservation of healthfulness so far as cleanliness can and does contribute to sanitary objects. Your committee saw one thing in this part of their examination of which to disapprove; to wit: the close confinement in small and gloomy cells of maniac and insane persons. It was, however, a matter beyond the control of the Directors of the Institution, and one for which they possess no remedy,