

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable,

The General Assembly of Maryland:

After a series of years of success, under the eye and the auspices of the State, in intercepting the growth of crime and turning into good dispositions and habits the early criminal tendencies of the young, we need not argue to you the usefulness of the House of Refuge for the peace and security of society. But we may go higher, and assert that it is a tested and *indispensable* agency in the State's criminal polity, and essential under the proper care that the State owes to the community for property and life. It has become, in truth, inseparably connected with that first duty of government to the people: individual protection—the constituent worth and point of all civil liberty. And for no higher public object can the people's means be claimed than to support an institution thus vital to that civil liberty.

We are not boasting the triumph of our own theories or efforts, in pointing to this clearly established importance of the House of Refuge as an appendage of good and protective government, within that supreme department—the security of property and life. In all that has here been effected, we acknowledge, and we claim, the State herself as our co-operator; for her sanction and her pecuniary aid have given us much of our power to act and to prevail. We pretend to only the merit of zeal in a good cause, and, as part of our special duty, to the practice of the closest economy in our administration, and to the endeavor to derive from labor in the institution as much means as possible, for its support. But, from the very nature of this institution, and the time that, for the moral ends in view, must be granted to the moral and mental culture of the children cast upon our care, the House of Refuge cannot, by its own productive industry, sustain itself, nor contribute, beyond a small proportion, to the fund of necessary out-