

To the General Assembly of the State of Maryland:

The Memorial of Charles Murdock, of the City of Baltimore, respectfully represents that he has been for some years engaged in the business of manufacturing brooms and wood-ware, and to enable him to conduct this business, he has heretofore made various contracts with the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary for the rent of shops of the Penitentiary and ground belonging to the Penitentiary, on which your memorialist built shops, and for the hire of convicts in the said Penitentiary, to be employed in the said manufacture; that your memorialist commenced the said business in the year 1850 on the said Penitentiary grounds, and has continued ever since, under various written contracts, which he is prepared to present at the proper time and place, and is still so engaged; that various questions have arisen between your memorialist and the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, about which your memorialist, although believing himself to be in the right, has yet been compelled to submit to the decision of that body, having no tribunal or third party to whom he could appeal.

Your memorialist further states, that he has invested a large sum of money in the Penitentiary grounds, in buildings, machinery, &c., and has paid annually large sums of money to the Directors of the said Penitentiary, and for the last year nearly the entire income thereof has been derived from the payments made by your memorialist, arising from the rent of buildings and employment of convicts by him; the amount paid by your memorialist from April, 1860, to April, 1861, being \$21,811.43.

Your memorialist further states, that at the present time a difference exists between your memorialist and the said Directors in relation to the present indebtedness by your memorialist to them; that your memorialist has offered to pay all he now owes, but this has been refused, and a large amount claimed, which is denied to be due by your memorialist; and the Directors of the said Penitentiary have refused to permit your memorialist to remove any of his manufactured articles from the said Penitentiary until he pays an amount which he believes not to be due, and which the Directors have, in his view, no right to exact or claim; and that thereby his business has been seriously injured.

Your memorialist further states, that owing to the change of times which, as is well known, has effected all kinds of business and the value of all property, your memorialist has found himself unable to conduct the business at the