REPORT.

The special Committee appointed under the resolution of
June 11th, 1861, to examine generally into the affairs of
the Maryland Penitentiary, beg leave respectfully to re-
port that they organized in the city of Frederick on the
25th of June, and selected Mr. Thomas H. Moore as clerk,
and adjourned to meet on the 1st of July, in the city of
Baltimore, at the Maryland Penitentiary.

Their duties, as pointed out in the resolution and order
above referred to, consisted of an investigation of the fol-
lowing matters :

1st. The memorial of John H. Duvall and William
Howard, asking relief from losses growing out of the de-
struction of their property by fire.

2d. The memorial of Charles Murdock, asking relief by
a modification of his contracts with the Directors of the
Penitentiary and the equitable settlement of claims in dis-
pute between them.

3d. An investigation of the manufacturing department
of the Institution generally.

4th. An examination of the financial affairs and condi-
tion, and

5th. An enquiry into its general management and dis-
cipline.

Taking the points to be examined in the order they ap-
pear, the Committee commenced with the memorial of
Messrs. Duvall and Howard.

The memorial states that on the 3d of October, 1859,
they entered into a written contract with the Directors of
the Maryland Penitentiary for the rent of certain shops
and yard room, and the employment of convict labor in
the manufacture of barrels, and in the prosecution of that
business had invested a large amount of money in the
purchase of patent rights, machinery, and the necessary
stock to carry it on successfully ; that while in the prose-
cution of a successful business, on the 23d of December,
1860, their work shops were fired by some of the convicts,
and their property almost destroyed, entailing, as they
allege, a loss over and above the amount of insurance of
$23,150, and avers that said fire was caused partly by the
refusal of the Directors to permit them to have their own
watchman on the premises on Sunday, (the fire having oc-