

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 report 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 following matters :

1st. The memorial of John H. Duvall and William Howard, asking relief from losses growing out of the destruction 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 dispute between them.

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

4th. An examination of the financial affairs and condition, and

5th. An enquiry into its general management and discipline.

Taking the points to be examined in the order they appear, 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 prosecution 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-