

personal experience, the members of this Society, together with many of the most enlightened and public spirited citizens of the State, have long advocated the necessity of establishing an Agricultural College, with an experimental farm attached, wherein these principles might be practically taught with all the aids and advantages which such an institution would afford. The organization of an institution of this character is now under consideration. In the event of its receiving from private sources such support as will admit of a reasonable probability of the success of the undertaking, so fully impressed am I, with the eminent advantages of such an institution, and believing that its benefits would be coextensive with the entire limits of the State, that I do not hesitate most earnestly to recommend, that such liberal aid be extended to this noble enterprise as its importance demands, and as it may be in the power of the State to bestow. I am satisfied the Legislature could render no service, that would be more generally acceptable to the people of the State.

The condition of the Maryland Penitentiary requires your early attention. The operations of the Institution for the year just ended, together with the present state of its finances, will be exhibited by the Report of the Directors now nearly ready, and which will doubtless be before you at an early day.

The capacity of the Prison buildings has become wholly inadequate to the accommodation and safe custody of the constantly increasing number of inhabitants, and the necessity for enlargement is daily becoming more and more indispensable. The dormitory or sleeping apartments especially, are deplorably insufficient, and the extension of the old or the erection of an additional building, cannot be longer postponed without great detriment to the public interest.

There are undergoing confinement there at this time, some four hundred and ten prisoners; of which number three hundred and seventy-six are males. To accommodate these there are but about two hundred and fifty-six inhabitable cells. The consequence of this is, that in contravention of the policy of our Penitentiary statutes, and against every consideration of expediency, instead of each prisoner, during such time as he may not, under the rules of the prison, be at labor, being separately confined, they are huddled together in some instances as many as eight and ten in a single apartment. To such a degree have the authorities of the prison been pressed for sleeping accommodations, that they have found themselves compelled to invade even the hospital for the sick; and for sometime past the well and the diseased have been thrown together indiscriminately. This state of things should not be suffered longer to continue. It is not only against sound policy but the plain dictates of a common humanity, that these creatures, depraved though they be, should thus, at the hazard of that health which, in the case of so many, is their only dependence when their terms of imprisonment shall have expired, be crowded