

together in such large numbers, to breathe the tainted atmosphere of a diminutive ill ventilated apartment, designed to accommodate but a single person.

But in addition to these considerations, how, under such circumstances, can it be expected of the prison authorities that good order and proper discipline shall be maintained. And can it be a matter of surprise that prisoners sometimes escape, when we consider the facilities thus offered for conference and contrivance. Indeed, the wonder is rather that escapes do not occur much more frequently than they have done.

Should contagion, in the present condition of the buildings, break out within them, the consequence would be too terrible to contemplate. It could not prove otherwise than disastrous in the extreme, for there are now no possible means of separating those who might be diseased from the rest.

Without prompt action on your part this state of things, bad as it is, will be getting worse daily. It is a melancholy truth that with the growth of population there seems to be a corresponding increase in the amount of crime, for the number of convicts annually sent to our State prison has been steadily advancing.

I therefore recommend that provision be made at once for the erection of a new dormitory, that shall contain a number of single cells, not only sufficient for those now in prison, but that will be adequate to supply any increase of the number that may reasonably be expected for some years to come.

It has been repeatedly suggested to the Legislature by my predecessors in office, that some suitable provision should be made for those inmates of the Penitentiary, who have become insane; but to this time nothing whatever has been done. That it is no fit place for the confinement of such, must be conceded; and that it is to the manifest disadvantage of the prison that they should remain there, is equally clear. I see no evil that could accrue to the prison by allowing the executive to remove any such that may from time to time, become thus afflicted, upon being satisfied of their mental derangement, and upon condition that upon restoration to sanity they should be returned to the eustody of the State authorities.

I have been requested by the Directors in their Report for the year 1854, to recommend to your consideration the passage of an Act which will relieve the Institution from the necessity of annually complicating their books, by a statement of the various loans made by the State for its support. Some of these loans were made upward of thirty years ago, and there is no probability that either principal or interest will ever be paid by the Institution. I therefore, see no inconvenience or loss that could result to the State, from the passage of an Act relieving the Penitentiary altogether of these charges, and respectfully recommend the same to your consideration.

The Board of Managers of the House of Refuge, are required