

entirely superior in effect as it is preferable in the rationality and humanity of its method and capable, under judicious management, of transcending very far the most sanguine expectations that had been formed of it by the founders of the system. On the one hand, the number of crimes in proportion to the population and progress of society, have diminished under its regime notwithstanding the inefficiency of the punishments being to the establishment, for want of room especially, that to afford solitary confinement while the amount of expenditure for criminals may be said literally to become converted into a source of revenue to the state, to an extent under suitable managers to accomplish other objects, which will be seen verified in the report and other documents received from the directors at this session, wherein, on examination, these capacities are found to exist, and to require only suitable attention to develop them.

The committee are satisfied that the present board of directors have deserved the gratitude of the public instead of its censure, having gratuitously devoted their services to an unprecedented degree especially those against whom gross imputation have been made, in promoting the important objects of the establishment, although the committee are entirely sensible that their efforts have not yet resulted in establishing so perfect a system of conduct and arrangement in the institution, as it is practicable and desirable to accomplish.

The subordinate officers of the institution, are not in a state of perfect harmony with each other, but no material disadvantage results therefrom, and still less mischief may be apprehended with the management of a keeper of more attention and energy, aided by the authority of a judicious board of directors. It is feared the keeper is not altogether competent to the great and peculiar difficulties of the post he occupies, but his error is on the side of mercy, not being sufficiently strict, rigorous and attentive, in consequence of which the deputies may become negligent in their duty, and regardless of the restraint intended to be imposed upon the prisoners in their shops, and relax in that wholesome severity of labor which the law has wisely designed, shall be the means of acquiring an useful trade, and at the same time seclude the criminal from social intercourse.

The skill, industry and efficiency of the matron at the head of the female department, indicate that nature designed her for such a station. Her management and industry have secured large profits to the institution, and during the past year, have yielded a sum not less than \$500. Her conduct and deportment have produced a salutary influence throughout the department confided to her, and furnishes a flattering example of what might be anticipated throughout the institution, if the same order and regularity of government were introduced into the other departments.

The committee are of opinion, to secure a proper discharge of the duties of the respective officers of the Penitentiary, and to effect a due execution of the system of punishment designed by its establishment, it is proper that the board of directors should be possessed of the power to appoint and displace the subordinate officers.

The committee are satisfied that the punishment of solitary confinement to which the criminals have been sentenced, has not been usually inflicted. The cells are not sufficiently numerous to accommodate those who transgress the rules of the house, and those who have been sentenced to solitary confinement. The existence of the establishment requires that persons that offend against the discipline of the house shall be thus confined, and the number of criminals thus confined has occupied a large proportion of those cells; and this species of confinement therefore has been seldom resorted to as an execution of the judicial sentences. The record of them has not been regularly kept, till the board lately made it the object of their notice. The committee are satisfied, however, that this part of the sentence of the court [has not been executed in as many instances as it might have been.

The physician who attends the prisoners, expressed his opinion that a confinement in the solitary cells for more than ten or twelve days at a time, is dangerous and permanently injurious to their constitutions, and the want of room, light, air, exercise and all kinds of social intercourse, make the apprehension dreadful to the convicts.

The committee strongly recommend that the number of cells be increased, as they view this part of the system, judiciously executed, the most effectual to the accomplishment of the great ends for which the criminal code has directed punishments, to wit: the reformation of the offender and the terror of evil disposed members of society.

Mr. Chambers from the committee to whom was referred the bill for the relief of Catharine Fridley, of Washington county; reported the same with the following amendments, viz. 1st. In the first line of the 1st section, after the word "by," insert the word "the." 2nd. Insert as an additional section. "And be it enacted, That the said Andrew Fridley shall not be liable for any debts to be hereafter contracted by the said Catharine Fridley." Which amendments were read and assented to. The bill was then read as amended, a second and by special order a third time, passed and returned to the house of delegates.

Mr. Johnson from the committee to whom was referred the bill for the benefit of William Owen, of Baltimore, reported that the committee had had the same under consideration, and were of opinion that it ought to pass. Which report was concurred in. The bill was then read a second and by special order a third time, passed and sent to the house of delegates.

On motion the bill incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, was ordered to lie on the table.

The supplement to the act to regulate the manner of obtaining and altering public roads in this state, was read a third time by special order, passed and sent to the house of delegates.

Mr. Chambers from the committee to whom was referred the bill relative to making of a public landing place, and road in Kent county, reported that the committee had had the same