

on this subject, to be carried into effect, as the Legislature in their wisdom may think fit to order. Until very recently, the State Penitentiary has been a considerable cost to the public treasury; but the expectation held out, that when completed, it would annually produce revenue, is likely to be realised, nor can it be considered in the least degree at variance with the strictest sense of justice, or of policy, that those who violate the laws, the peace, and the rights of society should be restrained from such violence by the deprivation of their liberty, and made to labour for the benefit of that community, of which it was unsafe that they should be permitted to remain members, and against which they had committed the wrong. The better to fulfill this expectation, some further change may be found necessary in the present periods of confinement. The graduation of punishment to the offence committed, is a desired object; that punishment consists in confinement and regular daily labour, to which in cases of greatest atrocity, is added an extended portion of solitary confinement. Those who are sentenced for short periods are, almost uniformly an entire cost to the institution, as it generally takes some time for each individual to acquire sufficient skill in the labour to which he is sentenced, to enable him to repay the cost of his keeping: in all time after that, his labour is productive to the establishment. Regarding the institution as a great public manufactory under rigid discipline, in which convicts are placed at labour as a punishment for crimes, and restrained for different periods according to their respective transgressions, from committing further injuries, by being prohibited from going at large in society, scarcely an instance would occur of any one being sentenced to the Penitentiary, where an extension of some of the shortest periods of time would become an act of injustice. No instance it is believed has ever been known, where a prisoner who merited relief has not readily found a pardon, nor is it likely in time to come, that any of those unfortunate beings, who shall be brought to a proper sense of shame, contrition and correctness of conduct before the expiration of their time of service, and to whom relief ought to be granted, will be less likely, promptly to obtain it. And until such manifestations of reformation are made, a continuance of confinement to a longer period in some instances than is now assigned, can scarcely be considered an act of severity to the prisoners, and must inevitably prove beneficial to society. Forbearing to present more specific views of this subject to the Legislature, with whom, if thought expedient, they will more properly and naturally originate, the suggestion is most respect-