such modifications and reforms as may be suited to a charity of this description. The proceeds of the sale of this property, it is hoped, will enable her to reorganize the present plan; and your attention will be directed, at an early day, to the adoption of measures looking to that object.

Unmentioned, as the present building is to the purpose to which it is appropriated, the greatest credit is due to the able board of management for the manner in which they have discharged their trust. The admirable system which everywhere prevails—the cleanliness which marks its domestic arrangements—the humane treatment of the unfortunate inmates who have been driven by disease or poverty to seek a shelter under its roof, have made it an inviting refuge for the poor and disabled, rather than a place of punishment and privation. Such an institution cannot receive too large a share of the attention of your honorable body. It is the first duty of humanity, in the midst of the plenty with which we are blessed as a community, to lend a helping hand to those who have been compelled by poverty or want to throw themselves upon the public charity.

It is not the least of the evils of the foreign immigration with which the city has been oppressed for years, that so large a space in this institution has been appropriated to emigrants from foreign lands, who have been designedly cast upon our shores without the means of subsistence or the ability to labor for themselves. It is no small object of complaint, that, in addition to the claims of her own poor, the city of Baltimore has been subjected to the necessity of providing a refuge and support for this influx of the pauper population of the old world.

Experience has satisfied me that in re-organizing this institution, provision should be made for the confinement and safe keeping of vagrants who infest our streets without visible means of support, and also for employing in profitable pursuits, able-bodied men and women who may be found capable of contributing

towards the support of the institution.

The construction of a substantial wall around the buildings; the establishment of suitable work-shops and prisons; the introduction of a system of labor adapted to the strength and capacity of the inmates, will add a new and valuable feature to the proposed plan of the institution, and exercise a most salutary influence in facilitating the police regulations of our city.

Not less worthy of your generous support is the House of Refuge. This noble institution continues to meet the most sanguine expectations of its founders. During the period of its active operations, 319 inmates have found a refuge within its walls. The expense of maintenance is stated at 29 39-100 cents per capita per day. It is highly important that a permanent annual income of at least $25.000 should be properly provided for the support of this institution, to be increased hereafter with the growth of our population, and this should be shared by the State and city. No one can adequately estimate the value of this charity, or the influence which it exercises as an auxiliary in guarding the morals of our youth who are deserted by their parents, or are found pandering upon the public highways, without guidance or protection.

The Report of the Commissioners of Public Schools will be found to contain its usual interesting statistics. It is with great pleasure that I feel it my duty to bear testimony to the increasing prosperity of this department of our city government. Having on repeated occasions witnessed the exercises in the schools established in the different sections of our city, I feel well assured in building up a system suited to the wants and condition of all classes of our people. One of the surest safeguards of our free institutions is the direction of the public mind by an expanded and practical system of popular education. The only aristocracy known to our political and social organizations, is that of intellectual power and culture. The successful employment of mechanical labor; the projection and accomplishment of enduring works of improvement; the profitable cultivation of the soil; the development of the latent resources of a State, whether agricultural, mineral