

Female department of the Prison — and would respectfully but earnestly solicit a strong appeal from your body — to the Maryland legislature that something may be done by the enlargement of the ~~Prison~~ to ameliorate the sad condition of its inmates.

For nearly ten years we have been visiting the Prison on Sabbath afternoons for the moral and religious instruction of the Female Convicts — and have had ample opportunity for becoming acquainted with its interior arrangements; — and the confusion, uncleanness and utter want of discipline resulting from its present crowded state is truly alarming —

A Prison so ill arranged without the possibility of any classification or separation of the convicts, for want of suitable apartments (all grades of the guilty being crowded together night and day) converts what should be an institution for reformation into a nursery for vice. We can speak from experience as well as from Scripture authority — that none are so hardened in sin — as to be unworthy of a Christian effort to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. But in the

present crowded state of the Prison, all our hopes of moral improvement and the benefit of religious instruction are paralyzed by the fearful and sinful influence of the wicked companionship and evil communication, necessarily the result of this present congested condition. We are convinced, that no reformation of character can be effected and no Prison discipline consistently maintained for the government of the inmates of the Penitentiary unless a building can be obtained that will admit of complete solitude at night.

In Conclusion, we earnestly reiterate our strong desires, that Your Board will avail themselves of the opportunity which their station affords them, of making a clear statement to the Legislature of the present condition of the Prison — especially do we ask for the Women's department, that the second story of the Western wing may be returned for their sleeping apartments.

At this time the female convicts present the shocking spectacle of a lawless gang of the most degraded human beings, — setting at defiance in a great degree — the authority of both Warden and