

Fanny C. King and Elizabeth Hopkins were requested to sign it on behalf thereof.

It is, as follows -

To the Board of Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary

We are so much impressed with the evils arising from the crowded state of the Prison, that we are again induced to address you, believing that the imperative call for redress will justify our importunity.

We earnestly request that your Board, by an energetic appeal to the Legislature, will represent the great disadvantages attending such a condition and will urge upon them, the absolute necessity for more enlarged accommodations for the prisoners. All experience in prison discipline and reform, sustains us in the belief of the importance of classification as an essential aid to the proper government as well as in the work of moral reformation; but here, it is entirely precluded for want of needful room. The old and hardened offender, the most vicious and corrupting, are necessarily banded together with the juvenile delinquents, who may perhaps have been committed for his first offence.

Fifteen of the women have sometimes been obliged to sleep in one room, and sometimes two and three in a bed.

When we consider the contaminating effect of constant intercourse with wicked associates, we must see that here is a great obstacle to the main objects of the institution being answered, viz the reformation of the criminals - and the protection of Society in future. Is it not reasonable to suppose that by being thus crowded promiscuously together, they will become more deeply learned in crime, and strengthened in vicious habits, so that when released, they will be cast upon Society with greater moral obliquity than when they entered.

The unhealthy effect of so many being crowded into small and badly ventilated apartments, should also be a subject of serious consideration with those persons who are charged with the care and oversight of this prison. In case of an epidemic, the consequences must be appalling; not only would the health of the inmates of the Prison be jeopardized, but the whole city might be endangered. The apartments designed