

of one thousand six hundred and forty one men.

The character and operations of the State Penitentiary should always be kept before the public eye. The subject is important, if it were only on account of the charge made upon the public finances, for maintaining the Institution.

The Prison was erected in 1828. The sum expended in the purchase of the site, in the erection and repair of buildings and other operations connected with the Prison, in addition to the sum arising from the labor of the convicts has amounted to one hundred and twenty-three thousand, four hundred and eighty-nine dollars and twelve cents. During the last ten years only, the sums paid from the Treasury on account of the Prison, if averaged upon the whole number of convicts, cannot have been less than at the rate of two dollars per week, upon each convict. A considerable portion of this expense has been laid out upon the buildings. Other calls upon the Treasury may shortly be expected for the same purposes. With all these improvements it cannot be doubted, that the buildings are highly unsuitable for the proper purposes of a Penitentiary. They seem to have been constructed with a view to inflict the greatest punishment in the shortest time, and at the least expense. That plan has been abandoned, but no corresponding change has been made in the cold, damp, unventilated cell. Even if it be conceded, that Thomaston is the most suitable location for the Prison, it is certainly a question worthy of your consideration, whether it may not be necessary to remodel the principal building in order to effect the objects which prison discipline is designed to accomplish.