THE RALEIGH STAR AND NORTH CAROLINA GA

TED. J, LEMAY, (Printer for the State,) EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.] "NORTH CARGEINA:-FOWERFUL IN NORAL, INTELLECTUAL AND PRINCEL ARSOUNCES-THE LAND OF OUR SIRES AND THE HOME OF OUR APPECTIONS

THREE BOLLARS & YEAR-IN ABVANCE

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VOL. 36.

RALEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15, 1845,

REPORT. THE SELECT COMMITTEE UPON ASTLUMS.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor' Message as relates to Asylums, after giving the subject their most anxious consideration, have directed me to submit the following report and recommendation, as the result of their investigations:

Your committee first directed their altention to the consideration of the establishment of a Lunatic Asylum for the cure of such as are within the reach of human skill, and for the comfortable support, intelligence and her virtue-and to society, of which she is an ornaand for the amelioration of the condition of that unfortunate class of our fellow-beings, visited with the most direful of all human maladies-the permanent deprivation of their reason. From the best information within the reach of your committee, there must be within our State, some eight hundred persons laboring under mental derangement.

Many of this most unhappy portion of our community, for want of better places of security, have been shut up with culprits and malefactors within the cold and noisome cells of our prison houses, there to drag out the miserable remnant of their days, without fire to warm their benumbed limbs during the inclement season of winter, and without triends or relatives to administer to their wants, or to soothe and calm the tempest raging within their distempered imaginations. Your committee know of several of this unfortunate class, who have been imprisoned in this way for the last ten or fifteen years, and where they have endured a degree of suffering and privation revolt-ing to humanity; and it is a most lamentable fact, that the uniform result of this course of treatment is permanent, confirmed derange ment. How different the picture ! how changed the result ! when these most afflicted sons and daughters of our race, within a reasona ble period after these dreadful visitations, are placed in one of these asylums for the insane, where they receive all those kind attentions, all that soothing and consoling treatment, which their unhappy con dition demands; and where all that art, science or human ingenuity can suggest for their recovery is sure to be resorted to It is a fact gratifying to the cause of humanity, and one which ought to be known throughout the length and breadth of our common country, that the statistical tables of lunatic asylums, shew that, out of every hun fred timely applications for aid to these institutious, eighty-five patients are returned to society and their friends, completely restored to their reason. So that this duadtul malady, which the last generation considered as incurable, is as much within the reach of medical skill and other proper treatment, as almost any disease flesh is heir to.

Can we, then, in view of these important results and facts, fold our arms in inactivity? Can we satisfy our own consciences with the flimsy excuse, that the financial concerns of the State are in an embarrassed condition ; that we have not the money wherewith to accomplish this most desirable object? Surely that is no excuse for the failure to discharge a duty of such high and imperious obligation.

Remember, that out of every hundred of our fellow-citizens visited with this most direful of all maladies, eighty-five, by the aid which it is in our power to give, and which it is our highest duty to provide, may be restored to their reason, and returned again to their friends and to society, to enjoy once more the blessings showered upon us by a bountiful Providence.

Remember that without this provision which we alone can furnish, these eighty-five out of every hundred persons that might become useful members of society, must drag out a miserable existence, the inmates of the prison house, the associates of thieves and felons. Can we discharge our whole duty, and make no provision for this most afflicted portion of the community, whom the all-wise dispensations of Providence have rendered incapable of providing for themselves? Is it not the imperative duty of every government to provide for those

her Redeemer, and again uttering eurses against her fellow men. holds frequent converse with his "father, the spirit," who, although This was a case of nervous insanity, being puerperal in its origin, invisible to others, is distinctly seen and heard by him, and renders and all connection with home and friends having been severed, it to him daily an account of the product of his multiplied labors, soon yielded to a course of anodyne treatment. Not many days elaps- which amounts, according to his estimate, to no inconsiderable sum. ed after the first administration of remedies, before she became tran- The father is entitled to one half his earnings, and the remainder, 88 quil, resumed her wonted lady like deportment-expressed feelings numbering at this time, many millions, is at a future day to be at of affection for her husband, against whom she had conceived a most his own disposal. Notwithstanding, however, the immense wealth groundless and bitter prejudice-manifested solicitude about her in- of this individual, and the high distinction of being unencumbered fant children, towards whom she had been unnaturally indifferent- with mortality, he is one of the most industrious and useful men, exhibited a return of kind foelings towards all whom, in moments of that I have ever seen in the sphere to which he belonged prior to his excitement, she had slandered and abused, and in a short time was insanity. He regards neither weather or any other obstacle, but is restored to her home, which she has no doubt made happy by her in- constantly engaged in necessary and profitable labor. It is only ment.

stentorian voice, who came to us laboring under violent mania. He had been closely bound with cords for about thirteen months, during cers and attendants. Such, indeed, is our confidence in him, that which period, although sometimes calm, his friends deemed it un-safe to release him, even for a day. When he arrived here, his mind was unsusceptible to impressions from moral agencies, and hence neither persuasions, promises, nor threats, could in any degree influence his actions. He was not only boisterous, but profane beyond whence he was brought to us) in a state of filth and wretchedness, at description, and resisted with the power of a maniac all efforts to pro-mote his comfort or allay his excitement. His symptoms were pre-per annum, he is here a genteel, orderly, industrious individual, isely those which are ascribed by the profession generally to high who is at all times cheerful and happy, and is, moreover, by his arterial action, and treated by an energetic course of depletion. Our labor, saving annually to the State the sum which it would other experience, however, guarded us against confounding effect with wise require to hire and support a laborer to perform more imperfectause, and hence after inquiring minutely into the history of his case, ly the duties now discharged by him." and investigating closely his condition, we were induced to prescribe . . . The foregoing is but one among the numerous cases to be found orthwith narcotics in large doses to be frequently repeated. The at these humane institutions. Indeed it appears, that the great body difficulties encountered may be in some measure conceived, from the of the insane, at the Western Lunatic Asylum are able to work a statement, that in order to administer medicines, each of his limbs large portion of the time, upon the farm attached to the institution, had to be closely confined, and then with the aid of some three or and that they are nearly all comparatively contented and happy. four assistants, and after repeated attempts, but small quantities were ever introduced into the system. By perseverance, however, the within the reach of your committee, one hundred and fify two anodynes administered, thus imperfectly, produced some degree of white insane persons supported at the public expense, and four hun-calm, and diminished somewhat the difficulties in repeating the do-dred and cighty supported by private expense; making in the com ses, until finally he was subjected fully to the narcotic influence, and monwealth five hundred and eighty nine insane white persons. Of the excitement which would have been aggravated by blistering. free persons of colour, there are 29, and of slaves 192 : so that the bleeding and purging was entirely subdued. Reason gradually resumed her sway. . The cords which had so long bound him were severed, and he became entire master of his thoughts and actions. He left us perfectly himself, with tears in his eyes, and expressing a lively gratitude to us for having loosed his fetters and bid him go free

Case 4th, "was a highly respectable gentleman, who had been es teemed by all who knew him, as an affectionate husband, a fond ture, by providing an Asylum for the insane of our State, would con-father, a generous friend, and in all respects a worthy citizen. As a stitute a dereliction of duty for which no adequate excuse can be merchant he had encountered severe pecuniary losses, through misrendered. fortune rather than mismanagement on his part, which for a time arrested his business and operated seriously to depress his spirits. About this time he was attacked with bilious fever, which left his physical energies materially impaired, and aggravated his mental despondency. In the fall of 1812, and before he had regained his health or 'spirits, he resumed his mercantile business, and without feeling or manifesting much interest in his affairs, continued to give them his partial attention until August, 1843, when his friends became satisfied that his mind was materially diseased. The evidences of this fact rapidly multiplied, and he soon became maniacal, when his family, under the advice of an intelligent physician, and contrary to his own remonstrance, placed him in this Asylum. On his arrival he was feeble and emaciated, slept but little, was without appetite, and so extremely unhappy, that a fond brother, who accompanied him, expressed the most painful apprehension, lest he should be driven to terminate his own existence. His delusions varied frequently, but were all of a destructive character. His wife's image seemed to haunt him by day and by night, and no persuasion or argument could convince him that he did not constantly see or hear her. At one time he believed his little son was about being sacrificed for the redemption of his soul, and then in agony beyond description, and with a fervor which betokened the sincerity of his conviction, he prayed that the sentence might be averted. At another time he considered himself as doomed to be devoured by lions, I. and with an anxiety painful almost beyond endurance, he seemed to await the arrival of those who had been appointed to cast him into the den. He could often observe demons surrounding him on every side, and his ingenuity was severely taxed to escape the flames which issued from their nostrils. These, and such like, were the hallucinations which destroyed his peace, and rendered him of all men the most miserable. He was not long under our care before his malady seemed to yield somewhat to the operation of remedies. His physical health improved. He became gradually more tranquil-one delusion after another was surrendered-his H spirits became cheerful, and eventually he was able to leave us in (

required to intimate what you wish done, and he accomplishes it case 3d, "was a man without family, of stout athletic frame, and tentorian voice, who came to us laboring under violent mania. He expeditiously and properly. He is permitted to go alone any where that business may call, and is often engaged in labor during the whole day, remote from the building and out of view of both offi-

> free persons of colour, there are 29, and of slaves 192 : so that the whole number of insane persons in the State is S10.) The following statistical tables snew the number of white insane in the several States and Territories; the comparative expense of supporting chronic and recent cases of insanity; and the expenditures for the erection of Asylums for the insane and the number of patients accommodated at such institutions. Your committee believe that a failure to discharge the high trust devolved upon the Legislastitute a dereliction of duty for which no adequate excuse can be

> TABLE showing the number of white Insane persons in the several States and Territories.

	1	there statis- person				
• STATES.	Public Expense.	Private Expense.	TOTAL.	Population.	Proportion of insane to Population.	ean be taught w in our schools a of the useful ar the imperative d their instruction The proceeds
Maine	1 207	330	537	500,438	1 to 932	eds
New Hampshire	180					O ENGE
Massachusetts	471		1071			aca and and f th
Rhode Island	117	 The call 				
Connecticut	114					lenni Ine Li
Vermont	144		393			0.8.
New York					1 to 1,108	all those mules, an mechanic he Legi Literary
New Jersey	144		369	351,588	l to 952	
Pennsylvania	469			1,676,115		
Delaware	. 22				1 16 1,126	
Maryland	133					anches hat the trades ture to ture to
Virginia	317		1084			nes of learning usually taugh they can also be learned most les. Your committee deem it to make some provision for amounting to some ninety
North Carolina	152	428	580			s of learnin rey can also s. Your or to make so amounting
South Carolina	91	285			t to 689	d learning usually taught can also be learned most Your committee deem it make some provision for pounting to some minety
Georgia	51	243	294	407,695	L to 1,386	tin e ur
Alabama	39	193	232	335,185	l to 1,444	So to so
Mississippi	14	102		179,074	to 1,543	6 6 6 6 .
Lonisiana	6	49	55	158,457	to 2,880	usually be learne nmittee (no provis to some
Fennessee	103	596	699	640,627	10 916	sually learne littee provi
Kentucky	305	490	795	590,253		uned ovisi
Dhio	363		1195	1,502,122	to 1,257	nin op dat
ndiana	110	377	487	678,6981	to 1,393	taught d most leem it sion for ninety
llinois	36	177	213		to 2,217	
Missouri	42	160	202	323,888	to 1,603	str be
Arkansas	- 9	36	45	77,1741	10 1,715	in
Michigan	2	37	-39	211,5601	to 5,424	In add struction of impos taxation, struction struction
Plorida	1	- 9	10	27,9431	to 2,791	
Wisconsin	1	7	S		to 3,843	of the of the one has a from
owa	2	5	7	42.9241	to 6,132	85-95
District of Columbia	1 1	13	14		to 2,189	to set to set blin pon the half o their
Construction of the Constr	-			IN NAMES IN	Adver and 3	eir

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who are unable to provide for themselves ? If we have not the funds necessary for the accomplishment of this high trust, is it not our duty to provide the ways and means?

Your committee believe that they cannot discharge their whole duty, without extracting from the reports of the humane, talented and scientific gentlemen now at the head of the Virginia Lunatic Asylum, some of the cases of remarkable cures, that have been effected at that institution.

Case 1, "was a young gentleman, twenty-one years of age, the son of a highly respectable individual, (now deceased) who was formerly a prominent and efficient member of the Virginia Legislature. With a good natural mind, improved by education and such other advantages as wealth had supplied, and with a disposition uniformly cheerful, he was at all times a most interesting patient and companion. In the autumn of 1812, he was attacked with bilious intermittent fever, which, although speedily arrested, was followed by gloom and depression of spirits; an aversion to company, indisposition to engage in business or pleasure, and an indifference to his property or money. These symptoms continuing for about two months, his mind then became harrassed with delusions of a distressing character, such as that he was surrounded by foes, who were plotting his destruction ; that his former friends were converted into most bitter enemies ; that he was doomed to perpetual punishment, &c. He remained in this unhappy state, in despite of all that medical skill or the ceaseless efforts of kind and sorrowing friends could effect, un-til the spring of the year 1843, when suddenly his spirits revived, he became excessively loquacious, sought society, and his former delusions gave place to those of an inspiring and cheerful nature. He now expressed himself as being exquisitely happy, and abounding in confidence and love to the whole human family-fancied himself by turns a poet, philosopher and statesman ; was at one time a saint, enjoying the delights of the garden of Eden; at another, Noah riding in triumph upon the floods; and finally became the Creator of the Universe. When urge 1 by the brother, who accompanied him to this institution, to remain here under our care, he was unable to perceive why he should do so -scouted the idea of his laboring under mental disorder, which was delicately hinted to him, and declared his unwillingness to be sane, if his then condition was cousidered insanity: "for," he emphatically remarked, "my cup of happiness is now so full, it will contain no more; if there be any change, it must be di-minished, and I cannot consent to place myself under medical or moral influences to produce such a result." After much persuasion, however, accompanied with the assurance that we could render him more useful, if not more happy, he consented to take an apartment in the institution for six months; but before this period elapsed, our young friend so far recovered, as to look back upon his delusions, as one who awakes after pleasant dreams. He soon realized fully what had been the condition of his mind. His happiness became of a more his restoration to reason, and expressing the warmest gratitude to all poor, and previous to his mental affliction, supported himself as a real and substantial character, and he left us felicitating himself upon who had in any manner been instrumental in doing him good.

Case 2d, "was a young married lady of graceful person, accomplished manners, cultivated intellect, and withal had been an exemplary member of the Christian church. She came to us excited, boisisting inprecations on all around her-now singing the praises of which he is constantly engaged at these various locations. He

he full possession of his reason, a most grateful and happy man." The committee have not time to relate any more of the interesting cases of complete recoveries effected at the Virginia Asylum; but they would beg leave to refer to the able reports of that institution, where much interesting matter will be found to aid the Legislature 1 in any course they may deem it most advisable to pursue.

Your committee would further remark, that institutions for the insane, are not alone beneficial on account of the great number of Id cures effected. It is clearly established at this time, that institutions D for the insane are highly important on account of the great advantages conferred at such establishments upon those whose diseases are incurable. It is now clearly demonstrated, (says Dr. Stribling, in his report of the Western Lunatic Asylum, made in Jan. 1842,) "that by humane and judicious attentions, the maniac, however rivited the disease, can, in his wildest paroxysms of phrenzy, be soothed and tranquilized. The dejected and care-worn melancholic can be cheeredand enlivened. The dreadful apprehensions and imaginary sufferings of the miserable hypocondriac can be dispelled or No. suspended. The thoughts of the unhappy monomaniac can be diverted from the topic of hallucination which had dethroned his reason, rendering him a burthen to himself and a drone in society; and all, whatever the character or grade of their malady, can be render-ed, for a time at least, both useful and contented." To illustrate the truth, that even the hopelessly insane can, by proper management, be rendered both useful and happy, the following case, (says Doctor Stribling,) is selected from many of which this institution can 12 proudly boast. No. 65 has been insane about ten years, and those 23 who knew him best, having apprehended danger from his being 24 permitted to go at large, he was confined for some years to the jail 25 county, awaiting a vacancy in this asylum. He is quite 35 37 common day laborer. He fancies himself a mysterious being, who 39 came into the world, he knows not how-and from he knows not 40 where, unless, indeed he "dropped from the sun." Of this, howev-43 er, he is certain. that he never had father or mother in the flesh-52 that he was not conceived, neither was he born. He believes him-54 terous, destructive and profane. At one moment, acknowledging the goodness of her Savior, and supplicating blessings for herself and 59 friends; and at another, bitding defiance to Omnipotence, and lay- late to you, with much earnestness, the different occupations in 62 65

TABLE, showing the comparative expenses of supporting chronic and recent cases of insanity.

OLD CASES.				RECENT CASES.					
Prs't age.		Time at public expense	Total ex- pense.	No.	Prs't age.	Time at public expense	Total ex- pense.		
「「「「「「」」」」」	41 51 54 43 61 53 51 41 37 43 51 40	14 years 16 " 16 " 16 " 15 " 14 " 13 " 14 " 13 " 14 " 13 " 14 " 13 " 14 " 13 " 14 " 12 " 12 " 12 "	2552 00 2552 00 2158 00 2305 00 2158 00 2240 00 1911 00 2158 00 1911 00 2240 00 1914 00	141 145 164 160 164 179 188 193 193 195 197	42 50 26 60	16 weeks, 16 4 29 4 16 7 20 4 4 4 4 4 22 4 36 4 18 4 19 4 20 4 16 4 19 4 20 4 36 4 19 4 20 4 36 4 19 4 36 4 19 4 36 4 10 4 36 4 10 4 36 4 10	50 00 60 00 86 00 62 00 70 00 13 00 13 00 13 00 143 00 57 00 37 00 62 00 49 00 131 00		
4.4 1.4 1.4	61 51 36	11 4 15 4 10 4 15 1 15 1 10 4	1617 00 2605 00 1470 00 2705 00 1677 00	206 207 210	37 14 36 19 28	24 " 12 " 12 "	89 00 99 00 37 00 55 00 18 00		