

*energy which gives rise to them is withdrawn ; and, indeed, their existence may serve to lull suspicion, and for a time, to give additional security to evil doing."* The present constitution of commissioners affords not only *no check* to a continued series of abuses, but no facility whatever for the investigation, of complaints ; and we must repeat here, that we shall never secure any efficient system of government and general economy in these institutions, until we have the appointment of *competent persons* to visit and inspect, under the authority of government, all establishments of whatever description they may be,—to ascertain how they may be effectually improved and provided, to collect information under uniform heads, and to report *annually*, or oftener, to the public, the results of their observations and inquiries, and such other details as may enable the Legislature to form a correct opinion of the state of public institutions, and thereby, carry into effect such judicious and well-matured measures, as regard the improvement and modifications of which they may be susceptible."

Another observes :—" With regard to our existing public institutions, comprising those of a general character, they have, of late years, been under such systematic misgovernment as to have drawn the serious attention of the public, and must sooner or later necessitate the complete re-organization throughout the whole administrative machinery. Such have been the growing evils in some of these institutions, that government has frequently been called upon to issue commissions of enquiry, but which have generally resulted in great expense to the country, and without effecting those salutary changes and reforms in their government and management, which might secure efficiency in their respective objects, or of preventing the recurrence of evils, mainly originating in the defective enactments of their condition and supervision."

"The government of the country has, however, in its power—with the sanction of the legislature—the means of fully remedying the many evils and abuses which are acknowledged to prevail in several public institutions, at a less expense than commissions of enquiry, in a more judicious and desirable manner, attaining the ends of justice with greater regularity and better effect, and unquestionably more satisfactory to the people at large, by a department of *general inspection, or surveillance*, of all public institutions. This department, if entrusted to the administration of men of enlarged minds and acquirements, cannot fail of ameliorating the condition of the numerous objects of these institutions, of leading to the spread of more enlightened views, important alike to the interests of science and humanity, and to the most benefi-