

ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH REPORT

OF THE

PRISON ASSOCIATION

OF

NEW-YORK, .

FOR 1855 AND 1856;

INCLUDING A LIST OF THE

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

Made to the Legislature, March 19, 1857.

ALBANY:

C. VAN BENTHUYSEN, PRINTER TO LEGISLATURE.
1857.

State of New-York.

No. 145.

IN SENATE, MARCH 19, 1857.

**Eleventh and Twelfth Annual Report of the New-York
Prison Association.**
(For 1855-56)

NEW-YORK, *March 19, 1857.*

To the HON. HENRY L. SELDEN,
Leut. Gov. of the State of New-York:

SIR—In compliance with the sixth section of the charter of the New-York Prison Association, I herewith transmit the eleventh and twelfth annual reports of said Association, and request that the same may be presented to the Legislature.

I am very respectfully,

JOHN STANTON GOULD,
Corresponding Secretary N. Y. Prison Association.

1855-56

**OFFICERS OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW-YORK
FOR 1855-6.**

President.

Hon. FRANCIS R. TILLOU.

Vice-Presidents.

JAMES H. TITUS,
RENSELAER N. HAVENS,
JOHN D. RUSS, M.D.,
JOHN H. GRISCOM, M.D.

Corresponding Secretary.

JOHN STANTON GOULD.

Recording Secretary.

JAMES C. HALDEN.

Treasurer.

HENRY A. OAKLEY.

Executive Committee.

Chairman—JOHN H. GRISCOM.

Finance Committee.

WM. C. GILMAN,
W. D. MARSHALL,

CLAYTON NEWBOLD,
O. F. WOODFORD,

H. A. OAKLEY.

Committee on Detentions.

ISRAEL RUSSELL, Chairman.
G. A. DAVISON,
SOL JENNER,
SALEM H. WALES,

JOHN H. KEYSER,
GEO. E. BAKER,
WM. ALLEN BUTLER,
CLARKSON CROLIUS.

Prison Discipline Committee.

R. N. HAVENS, Chairman.	JOHN H. GRISCOM,
Hon. J. W. EDMONDS,	Hon. GEORGE HALL,
Hon. C. A. PEABODY,	JAS. H. TITUS,
PETER S. CUTLER,	T. B. BRONSON,
JAS. C. HOLDEN, Jr.,	D. RUSS.

Discharged Convict Committee.

RICHARD REED, Chairman,	OTIS D. SWAN,
M. K. JESSUP,	STEPHEN CUTLER,
ISAAC T. SMITH,	S. L. MACCOMBER,
	T. SACKETT.

ABRAHAM BEAL, *General Agent.*RICHARD WAKE, *Financial Agent.*

1855-56

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION.*

OSCAR I., King of Sweden and Norway.
 Hon. JOHN DUER, New-York.
 Hon. B. F. BUTLER, "
 Hon. JOHN W. EDMONDS, New-York.
 ABRAHAM VAN NEST, Esq., "

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

SINCE THE ORGANIZATION IN 1844.

A. DE TOCQUEVILLE, }
 G. DE BEAUMONT, } Member of the Institution of France.
 M. CH. LUCAS, }

M. DEMETZ, Membre du Conseil General du Simec-et-Oise, etc., Paris.
 M. G. BLOUET, Architect du Gouvernement.
 J. G. PERRY, Esq., Inspector of Prisons of Great Britain.
 COL. JEBB, Surveyor General of the Prisons and Director of the Convict Prisons of Great Britain.
 EDWIN CHADWICK, Esq., London.
 Dr. VERDEIL, Member of the Great Council, Vice President of the Council of Health, at Lausanne, Switzerland.
 Dr. GOSSE, Geneva, Switzerland.
 JACOB POST, Esq., London.
 *Rev. L. DWIGHT, Secretary of Prison Discipline Society, Boston.
 FRANCIS LIEBER, Professor of History and Political Philosophy, Columbia, S. C., Cor. Memb. of the Institute of France.
 WM. P. FOULKE, Esq., Philadelphia.
 M. MORFAU CHRISTOPHE, Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, France.
 Dr. VARRENTHRAP, Germany.
 S. G. HOWE, M. D., Boston.
 Miss D. L. DIX, Boston, Massachusetts.
 Prof. NATHAN DAVID, Copenhagen, Denmark.
 Hon. CHARLES SUMNER, Boston.
 Prof. I. L. TELLKAMPF, Berlin, Prussia.
 JOHN HAVILAND, Prison Architect, Philadelphia.
 GEORGE SUMNER, Esq., Boston.

N. B.—The Physician or Warden, or Keeper of each Penitentiary are, *ex officio*, Corresponding members of the Executive Committee.

* Deceased.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BY PAYMENT OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS OR UPWARDS.

City of New-York.

BOORMAN, JAMES
BROWN, JAMES
GROBY, WM. B.
DELANO, JAS. WARREN
LENOX, JAMES
J. WALTER WOOD,

MINTURN, ROBERT B.
PARKER, CHARLES
WALKER, JOSEPH
WOOD, WILLIAM
WOOLSEY, E. J.

Troy, N. Y.

REV. WM. ANDREWS,

REV. DR. DEEMAN.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

REV. H. G. LUDLOW,

Hudson, N. Y.

REV. MR. DARLING.

Meriden, Conn.

REV. G. W. PERKINS.

1855-56

LIFE MEMBERS

Of the Association, by payment of twenty-five dollars and upwards.

Alsop, J. W.	Collins, E. K.
Aspinwall, W. H.	Corse, Israel
Astor, Wm. B.	Curtiss, Cyrus
Barclay, Anthony	Daly, Chas. P.
Barday, Henry	Dekhan, H. C.
Bard, John	Douglass, Wm. H.
Barron, Thomas	Douglas, George
Bartlett, Edwin	Duer, John
Beebee, S. J.	Edmonds, J. W.
B——, J. Jas.	Engs, P. W.
Belmont, August	Field, B. H.
Bennett, Jas. G.	Field, H. W.
Benzon, E. L.	Fish, Hamilton
Blanco, B.	Foster, Jr., James
Boorman, Jas.	Freeland, J.
Brevoort, H.	Furniss, W. P.
Breevort, J. Carson	Garner, F.
Bridge, L. K.	Gilson, John
Bridge, John	Graham, J. B.
Bronson, Mrs. Arthur	Gregory, D. S.
Brooks, Sidney	Green, J. C.
Broom, S.	Grinnell, Henry
Brown, Stewart	Grosvenor, Jasper
Brown, Jas.	Halstead, Wm. H.
Bruce, Geo.	Hedges, Timothy
Bushnell, O.	Herrick, J. K.
Butler, B. F.	Herrings, S. C.
Bliss, Ira,	Horn, Jas.
Chauncey, Henry	Howland, G. G.

Howland, S. S.
 Howland, Edgar W.
 Hunt, Thos.
 Hussey, George F.
 Irving, Richard
 Jay, John
 Jaffray, J. R.
 Johnson, Alex. S.
 Johnston, John
 Jones, James J.
 Jones, Walter R.
 Kirkland, S.
 Langdon, Mrs.
 Leeds, Sam'l.
 Lenox, James
 Lekoy, Jacob
 Lekoy, Jacob R.
 Leupp, C. M.
 Lord, Rufus L.
 Lorillard, Jr., Peter
 Low, Cornelius
 Low, Nicholas
 Mann, A.
 Mathews, J.
 McBride, Jas.
 McCoun, Wm. T.
 Morgan, E. D.
 Murray, Lindley
 Morgan, M.
 Naylor & Co.
 Nevins, R. H.
 Newell, Wm.
 Niblo, Wm.
 Norrie, A.
 O'Connor, C.
 Olyphant, D. W. C.
 Outhout, Wm.
 Palmer, John J.

Parmly, E.
 Pell, F.
 Phalon, J.
 Ray, Robert
 Rhinelander, Wm. C.
 Robert, C. R.
 Rosevelt, C. V. S.
 Ruggles, S. B.
 Russell, Israel
 Sampson, Joseph
 Sands, David
 Schermerhorn, Peter
 Selden, Dudley
 Sherman, Austin
 Spencer, Wm. A.
 Sturges, Jonathan
 Stuyvesant, Gerard
 Suaroz, L. J.
 Swan, Otis D.
 Talbot, Chas. N.
 Titus, Jas. H.
 Townsend, S. P.
 Trumble, George
 Van Nest, Abraham
 Vannostrand, James
 Van Rensselaer, P. S.
 Van Rensselaer, P. S. Jr.
 Walker, W.
 Ward, A.
 Wetmore P. M.
 White, Ely
 Whitney, Stephen
 Winthrop, B. R.
 Winslop, R. H.
 Wilderming, Wm. E.
 Willetts, Samuel
 Wolfe, John D.
 Woolsey, E. J.

Salisbury, Herkimer county, New-York.—Burrell, D.
Brooklyn, Long Island.—Packer, Wm. S.
Poughkeepsie, New-York. Vassar, M.
Waterbury, Connecticut.
 Rev. J. C. Ark. Rev. Mr. Elliott.
Meriden, Connecticut.—Rev. Mr. Searles.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEW-YORK PRISON ASSOCIATION IN 1856.

J. Walter Wood,	\$100 00
Robert B. Minturn,	50 00
James Boorman,	50 00
E. J. Woolsey,	50 00
Duncan, Sherman & Co.,	50 00
J. & A. Petrie & Co.,	25 00
R. H. Winslow,	25 00
George Bruce,	25 00
George T. Trimble,	25 00
Solomon Jenner,	25 00
J. C. Holden,	25 00
James H. Titus,	25 00
Stephen Cutter,	25 00
W. S. Gilman,	25 00
J. R. Jaffray & Sons,	25 00
Charles N. Talbot,	25 00
Robert B. Minturn, (2d contribution,)	25 00
W. C. Rhineland,	25 00
James Brown,	25 00
George Douglas,	25 00
Naylor & Co.,	25 00
R. H. Winslow, (2d con.,)	25 00
George Bruce, do	25 00
E. H. Gillilan,	20 00
David Sands,	20 00
W. B. Astor,	20 00
W. B. Crosby,	20 00
Goodhue & Co.,	20 00
Robert Ray,	20 00

John J. Palmer,	\$20 00
W. H. Aspinwall,	20 00
Jonathan Sturges,	20 00
A. A. Low,	15 00
H. Blanco,	15 00
E. J. Brown,	10 00
Charles Parker,	10 00
Seymour & Co.,	10 00
George D. Morgan,	10 00
John T. Terry,	10 00
H. B. Livingston,	10 00
John Caswell,	10 00
Walsh & Coulter,	10 00
S. H. Wales,	10 00
Sherman & Collins,	10 00
A. Iselin & Co.,	10 00
J. H. Abeel,	10 00
Stewart Brown,	10 00
Robert J. Dillon,	10 00
Jacob Badger,	10 00
Hendricks Brothers,	10 00
Hargous Brothers,	10 00
Mitchell & Pott,	10 00
C. H. Sand,	10 00
Moran Brothers,	10 00
S. Cambreleng,	10 00
S. A. S.,	10 00
W. O.,	10 00
Cash,	10 00
J. & A. Petrie, (2d con.,)	10 00
A. Norrie,	10 00
A. Belmont,	10 00
J. W. Alsop,	10 00
Cash,	10 00
Babcock, Milnor & Co.,	10 00
Patteson & Price,	10 00
Thos. Owen,	10 00
Cary & Co.,	10 00

Haskell, Eurich & Bull,.....	\$10 00
Olyphant's Sons,.....	10 00
A. Van Nest,.....	10 00
L. P. Hawes,.....	10 00
Francis Hall,.....	10 00
Richard Irvin,.....	10 00
Saml. Willets,.....	10 00
Clafin, Mellen & Co.,.....	10 00
A. W. H.,.....	10 00
Danforth, Wright & Co.,.....	10 00
Hewitt & Co.,.....	10 00
A. R. Wetmore,.....	10 00
John Gihon,.....	10 00
S. C. Herring,.....	10 00
Henry Chauncey,.....	10 00
H. B. Livingston, (2d con.),.....	5 00
H. L. Burr,.....	5 00
J. F. Meliss,.....	5 00
S. T. Skidmore,.....	5 00
J. S. Gould,.....	5 00
A friend,.....	5 00
T. J. Sawyer,.....	5 00
James Cruikshank,.....	5 00
Warren & Co.,.....	5 00
C. W. Shipman,.....	5 00
John Clapp,.....	5 00
Josiah Rich,.....	5 00
Doubleday & Beak,.....	5 00
Grant & Barton,.....	5 00
B. M. Whitlock,.....	5 00
James Owen,.....	5 00
Oelrichs & Co,.....	5 00
J. J. Merian,.....	5 00
J. & C. Berrian,.....	5 00
H. E. Dibble,.....	5 00
Pierson & Co.,.....	5 00
J. Beck & Co.,.....	5 00
Cottenet & Atherton,.....	5 00

J. A. S.,.....	\$5 00
W. Lobach,.....	5 00
Bourry D'Ivernois & Co.,.....	5 00
Wm. Kemble,.....	5 00
Geo. Platt,.....	5 00
C. F. Dambmann,.....	5 00
W. C. Smillie,.....	5 00
F. A. Schumacher,.....	5 00
R. Hoe & Co.,.....	5 00
O. B. Tweedy,.....	5 00
E. R. Graves,.....	5 00
James W. Phillips,.....	5 00
Victor & Achelis,.....	5 00
G. Hallock,.....	5 00
Rodewald Brothers,.....	5 00
L. M. Sutherland,.....	5 00
A. Arnold,.....	5 00
H. Boker,.....	5 00
Poppenhusen & Koenig,.....	5 00
Oppenheim & Co.,.....	5 00
R. S. Williams,.....	5 00
Ubidell, Pierson & Lake,.....	5 00
G. G. Haydock,.....	5 00
Ball, Black & Co.,.....	5 00
Thomas Messenger,.....	5 00
Codlidge & Young,.....	5 00
W. R. Painter,.....	5 00
Spies, Christ & Jay,.....	5 00
John Milhan,.....	5 00
J. Dessoir,.....	5 00
H. Hennequin,.....	5 00
P. H. Hodges,.....	5 00
Passavant & Co.,.....	5 00
Koop, Fischer & Co.,.....	5 00
DeCoppet & Co.,.....	5 00
Haight, Halsey & Co.,.....	5 00
F. S. Schlasinger & Andresen,.....	5 00
Sam'l Graydon,.....	5 00

Thomas Prosser & Son,	\$5 00
E. T. Ryder,	5 00
C. H. Roggers,	5 00
Chs. Burkhalter,	5 00
Byron Sherman,	5 00
Edward Kellogg,	5 00
T. Rigney,	5 00
S. G. Bogert,	5 00
Schulten & Hurd,	5 00
Paton & Co.,	5 00
Eastman, Sheldon & Townsend,	5 00
Bush & Munkittrick,	5 00
James Hunter,	5 00
Lehmaier Brothers,	5 00
Loeschigk, Wesendonck & Co.,	5 00
Meeker, Herbert & Perkins,	5 00
S. Kohnsthamn,	5 00
S. J. Beebee,	5 00
D. H. Nevins,	5 00
W. Allen Butler,	5 00
F. S. Littlejohn,	5 00
W. Redmond,	5 00
Harper & Co.,	5 00
Wilmerding, Hoguet & Humbert,	5 00
C. A. Davison,	5 00
F. Karek,	5 00
F. G. Gebhard,	5 00
Recknagel & Schwab,	5 00
Brazilian Consul,	5 00
W. F. Mott,	5 00
E. D. Sprague,	5 00
Smith & Eddy,	5 00
E. Cazet,	5 00
French Consul,	5 00
H. M. Schieffelin,	5 00
W. Walker,	5 00
Grossman Brothers,	5 00
O. D. Munn,	5 00

Jno. G. Wyman,	\$5 00
H. W. T. Mall,	5 00
G. L. Hall,	5 00
George Rodie,	5 00
A. Sherman,	5 00
W. Niblo,	5 00
E. Tweedy,	5 00
F. & A. Rusch,	5 00
S. T. Skidmore, (2d con.)	5 00
J. G. Escher,	3 00
W. Hegeman,	2 00
Kiggins & Kellogg,	2 00
H. A. Oakley,	8 00
Jno. Slade,	3 00
H. Barclay,	2 00
Linda,	1 00
T. Perry,	3 00
C. S. Francis & Co.,	3 00
Beveridge & Co.,	3 00
Clark, Wilson & Co.,	3 00
R. Palanca,	2 00
A. Wetmore,	2 00
R. Bowne,	2 00
Total,	<u>\$2,024 00</u>

HENRY A. OAKLEY,
Treasurer.

**THE ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORTS
Of the Prison Association of New-York.**

To the Honorable,

The Legislature of the State of New-York.

In pursuance of the requisitions of their charter, the Prison Association of New-York respectfully present the following report of their labors during the years 1855 and 1856.

The objects of the association as avowed by its charter passed May 9th, 1846, are,

“ First. The amelioration of the condition of prisoners, whether detained for trial or finally convicted, or as witnesses.”

Second. The improvement of the discipline and government of prisons, and,

Third. The support and encouragement of convicts after their discharge by affording them the means of obtaining an honest livelihood, and sustaining them in their efforts at reform.”

There is another object included within the spirit, if not within the letter of these declared objects, it is that of securing to persons preliminarily committed, a just hearing, and fair trial. Such an interposition of correct aid in these stages of the administration of criminal justice, being very often found a necessary act of benevolence, saving the innocent and preventing the infliction of punishment of undue severity upon those who offended the law under extenuating circumstances, or infirmity, and at least tending to secure the expression of truth, and avoiding injustice to the accused

Crimes as to their real character are distinguished, as those which are committed from deliberate and innate atrocity, and those which are committed under infirmity—those which are malicious, and those committed under impulse, provocation,

temptation, poverty, ignorance or inexperience. The hardened and incorrigible offenders, form a class widely different from the poor, tempted, and ignorant outcast. It is true the former present claims for justice and mercy, but how far inferior to the latter class, common humanity will at once decide.

Within the experience of the association it has often been demonstrated that for want of disinterested aid where trial has been had under indictment, and before a jury, great injustice has been committed, sometimes to the accused, and at other times to the commowealth, and the consequences resulting from it are hurtful in the extreme to every class in society.

No better illustration of the truth of this statement can be had than in the daily proceedings of the courts of general and special sessions, and the various police courts of this city. At the sessions on trial days, 50 cases of inferior offences are usually presented for summary trial, mostly of persons in humble life, and whose reputation is their only wealth, but too often among them are to be found those who were driven to crime by destitution, and those who have been thus reduced by misfortune and injustice. It will readily be seen that to adjudicate properly these many and various cases, the highest requirements of discretion and mercy, as well as justice, is necessary in the presiding magistrates of these courts, and it is by securing to the magistrate a knowledge of the facts in each case whether extenuating or otherwise, and by advice and aid to the accused that the Association is largely beneficial in its acts of benevolence and mercy. The report of its agent annexed hereto presents many cases that support this view of the subject.

The present system of confining prisoners under accusation, and before conviction, and also witnesses, in the same prison and under the same restraints, and in the same narrow cells with those justly convicted, is clearly wrong. It thus happens that an accused person, or a witness suffers a severer punishment in fact, than a convict, for it must certainly be admitted that it is a far more severe punishment to be confined in an unwholesome and close prison, denied occupation, and too often

without requisite means for cleanliness and other necessities for sustaining health, than as a convict in a penitentiary, where a free pure air prevails, and where without close confinement, occupation is provided, and the sanitary condition of the prisoner is well cared for.

Witnesses who are confined in our jails and city prisons for want of bail, are thus subject to a tyranny which it is hard by any species of argument to justify, and however much may be done by the keepers to soften their lot, still they suffer a grievous injustice, which should be remedied at once as an act of humanity, and of justice to personal rights.

Another evil to which your Association would call attention is the classification of prisoners, or in other words the separation of those who are adepts in every species of crimes, from those who are for the first time offenders of the law. The present officers of the prisons have endeavored to promote or to mitigate this evil so far as it was in their power so to do, yet from the arrangement of the prisoners, and the working of the convicts, they can accomplish but little. A radical change in these particulars are essential.

Another source of evil which can easily be remedied is the system of discharging from our State and County Prisons convicts, comparatively without means or resources to enable them to remove from where they are known, or to obtain employment, and thus by an honest endeavor at reformation, and more, render themselves useful members of our common society. We would propose as a remedy that convicts be allowed after the hours allotted to their task-work, to labor at what is styled over-work, for which they may have credit at the rate that the State is credited by contractors for the task-work, and at the end of the terms of imprisonment, the amount thus earned be paid to them, thus affording means for a new start in life. As it now is, the prisoner having fully paid the penalty the law has inflicted on him by serving out his punishment faithfully, and even with credit, has not yet expiated his crime; for he goes forth a marked man, avoided wherever he goes, his garb inspiring distrust,—he is refused employment, his repentance and desire for reforma-

Bartholomew

Sanborn

tion are not credited, and as soon as his slender means are exhausted, he has apparently no other resource but a return to his old associates, and to a new career of crime. Your Association is fully impressed with the belief that the State does not discharge its duty to society, if it seek only the punishment, and not the reformation of criminals. A system of marks of merits for good conduct, tending to mitigate punishment, or to reward in some way at the end of the term of imprisonment, would be a strong inducement to reformation, and a powerful incentive to general good conduct, and the preservation of discipline within the walls of the prison.

Additional religious services for the prisoners would add very much to their improvement, and tend to secure their reformation, repeated instances are within our knowledge of the good effects upon the prisoners of occasional additional and impressive religious services, that have been held by benevolent and philanthropic men.

The New-York Prison Association has hitherto been entirely supported by voluntary contributions, and consequently, except to a limited extent, has been able to accomplish but a portion of the task, for which it was instituted. The following statements of the operations of the Association for 1855 and 1856, will show how large an amount of service has been performed, even with the limited means at its disposal.

STATEMENT A.

1855.	Number of persons visited in our detention prisons who were poor and comparatively helpless.	No. of complaints impartially examined and advised.	Discharged through recommendation.	No. of discharged persons relieved with money.	Number clothed, more or less.	No. supplied with work & situations.	Amount contributed from during the year.
January,	180	91	17	40	13	11	\$253 50
February,	220	93	19	48	13	9	323 50
March,	200	87	27	42	15	7	213 00
April,	323	97	57	63	9	12	28 00
May,	440	192	48	47	11	19	234 87
June,	380	180	31	29	13	17	.....
July,	317	173	37	29	16	14	25 00
August,	374	107	47	26	11	16	90 00
September,	314	112	34	23	7	9	288 50
October,	301	110	31	25	13	11	224 00
November,	447	93	52	33	15	17	78 00
December,	350	90	37	34	11	13	10 00
Totals,	3855	1425	437	439	147	155	\$1,773 37

STATEMENT B.

1856.	No. of persons visited in our City detention prisons who were poor and comparatively helpless.	No. of cases selected as hopeful, and in which circumstances of extenuation were apparent.	No. of persons discharged from custody through our recommendation.	No. of complaints abandoned on account of their being settled, and often the result of passion and prejudice.	No. of discharged persons relieved with money, means they were enabled to get away into the country.	No. of discharged persons supplied with clothing, more or less.	No. of discharged convicts and others supplied with situations and employment.	Amount contributed to the funds during the year.
January,	350	137	34	30	32	15	9	\$250
February,	400	144	37	25	36	17	8	180
March,	450	110	41	23	24	11	9	50
April,	400	117	39	33	23	13	7	209
May,	425	127	34	44	17	9	11	255
June,	350	119	41	29	24	11	9	180
July,	370	109	37	26	29	8	7	.....
August,	400	119	43	44	23	13	11	280
September,	450	189	39	47	27	8	13	177
October,	425	169	44	49	16	9	11	88
November,	450	129	49	44	17	13	9	145
December,	500	166	38	53	14	11	8	190
Totals,	4,970	1,635	476	447	282	138	112	\$2,004

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DETENTIONS.

OFFICE OF PRISON ASSOCIATION,
15 Centre street, New-York, January 28th, 1857.

ISRAEL RUSSEL, Esq., *Chairman* :

Dear Sir,—Herewith, I respectfully submit to you, and for the use of the Executive Committee, the annual report of our labors, of this department during the past two years, ending the 31st day of December last, and in harmony with the first Article of the Constitution which reads thus, "Its objects shall be—

The melioration of the condition of prisoners, whether detained for trial or finally convicted, or as witnesses, and agreeable to the 7th of the by-laws, namely,

To enquire into the causes of commitment of persons detained for trial, or as witnesses, in any of the prisons of the cities of New-York and Brooklyn, and to adopt proper means for procuring the discharge of such as shall appear to be entitled thereto.

To visit frequently the persons under their charge, and to endeavor to improve the condition of the prisoners, by training them to habits of cleanliness and exercise, by securing to them comfortable accommodation, having a regard to space, light and temperature, by procuring for them suitable employment by providing them with books, or other means of mental occupation, by securing such a separation and classification as shall preserve the young, the innocent, and the less hardened, from the contaminating intercourse of the more depraved, by obtaining for them honest and legal advice, and generally by bringing all practical, moral, and religious influences to operate upon their minds.

Permit me to state that these visits and duties above mentioned, have been made and performed by your agent, and as often as his varied engagements would permit, and although he

Treasurer's report of the New-York Prison Association for the years 1855 and 1856.

Dr.	
To balance in treasurer's hands, Jan 1, 1855,	\$53 70
To contribution at anniversary meeting, May 26, 1855,	15 87
To donations and subscriptions during 1855,	1,757 50
" " " " 1856,	2,004 00
Total receipts,	<u>\$3,831 07</u>
Cr.	
By amount paid for office expenses and for general disbursements, including salaries of agents,	\$2,513 53
By rent of office, No. 15, Centre-street, and of executive committee room,	4 58
By cash disbursed to relieve discharged convicts and others,	496 65
By expenses of anniversary of 1855,	85 00
By expense of monthly record of the association for gratuitous distribution,	177 00
By incidental expenses for advertising, summoning witnesses, freight on annual report from Albany, ..	93 39
By balance in treasurer's hands,	7 50
	<u>\$3,831 07</u>

HENRY A. OAKLEY, *Treasurer.*

New-York, January 5, 1857.

Correct.

ISRAEL RUSSEL, } *Auditing*
HENRY P. MARSHALL, } *Committee.*

has not accomplished all he desired, he is led to rejoice that under the divine blessing, some little has been done for the furtherance of these objects.

The extent of this wide field of operations, thus opened to your committee, can be best conceived by the number of those charged with crime, and by a survey of its general magnitude, and which will clearly show that its interests and requirements are of no trifling or ordinary moment.

Detentions.

This department includes all those who are arrested and detained for trial, or as witnesses in the prisons of New-York and Brooklyn.

Hence no less than six prisons are embraced within these limits appropriately designated houses of detention, to wit:

- 1st district, the City Prison (Tombs.)
- 2nd district, the Jefferson Market Prison.
- 3rd district, the Essex Market Prison.
- 4th district, the Yorkville Prison.
- Eldridge street, (or County) Jail.
- King's County, or Brooklyn (County) Jail.

A very brief view of each of these prisons, may not be out of place, as to the number of their inmates, &c. &c.

The City Prison.

This is the great reservoir of criminal justice; from the minor prison, streams are daily pouring into the Tombs.

Nearly all who are committed for trial are collected here.

During the past two years the numbers were, as the following summary shows:

	White males.	White females.	Colored males.	Col. females.	Total.
1855,..	23,167	11,974	664	459	36,264
1856,..	16,498	10,480	509	394	27,881
	<u>39,665</u>	<u>22,454</u>	<u>1,173</u>	<u>853</u>	<u>64,145</u>

The average number of persons confined within its walls is 325; the smallest number 220; the largest 390; the average number of witnesses, from 15 to 20.

The prison consists of two stone buildings, one is appropriated to males, the other to females. The cells are built against the side walls in four tiers, and are entered from corridors, there are 37 cells in each tier, making 140 in all; from the number of persons here in custody it becomes necessary very often to place two together, and not unfrequently three in one small cell, hence it must be clearly apparent at one glance, that the prison is too small for the purposes for which it is required. That prisoners ought not to be confined together, is a fact that no sane man would attempt to controvert; beyond all cavil and question, where such a necessity does exist, the effects are prejudicial to the persons so crowded together, for under such circumstances associations are formed, hurtful to themselves, detrimental to the safety and security of the community.

This practice of placing more than one in a cell is a prolific source of increased crime, and of great moral and physical evil.

Delays in the Administration of Justice.

Large numbers of persons are here confined whose trials result in their acquittal, they remain in custody for weeks, and often for two and sometimes three months in a state of compulsory idle inactivity before they are tried. Individuals and families are most seriously if not irreparably injured by these protracted delays. The demands of equity and right, and the claims of mercy alike call for a better arrangement of our criminal courts by which the guilt or innocence of the suspected person may be promptly ascertained.

Witnesses confined in Prison.

Without controversy this is a very unfortunate class, by an apparent trivial accident they happen to see a breach of the peace, a larceny, a homicide, or some other crime committed. The ends of justice and the well being of society, seem to require their appearance and testimony on the trial of the accused, but they are strangers, often emigrants, having as yet no fixed home,

they can give no bonds for their presence in court on a future day; what then, is their solemn deposition taken, and they allowed to depart? Oh no, the accused is held to bail, and the offending witness is consigned to prison.

Many distressing cases of this character (and which might have been prevented by the exercise of more thoughtful care) have come under our own special notice—here is one.

A complaint was made and a warrant issued against an officer of a packet ship for a series of alleged brutal assaults committed by him while at sea with other persons. One of the second cabin passengers was introduced who corroborated the story told by complainant, the case was proven and the Commissioner held the accused to bail in bonds of \$500 to answer the charge before one of the judges of the U. S. court. But the witness, what became of him? he was sent to the Tombs, where he remained for a period of 85 days, and but for the interposition of this Association would not have been discharged then.

The reason assigned for this protracted detention was, sickness in the family of the accused, (the captain's lady,) hence it was not convenient for him to leave the country and be tried. The papers were now carefully examined and the witness discharged because of the amplitude of other testimony.

This witness was an architect by profession, he had extensive building connections in this country, one of whom had engaged his services before he left his home in Yorkshire, England and his confinement in prison was a serious pecuniary loss.

Here is another case.

An alleged homicide was committed at sea; the accused is brought to this port, and before a Commissioner of the U. S. court, the case is investigated, the testimony seems to warrant his being fully committed for trial. The witnesses were also sent to prison where they have remained during the last 7 months; one of them has a wife and two children dependant on him for support and in a distant part of the globe, to whom he has been unable to send a single dollar.

Surely enlightened legislation could devise some efficient means by which the testimony of such persons could be secured for the purpose of establishing the guilt or innocence of accused persons, and thus prevent those terrible wrongs inflicted on persons and families, as above mentioned.

On cleanliness.

But little provision is made for the personal comfort or cleanliness of prisons, (and this applies to all our detention prisons.) The cells are not furnished with soap or towels. The inmates have no change of linen, or clothes, except such as are supplied by the kindness of friends. Many have gone into court from the prison whose appearance has been greatly to their disadvantage.

Juvenile Delinquency.

There were committed to the Tombs during 1855, under 10 years of age,	277
There were committed to the Tombs during 1856, between 10 and 20 years of age,	4,492
There were committed to the Tombs during 1856, under ten years of age,	282
There were committed to the Tombs during 1856, between 10 and 20 years of age,	3,906
	<hr/>
	8,957

There are at all times a sad and sickening number of boys and girls confined in our city prisons, and often charged with grave offences; what scenes of misery, neglect, outrage, want and utter abandonment, would the biographies of these children spread before us; amidst what an atmosphere of deceit, fraud, filth, sloth and drunkenness, did these little ones first stumble into life, their short career has been one continuous scene of wretchedness and sin; no marvel they find their way to our prison house, such a result must always excite our keenest sympathy and commiseration.

Here we are driven to a repetition of our former statement that, the prison is far too contracted, and the number of the

cells lamentably deficient; in very many cases the keepers have no alternative but to crowd from two to six in one cell, this necessity is of serious and lasting mischief, were it possible to place these unfortunate little creatures in separate confinement, delay in bringing them to trial might not prove so hurtful, to us the conclusion is inevitable, the sooner their guilt or innocence is established, the better for themselves and the community. These cases require the special and prompt attention of the proper authorities.

Moral instruction.

But few and scanty means are employed for the moral improvement of the prisoners.

There is no chaplain accredited and employed by the ten governors to officiate in the city prison.

A religious service is regularly and acceptably performed by the Rev. A. Camp; during the last six years he has manifested a uniform and commendable zeal for the soul's salvation of its inmates, by a distribution of tracts, and kind affectionate persuasions to live a better life. He has met with considerable encouragements in this work of faith and labor of love; whilst we wish him increased success in his public ministrations, we can but hope the board of governors will favorably recognize his useful labors, by an annual pecuniary remuneration.

For several years a short service was held every afternoon of the Sabbath, and addresses made on the subject of temperance and the dangerous drinking customs of the people. There is no question but those exercises excited a very deep interest, their peculiar appropriateness and nice adaptations, rendered them eminently useful, could such subjects be again introduced, many a poor desolate intemperate one, might be reclaimed and restored "as a brand from the burning."

A wise step.

One essentially necessary alteration and improvement has been effected here.

The warden has peremptorily forbidden the admission of lawyers into the inner prison in their professional capacity.

An ante-room has been fitted up near the warden's office, and an extra keeper engaged for the purpose of escorting prisoners to and from their cell, who express a desire to see counsel.

This excellent regulation was made with a view to prevent what is designated the skinning operation, (preying on the very vitals of the unfortunate prisoner) by a class of selfish, unprincipled men, who disgrace the honorable profession of the law.

To such a length were these abominations practised, but few respectable members of the bar could be induced to visit the courts in this neighborhood.

Although a great improvement has been made by the wardens in carrying out the above rule, many flagrant impositions of peculation and fraud are frequently developed.

Its sanitary condition.

The health of its inmates has been generally good. A physician is appointed to this prison (by the governors of the alms house) who visits the prisoners daily. The facilities for taking proper care of the sick in a prison of this small size, must be of a very limited character, hence severe and dangerous cases of disease are removed to the hospital on Blackwell's Island, consequently but few deaths occur here, and those contracted without the walls, such as drunkenness, delirium tremens, &c.

On the whole, the general appearances of this prison is much improved.

The classification of prisoners is better understood and more thoughtfully regarded, and in exact proportion to the practical experience, and the useful knowledge acquired by the keepers, will be the improvements made in their respective departments.

Although it is exceedingly difficult (owing to the fluctuating ingress and egress of its inmates,) to secure wholesome cleanliness and order, this prison is in a better condition than formerly.

Your agent is happy in being able to report, that not only has there been no obstacles thrown in his way, but that every facility has been afforded him by the Board of Governors, the warden, matron and keepers, in the performance of his varied duties.

JEFFERSON MARKET PRISON.

This small building has been kept as clean and as well ventilated as its crowded condition would permit. Persons brought here are ordinarily disposed of within 24 hours; those sentenced on charge of vagrancy, are sent to Blackwells' Island; those committed for trial are conveyed to the Tombs.

The Board of Governors are now enlarging the dimensions of this prison, hence much greater space and accommodation will be secured.

During the last 2 years the following numbers were brought before this court.

	White males.	White females.	Col. males.	Col. females.	Total.
1855,.....	3,981	1,440	56	33	5,520
1856,.....	2,384	968	78	32	3,462
	<u>6,365</u>	<u>2,418</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>8,982</u>

ESSEX MARKET PRISON.

The governors of the alms house have at length judiciously yielded to the long conceded necessity of pulling down the old prison. For many years it has been condemned by an intelligent public as miserably inconvenient, unhealthy and contracted.

A commodious prison with police court, offices and wardens dwellings, is now in course of erection on the old site and will be completed within the next few months, one better adapted to this densely populated neighborhood.

During the last 2 years the following number were brought before the justices at this court.

1855 - 56

	White males.	White females.	Col. males.	Col. females.	Total.
1855,.....	2,916	873	17	10	3,821
1856,.....	2,219	746	4	..	2,969
	<u>5,135</u>	<u>1,624</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6,790</u>

YORKVILLE PRISON.

This is a district formed within the last year, distant about 4 miles from the City Hall. Here everything is neat and clean and at present its accommodations and capacity are pretty well proportioned to its wants and requirements.

Number brought before this court during the last 2 years were,

	White males.	White females.	Col. males.	Col. females.	Total.
1855,.....	162	60	4	3	229
1856,.....	148	48	3	4	203
	<u>310</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>432</u>

Each of these 4 district prisons are under the government of the alms house department, (the 10 governors,) subject to the same rules and discipline. The whole being under the superintendence of Jno. Gray, Esq., warden of the city prison.

ELDRIDGE-STREET OR DEBTORS' JAIL.

This is a mere apology for a county prison and a standing monument of disgrace to the city and county of New-York.

The present sheriff, James C. Willett, Esq., and his deputies, have done all that intelligent ingenuity could suggest for the improvement of this old watch house. It has undergone considerable alterations and repairs, still withal it is an insecure, inconvenient and miserable remnant of old-fashioned barbarism.

Its inmates consist of alleged fraudulent debtors, witnesses, and U. S. prisoners, very many of the latter suffer for want of suitable clothing; when arrested by the deputy marshal, they are often precipitately brought on shore, their chests either left on ship board or taken charge of by some unprincipled "fellow of the baser sort," from whom they are seldom recovered. The

Association has, however, been signally useful in the restoration of such property belonging to seamen, and much praise is due to many of the deputy marshals for the care they have, of late, bestowed to the prevention of these abuses.

The average number of persons here confined is about 40. During the past 2 years the numbers were

1855,	394
1856,	374

BROOKLYN JAIL, KINGS CO.

Within the walls of this prison, persons arrested on civil process, others fully committed for trial, drunkards and disorderlies are to be found, and convicts sentenced for various periods by the U. S. courts. Why men, sentenced for months and years for alleged grave offences, should be consigned to one of these cells without employment, is a problem of very difficult solution. This observation is more particularly applicable to sailors who have been accustomed to bustle and activity. To them idleness is a curse, as one of them a few days since observed when he returned a small book that had been lent him, "I say (Mr. Agent,) old Dr. Watts said the truth when he wrote

"for Satan finds work
for idle hands to do."

He pithily, but with bitter oaths, vociferated "our lives are a d—d blank, why the h—ll did not the judge send us to work, where we could have a good wash, a clean shirt and hear something of a Sunday that would carry us back to mother and home; it seems as though we had no souls, or that the sooner they were sent below, the better he would like it."

This is not an isolated case, the bad feeling created by one and two years of inactivity in such a condition, engenders the very worst passions, and are developed in every available manner by those unfortunate creatures.

It often happens that persons committed to this prison on charge or suspicion of crime, are detained for 3, 4 and in some instances 5 months without trial.

These delays operate very injuriously, both to the moral and physical nature of the accused, in addition to the unnecessary augmentation of the city taxes and general expenditure.

What has been said of our other detention prisons may be emphatically reiterated of this; no one thing exists calculated to lessen crime or promote reformation.

During the last 2 years the number committed to Brooklyn jail were

1855,	3,172
1856,	2,865

The following general statement will show the number of persons committed to the city prisons collectively during the 2 years ending the 31st of December, 1856.

First district, city prison, (tombs;)

	White males.	White females.	Col. males.	Col. females.	Total.
Number in prison Jan. 1,					
1855,	193	49	15	4	261
Received during the year,	16,108	9,586	587	413	26,694
	<u>16,301</u>	<u>9,635</u>	<u>602</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>26,955</u>
Discharged,	14,049	7,267	442	321	22,079
Deceased,	14	2	..	..	16
Sent to Blackwells' Island,	1,822	2,260	123	87	4,292
Sent to State prison,....	129	5	9	4	147
Remaining in prison December 31st,	287	101	28	5	421
	<u>16,301</u>	<u>9,635</u>	<u>602</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>26,955</u>

In addition to the number received at the first district prison,

16,108	9,586	587	413	26,694
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There were dischar'd from the second district prison at Jefferson market,

3,981	1,450	56	33	5,520
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Crime of Johnson's. Received by the prison

1855-56

	White male.	White female.	Col. male.	Col. female.	Total.
Discharged from third district prison at Essex market,	2,916	878	17	10	3,821
Discharged from fourth district prison at Yorkville,	162	60	7	3	229
	<u>23,167</u>	<u>11,974</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>459</u>	<u>36,264</u>

Table showing sex and age.

	Males.	Females.
Under 10 years,	89	190
Between 10 and 20,	3,169	1,323
do 20 and 30,	6,212	4,349
do 30 and 40,	3,989	2,660
do 40 and 50,	2,160	1,076
do 50 and 60,	822	308
do 60 and 70,	217	98
Over 70,	50	19
Total,	<u>16,695</u>	<u>9,999</u>

Nativity.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number received who were natives, ..	6,505	2,421	8,926
do do foreigners, ..	17,326	10,012	27,338
	<u>23,831</u>	<u>12,433</u>	<u>36,264</u>

Social relations.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number received who were married, ..	8,887	3,007	11,894
do do single, ..	13,800	7,475	21,275
do do widowed, ..	752	1,328	2,080
do whose social relations were unknown,	392	623	1,015
	<u>23,831</u>	<u>12,433</u>	<u>36,264</u>

Habits of life.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number received who were temperate, ..	2,329	1,232	3,561
do do intemperate, ..	21,502	11,201	32,703
	<u>23,831</u>	<u>12,433</u>	<u>36,264</u>

Degree of education.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number who could not read,	5,015	6,803	11,818
do could read only,	2,754	1,979	4,633
do could read and write, ..	14,586	1,863	16,449
do were well educated, ..	930	291	1,221
do were classically educ'd, ..	31	....	31
do whose degree of education was unknown, ..	515	1,597	2,112
	<u>23,831</u>	<u>12,433</u>	<u>36,264</u>

Those designated as unknown, were insane, unable to speak English, or refused to answer.

First district, city prison, (tombs;)

	White males.	White females.	Col. males.	Col. females.	Total.
Number in prison Jan. 1, ..					
1856,	287	101	28	5	421
Received during the year, ..	11,747	8,718	424	358	21,247
	<u>12,034</u>	<u>8,819</u>	<u>452</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>21,668</u>

Discharged,	9,926	6,527	315	278	17,049
Sent to Blackwells' Island, ..	1,724	2,208	105	80	4,117
Sent to State prison,	189	8	9	....	206
Deceased,	18	3	....	....	21
Remaining in prison Dec. 31st,	177	73	20	5	275
	<u>12,034</u>	<u>8,819</u>	<u>452</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>21,668</u>

	SENATE				
	White male.	White female.	Col. male.	Col. female.	Total.
In addition to the number received at the first district prison,	11,747	8,718	424	358	21,247
There were discharged from the second district prison at Jefferson market, ..	2,384	968	78	32	3,462
Discharged from the third district prison at Essex market,	2,219	746	4	....	2,969
Discharged from the fourth district prison at Yorkville,	148	48	3	4	203
	<u>16,498</u>	<u>10,480</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>27,881</u>

Table showing sex and age.

	Males.	Females.
Under 10 years of age,	97	185
Between 10 and 20,	2,464	1,412
do 20 and 30,	4,207	2,944
do 30 and 40,	2,996	2,714
do 40 and 50,	1,069	1,394
do 50 and 60,	720	122
do 60 and 70,	8	6
Over 70,	21	10
Total,	<u>12,171</u>	<u>9,076</u>

Nativity.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number received who were natives, ..	4,419	2,097	6,426
do do foreigners,	12,588	8,867	21,455
	<u>17,007</u>	<u>10,874</u>	<u>27,881</u>

Social relations.

Number received who were married, ..	6,949	2,669	9,618
do do single,	9,312	6,593	15,905
do do widowed,	367	1,072	1,439
do social relations unknown,	379	540	919
	<u>17,007</u>	<u>10,874</u>	<u>27,881</u>

Habits of life.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number received who were reported temperate,	1,953	1,131	3,084
do whose habits were intemperate,	15,051	9,713	24,797
	<u>17,007</u>	<u>10,874</u>	<u>27,881</u>

Degree of Education.

Number who could not read,	3,611	5,971	9,582
do read only,	1,080	1,558	2,438
do read and write, ..	11,186	1,996	13,182
do were well educated, ..	637	360	997
do were classically educ'd, ..	19	.....	19
do whose degree of education was unknown, ..	474	1,189	1,663
	<u>17,007</u>	<u>10,874</u>	<u>27,881</u>

Those designated as unknown were insane, unable to speak English, or refused to answer.

Total number of commitments within the last 2 years ending December 31, 1856.

	1855.	1856.	Total.
To the city prison,	36,264	27,981	
do Eldridge-street jail,	394	374	
do Brooklyn jail,	3,172	2,865	
	<u>39,830</u>	<u>31,120</u>	<u>70,950</u>

As the preceding tables show, this gigantic crowd was composed of men, women and children, of various countries, languages and people; their ages varying from the child of 6 and 7 years to the tottering and infirm of 70 and 80. Very many of this prodigious multitude, were visited by your agent and from this heterogeneous mass, the most hopeful were selected and in some way aided.

From the summary of the last 2 years labors of the Association, we abstract the following figures as belonging to this department.

	1855.	1856
Number of cases selected of poor friendless persons who were inexperienced in crime,...	3,855	4,970
Number of complaints abandoned on our advice, they being frivolous and vexatious, the result of passion and prejudice,	387	447
Number of cases selected as hopeful and in which circumstances of extenuation were apparent,	1,425	1,635
Number of persons discharged on our recommendation from our city courts and prisons,	437	476
Number of persons aided with clothes, money, and employment,	77	97

It would not prove unprofitable, but highly instructive to investigate, and ascertain the causes which led to the arrest of those 70,950 persons.

Their name is legion, from this black catalogue of the causes of crime are the following :

1st. Intoxicating liquors, (and especially those sold in groceries,) low grog shops, restaurants, lager-bier saloons (and the fashionable bars at our splendid hotels not excepted,) but the former are emphatically a prolific source of crime.

The following figures show the number of persons temperate and intemperate, who were committed to the toms only :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1855 Temperate	2,329	1,232	3,561
1856 Temperate	1,953	1,131	3,084
	4,282	2,363	6,645
1855 Intemperate	21,502	11,201	32,703
1856 Intemperate	15,054	9,743	24,797
	<u>36,556</u>	<u>20,944</u>	<u>57,500</u>

This brief statement shows conclusively that strong drink is the prominent and principal cause of crime.

Your agent during the last three years of his labors, in all his perambulations of the criminal courts and prisons in the city of

New-York, and the adjoining city of Brooklyn, has met with but few persons who avowed themselves abstainers from strong drink, and but three who were members of a temperance organization, up to the time of their arrest.

2d. Places of dissipation, called places of amusements, dance houses, low theatres, balls, wakes and raffles, &c.

3d. Gambling houses, appropriately designated hells, cards, dice, ten-pin alleys, lottery, policy offices, &c.

4th. Houses of ill-fame, brothels, fortune tellers.

5th. Poverty, ignorance, want of trades, want of employment, want of home, orphanage, &c.

6th. Reading light and pernicious books.

7th. Extravagance, false show, fast horses, as when the expenditure is beyond the income, whether in high or low life.

8th. Want of domestic and social fire-side enjoyments, and of cementing oneness between husbands and wives.

9th. Late hours, lax business habits, close shaving in commerce, near approximation to the false balance deception, and misrepresentation.

10th. The great wants of moral culture and training. To this cause especially may be traced a large proportion of crime.

Appended hereto are a number of cases selected from the diary of your agent on detentions not because of any extra interest they possess beyond hundreds of others on the record, but to show the character of our work and the object of our anxious solicitude.

No. 1.—A young German woman, applied for advice, she had been engaged as a clerk in a liquor store in Centre-street, she was a stranger, without money and helpless when she engaged in the service.

After being there about two weeks propositions of a revolting character were made to her and insisted upon. She indignantly refused, then demanded her trunks and wages which were denied to her. She instantly left the place and applied to the

Police Causes

magistrate of the district for redress; he informed and advised her, that it would be best to apply to a civil court, but having no money she could not bring a suit. She was then advised to call upon the Association.

The agent after hearing the case, being satisfied of the truth of her statement, went in company with an officer to her employer and demanded of him the property and wages of this poor girl; after some difficulty he acknowledged the justice of her claim, delivered to her her trunk, and paid to her the money due. Subsequently the following letter was received from her :

(Copy.)

To the Prison Association :

Gentlemen,—I wish to acknowledge my best thanks for the kindness shown to me, a poor friendless wretched young woman, who was induced in an evil hour, to enter a liquor store, and which proved to be a very bad house, as help; and when after staying two weeks, my trunks and clothes were taken from me, and but for your interposition I never could have recovered them. Accept my best thanks. the thanks of a person, near the brink of ruin, yet not so fallen, as to be undmindful of the grief from which you rescued me, for I shudder when I think of the condition into which I was hastening but for your friendly interposition; for restoring my property and assisting me to retrace my steps, and procuring me a better situation you will have your reward.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours gratefully,

No. 2.—Was charged with petit larceny, he frankly confessed his fault; a passion for fine clothes, and to make a showy appearance led him to this dishonest act; he regretted coming to this city and how he felt he had degraded himself and brought disgrace on his family, he solemnly promised if the court could be influenced to show him mercy, he would never be guilty of another criminal act. His health was in a very delicate condition, at request of agent he was sent to the penitentiary hospital for one month, when he came out, a situation was provided for him, where he is doing well.

No. 3.—Had been sentenced to pay a fine of \$25, on conviction of assault and battery.

After being in prison upwards of four months, and utterly unable to pay said fine, a petition was prepared by the Association, and presented to the court of common pleas in his behalf. This fine was immediately remitted and the man discharged. He expressed himself as being very thankful, promising to restrain his passions in the future.

No. 4.—Was found in one of our city prisons, confined on a temporary commitment. He had been here during five weeks, and in a state of great wretchedness from a want of clean linen, &c., &c.

The committing magistrate was seen, and the man was discharged, he expressed his regret at the omission.

No. 5.—A boy aged 12 years was brought before the court, agent reminded the judge, though young in years, he was an old offender, a noted little pick-pocket. He was then committed to the Refuge

No. 6.—Was charged with petit-larceny, agent had seen him in prison, and was impressed in his favor.

A diligent examination into the complaint justified these conclusions, his character up to this time was blameless.

The complainant admitted he had been mistaken. The man was discharged, he has often called since and heartily thanked us.

No. 7.—Was convicted of stealing a piece of pork, valued at eighty cents. He was sentenced by the court to the Penitentiary for one month.

Before the adjournment of the court the agent ascertained his previous character had been good, and that want had compelled him to commit the petty theft, he had been out of employ the last nine weeks.

These facts were submitted to the Recorder, and he discharged him with a severe admonition.

No. 8.—Had been committed on charge of abandonment. Agent found him in prison with no means to give security for his wife's support, all he could do was to promise not to forsake, but to provide for her as he had previously done to the best of his ability. The wife was seen, a better state of mind produced; then the man's discharge was obtained, for which they expressed their mutual gratitude.

No. 9.—Was seen in prison on charge of abandonment, he had been in custody seven weeks, during that time he had had but one clean shirt.

His home was visited by agent, who felt justified in waiting on the committing magistrate, submitting these facts, that the man is a sober, industrious, honest fellow, his employers gave him an excellent character, but that his wife is an intemperate, abusive, dirty woman—and that they should change places. The discharge of this truly unfortunate man was immediately obtained.

No. 10.—Was sentenced by one of the police magistrates to the Island for 6 months on charge of vagrancy; his wife subsequently called at the office of the Association to consult them; she said "two months since my husband left me with the view of receiving his week's wages; from that time up to yesterday I could hear nothing of him although I sought him in every likely place; I had concluded some accident had happened to him and that I should see him no more alive. Yesterday a man from Blackwells' Island came to see me, informing me that my husband is there; I hastened to see him and should be glad to have him home as he was a kind father and a good husband, but I have no money; I am told I cannot get his discharge under 10 dollars.

Agent saw his employers and others who knew him well, the result justified the Association in procuring his immediate release. The wife called to thank the friends for their timely interposition.

No. 11.—Had been confined in prison seventy-five days without trial on charges of mutiny at sea. The agent of the Asso-

ciation waited on the marshal and district attorney of the U. S. court, in behalf of this man. The papers were examined there being no witnesses retained against him he was discharged, for which the poor sailor danced with joy.

No. 12.—Was charged with stealing a ring, her mental distress seemed intolerable.

She informed agent that three months since she was engaged as help at \$4 per month, if she suited \$5 was to be her wages. After faithfully serving the family two months she requested the sum due to her, the lady expressed her inability to pay her just then. The girl knowing the former servant had not been paid, desired to leave, she did so, after a week's delay she called on the lady and respectfully claimed her wages, which could not be obtained. Under the advice of her sister the help commenced suit in a civil court for its recovery; the amount with cost was paid into court. Within 2 days after said payment a warrant was obtained by this lady against this poor girl on charge of stealing a ring whilst living with her. She was arrested and brought before a police court, where she declared the son, a young man 27 years old had given it to her. This artless story was believed by agent who lost no time in waiting on the justice asking him to serve a subpoena on the young man, this was done, he failing to appear the young woman was discharged.

But for the discrimination of this police magistrate she might have been consigned to prison, her character injured and her future made unutterably wretched.

No. 13.—Was committed to prison in default of bail for alleged disorderly conduct, he said a few angry words were exchanged between him and his boarding-house keeper, a police officer was desired to take him in charge; he was locked up without a chance of saying a word. Agent having ascertained him to be a man of sober, quiet habits, obtained his discharge.

No. 14 —Three small boys remanded from last court day, on charge of stealing a small quantity of coal were again brought up.

The Association informed the court enquiries had been made into their past history—this was evidently their first offence, their parents in court promised to look more carefully after them, they were then on recommendation of agent, discharged.

No. 15.—A fine small boy of 14 years was seen in prison by agent, to whom he said, Mr. B, I wish you would get me sent to the Refuge, for I am told after a year or two, the gentlemen there will send me on a farm, there I should be happy; I am not happy now; I never can be happy as a thief, I am now afraid of every officer I meet, I never was afraid until I began to steal; when asked how long have you been in this country, replied four months, two months I worked hard and honest, two months I have been dishonest.

Agent said, could you, would you, become a very good and honest boy, if I get you work on a farm, he wept and replied, oh yes sir, oh yes. His discharge was procured, and through the kindness of Rev. C. L. Brace, he was sent into the country on a farm, where we humbly trust he will do well.

No. 16.—Aged 9 years was convicted of stealing, he said he was guilty, a beggar boy told him to do it.

Agent visited the mother of this child, she is a widow in an advanced stage of consumption, with three helpless children—with great difficulty she reached the court where her boy was tried, when introduced, his honor, the recorder said let that child go home with its mother. Two or three friends present contributed trifles to this poor dying woman—her case was subsequently visited by the Poor Association, and other humane friends.

No. 17.—Was charged with stealing an empty barrel; when asked what induced you to steal it, he replied, "I came from Rahway to see my uncle but could not find him, my little money was gone, and how to get back I knew not. I thought if I took this barrel it might fetch money enough to enable me to get home, but I was arrested, I am very sorry that I did it, but what could I do;" his story was confirmed by his work book, these facts were submitted to the city judge.

Agent asked his discharge which was granted, and means furnished him to reach home.

No. 18.—Three small boys aged 12, 12 and 13 were charged with an older boy aged 18 with burglary, the latter was evidently the worst and most guilty, he was convicted and sentenced to the State Prison for two years.

Several letters from respectable citizens were addressed to the Association asking their interposition in behalf of these little creatures, some was exerted, and these boys were properly cared for and sent away.

No. 19.—Charged with petit larceny and remanded last court day, was again brought up. Agent informed the judge he had ascertained, up to the day of her arrest, she had lived above suspicion, her character was really good, that she is a widow with three small children; on suggestion of agent she was discharged. On the following day we introduced her to a shop of work where she is doing well.

No. 20.—Was convicted of stealing a trifling article. This young man admitted he had gone astray, the last few months frequenting engine houses, low theatres and keeping late hours, he had lost sight of an early religious education, in fact said he "I forgot everything good and practiced evil and that continually. If I can be saved from the penitentiary this time I will turn round and reform; I can do it and will do it" A gentleman was introduced to the court who promised to give him work away from the city could he be discharged.

The recorder suspended the judgment and he was discharged. Since doing well.

No. 21.—The parents of seven small boys called at the office of the Association asking advice and aid in their behalf; agent expressed his regret there was no law to punish them rather than their children, as they were by far more to blame.

The following week they were brought into court of general sessions; agent recommended four of them to be sent to the

refuge, two to the juvenile asylum they having intemperate parents, the other one was discharged, there being hope he would yet do well.

No. 22.—Was charged with obtaining goods on false pretences, he being very poor, and very penitent, he earnestly begged the aid and assistance of the Association.

The facts were, he had been out of employ for seven weeks, and was with his wife and small family reduced to great privations and in danger of being turned into the street. He became discouraged and sought comfort and solace in the free use of strong drink, and during four weeks he had gone down from comparative comfort and respectability with a terrible velocity into the abyss of intemperance. During this same period he had surreptitiously obtained several articles in the name of his former employers and disposed of them for rum. He now felt ashamed and penitent.

The complainants were seen and consulted, they much regretted having to appear against him, as they had known him for years and had always a high opinion of his integrity.

The district attorney was also conferred with, and the preceding facts submitted, with the assurance he had hitherto characterized the honest man; with his characteristic sound sense and humanity a plea of petit larceny was accepted and the recorder influenced by a judicious discrimination sentenced him to the penitentiary for 3 months only.

The Association rendered him and his family some temporary assistance on his discharge, he now abstains from strong drink, he is industriously at work and is now a wiser and a better man.

No. 23.—Several women were seen by agent, lounging about one of our police courts, he indirectly ascertained they were waiting for the justice, and to obtain warrants against their husbands. These women were severely spoken to and advised to return to their homes.

Under the influence of common sense reasoning, they retired, promising to give their husbands another trial, and as far as possible to make their respective dwellings, clean, attractive and happy.

No. 24.—Was convicted last court day of stealing a watch from a person who slept in the same room with him at a lodging house. Agent informed the court he could ascertain nothing concerning him, he being a stranger in this city, he was again brought up.

The complainant assured the judge his only object in coming again to the court was to get his watch, which he valued beyond all price, his father having given it to him on his death bed. At this moment agent perceived an involuntary restlessness about the prisoner, which induced him to believe he had stolen the watch, (although there did exist some doubt), he arose and begged the court to suspend the case for five minutes, this was done, agent then approached him saying, Charles give me the ticket of that watch—you took the watch, you have pledged it—you hear how much the complainant values it, give me the ticket, he replied, "Oh! how can I give it up, I am ashamed, I was starving at the time or I should not have done it," he then reluctantly placed it in the agent's hand, it was given to the owner, when he walked up to the judge, saying, "Your honor, I have been very fortunate in getting the ticket of my watch, it was pledged for a trifle and I can redeem it easily, and now let me say judge, I believe he was very much put to it for money, or he would not have taken it, judge forgive him."

Believing this to be his first offence, the Association besought the court to be lenient toward him. The judge regarded the case as a very hopeful one, and suspended the judgment and discharged him. He called at our office on his release from custody, he was hungry and we fed him, and afterwards accompanied him on board a steamboat, paid his passage to the home of his friend, where seven months after we learn he is at work, cheerful and happy.

No. 25.—Was charged with petit larceny, of late he had acquired irregular and bad habits, this was the first time he had

Watch restored

been suspected of dishonesty; he appeared to be very painfully exercised, and solemnly promised reformation could the court be induced to exercise mercy toward him; his widowed mother with his late employer, and the complainant earnestly entreated his discharge.

The Association also represented the case as commending itself to the favorable consideration of the judge, judgment was suspended and he was discharged.

No. 26.—Two young lads, about 17 and 18 years of age were charged with burglary in the third degree.

The mother of one was observed in prison weeping bitterly and in the deepest habiliments of mourning, her story to your agent was a sorrowful one. Her husband had been for many long months painfully afflicted, eventually he lost his reason, eight weeks since he was removed by death.

At this very time her elder son was very sick and within 10 days of the father's burial, the son died also. On this very day this son was in prison, (expecting soon to be tried) was arrested with his accomplice. The complainant was immediately seen, he had conversed with this worse than twice widowed mother, and deeply sympathised with her. The little property had been all restored and besides this one of the lads was his own nephew, and he too was fatherless; under these circumstances the assistant district attorney most willingly acceded to the request of the agent by accepting a plea of attempt at burglary.

A strong appeal was made to the city judge in behalf of these two young men, accompanied by a recommendation of the public prosecutor.

The judge exercised a sound discretion by severely admonishing them, at the same time intimating, but for the great interest evinced by many respectable persons, they would have been dealt very differently with. The distressing condition of the widowed mother of the one, and the desire of the complainant in relation to the other, with their solemn promises, on their part, to live a life of honest industry in time to come had disposed him to suspend judgment and to discharge them.

On the following morning one of these youths was shipped for sea.

The other called with his anxious mother at the office of the Association to thank them for being instrumental in saving him from the State prison, promising to avoid such dangers in time to come.

No. 27.—Had been sentenced to city prison for an alleged assault and battery, for one month with a fine of \$25.

He had served out the month and 45 days in addition thereto, and was altogether unable to pay any portion of the same.

A bill having passed the Legislature giving power to the recorder and city judges to remit a fine imposed by either court of sessions, an application was made to the judge in this case by the Association when the fine was remitted and the man discharged.

No. 28.—A decent looking man had been locked up on charge of intemperance. The agent expressed his regret that such a person should have acquired habits so destructive and degrading, he admitted for the last few months such had been the case, but now come what would, life or death, he promised to abstain. The family of this man were seen by agent, they expressed a desire now that he promised not to touch the first glass to procure his discharge. The committing magistrate was seen and his release obtained for which he expressed great thankfulness. He now and for 9 months since, has abstained from the use of intoxicating liquor.

No. 29.—Was arraigned for stealing an over coat, he was detected with the garment in his possession.

The judge asked him if he had a family, he replied I have a wife and five children.

Agent felt it his duty to inform the court that the prisoner is an old offender, he had been repeatedly convicted of similar tricks, and had been several times on the Island, he told the same story then of having five children, and which is a tissue of falsehood. He was then sent to the penitentiary for six months.

No. 30.—Was convicted of petit larceny, up to his arrest his character had been without a blemish. His parents were persons of high moral standing.

Agent asked the court to remand him that they might be introduced. The father waited on the judge who listened to the representations made, judgment was suspended and the young man was discharged.

Eight months subsequent to this event the father called at the office of the Association to say the son is now industriously pursuing an honest business—pained on account of the past, but thankful for the mercy shown him, and resolved to avoid the very appearance of evil.

No. 31.—On complaint of his wife was convicted of assault and battery. She told agent he is a good fellow when sober, but a devil when drunk. She had been advised by her friends to send him to the penitentiary for six months.

She was shown a better way, it was to sign the temperance pledge herself, and then to influence him to follow her example, to this she assented, instead of sending him up she begged the judge to discharge him. Some months passed when this couple called at our office, sober, thankful and happy, a bible and two other good and appropriate books were given them.

No. 32.—Was advised to consult the Prison Association. She stated that on the 27th of the month, she visited New-York, and was thrown into bad company, by a young woman with whom she had a slight acquaintance, and by whom she was urged to spend a few days at her boarding house. She went and soon discovered it was a bad house. Overtures were made to her, which were indignantly spurned; she determined to leave and return home to her family—but her clothes were detained for (as was said,) her board bill. She went to the police court, no assistance could be given her, as there was no law to reach the case, hence she was sent to us. Agent having his hands full introduced her by letter to the mayor.

At this time she was without hat, shawl, dress, shoe or stockings, with a pair of old rubbers upon her feet, and an apron over

her shoulders. Within two or three hours she returned to our office in full dress, saying an officer had been sent with her to this house of prostitution, this den of thieves amongst whom she had fallen, her clothes were restored to her for which she blessed the mayor and thanked the Association.

A trifle of money was advanced her, and a free passage to her home was procured.

No. 33.—Was convicted of grand larceny, it was proven that she had picked up a pocket book containing \$4, and had refused to deliver it up to its owner, and had also struck complainant as well as denied the charge. The recorder sentenced her to one month in the penitentiary. Her husband was also sent there for the same period, for obstructing the officer in the execution of his duty when conveying her to the station house.

On leaving the court, agent ascertained she had three small children alone and unprotected, this fact was communicated to the recorder who ordered her to be brought back; she said her husband had been long sick and unable to work, herself and family are in want, to pay her lawyer his fee of two dollars, she had been driven to pledge her blankets off her wretched bed. His honor discharged her.

No. 34.—A respectable looking woman was observed in court, evidently in great mental distress, the cause was soon ascertained. Her husband died three years since, leaving her with three small children, the eldest was that morning to be tried on petit larceny.

She stated up to this time he had never been suspected of one dishonest trick, he was regularly employed, and as invariably brought home his hard earned wages, which materially assisted her in supporting her family, paying her rent, &c., the last three or four Saturday nights he had frequented the Bowery and Chatham theatres, whether the performance, the late hours, or the association growing out of the practices had any influence in leading him to commit the wrong she could not say, but this she knew he had never done such an act before—when brought before the recorder, he was asked "why he had done it," said an

older boy who went with him to the play, told him that was the easiest way to get rich," he now saw it was wrong and wicked, and would never do it again. His honor said, well "I will try you," he was then discharged. A situation was obtained for this little fellow, where we hope he will conduct himself well. The widowed mother expressed her gratitude for the sympathy shown to her and her erring boy.

No. 32.—A decent widow woman had been advised to confer with the agent in relation to her daughter who had been arrested on her way from work to her boarding house, she was taken with many others before a police magistrate and without any opportunity to defend herself, or to send to her friends was committed to the Island for six months as a vagrant—enquiries were made into this case, the girl's employer, the mistress of the boarding-house where she stayed, and the physician a friend of the mother, were consulted.

The result influenced your agent to adopt appropriate means, and the discharge of the young woman was promptly obtained.

No. 36.—Was convicted of stealing a small quantity of oats valued at fifteen cents to give to a wearied and hungry horse, (not his own).

Agent ascertained this man had worked for a stevedore the last three years, and who spoke well of him. It being his first offence and one of diminutive character, agent recommended his discharge.

No. 37.—Was charged with grand larceny, he had been in prison nearly two months, he said to agent "on the evening of my arrest I was running to keep an appointment, when a boy cried out 'stop him,' 'stop him.' A police officer heard the cry, and seeing me run gave chase and took me into custody, I was brought before a police justice and temporarily committed, no one appeared against me, as no one could." The case was enquired into by agent, and there being no reasonable ground of detention his discharge was obtained.

No. 38.—A sober looking young man was found in prison on complaint of an officer, having a stone in his hand, intent on mischief.

The prisoner said that all the offence he had committed was heedlessly to throw a stone at a cat; he had been confined already ten days without examination, a punishment brutal and more savage than his own conduct had been.

Agent finding no other complaint against him obtained his discharge.

No. 39.—On complaint of his wife, had been locked up in the Tombs the last seven weeks on charge of abandonment.

After considerable difficulty the wife was found by agent, who endeavored to show her a better way to live in harmony with her husband than to have him confined in prison for so many weeks without a change in linen or any other comfort.

She appeared to wake up to the sense of wrong she had done him, and especially as he had not abandoned her, and that he was both sober and industrious.

This stupid woman had been led by bad advisers, they had persuaded her it was a mortal sin for her to live with her husband, he being a protestant—She accompanied agent to the proper authorities and obtained his discharge.

No. 40.—An interesting little girl 12 years, and under advice of agent pleaded guilty to a charge of petit larceny. He ascertained her parents are both dead, the mother very recently, she was now alone without friends or home. The recorder placed her in the hands of agent. A comfortable family undertook to provide for her, she was sent out under the care of the children's aid society.

No. 41.—Was convicted of petit larceny; agent discovered want of work, and consequent want of bread, had driven him "to steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;" he was discharged on recommendation of agent, who supplied his immediate wants, and then procured for him a berth on board a sloop, he soon after left the city.

No. 42.—Was indicted for grand larceny; agent had often conversed with him in prison, his sorrowful and artless story had interested the association strongly in his behalf.

Six months since he arrived in this country from Ireland, being very poor, he had worked his passage; as soon as the ship reached quarantine (Staten Island,) the health officer found him sick and ordered his removal to the hospital, where he remained four months; when convalescent he was discharged, without friends, money or home; for four days he was without food except what bits he picked up in the streets; he often asked for food, "but no man gave unto him," there remained no alternative but to starve or steal; passing a house where the servant was sweeping the door, in a paroxysm of wild despair he ran into the hall, took down an over coat and quickly departed; he went into a second hand clothing store and offered it for sale, whilst the purchaser was carefully examining the garments a hard substance was found to be in the pocket, and which proved to be two unfinished gold watch cases, taken home by the manufacturer to complete. At this moment, the servant girl, accompanied by a police officer entered the store, arrested the young man, and conducted him before a police magistrate by whom he was fully committed for trial.

The complainant being influenced by principles of humanity, and having ascertained the truthfulness of the foregoing statement, felt no desire to see him punished.

The district attorney under these circumstances accepted a plea of guilty of petit larceny, his wretched, ragged, desolate appearance excited the commiseration of all who saw him; he was remanded until the following Saturday; on that day he again appeared in court of general sessions, but his appearance was so changed and improved, he was scarcely recognized as the same person, the association having supplied him with a suit of clothes from head to foot, inside and outside.

With great urbanity the recorder listened to the application of agent, asking the leniency of the court. His Honor very feelingly addressed him, and then suspended the judgment and restored him to liberty.

One of the jurors arose and spontaneously offered him a place of work which was very gratefully accepted. The association

advanced him sufficient money to sustain him until Monday, when he commenced his new career with a light and thankful heart.

No. 43.—Plead guilty to receiving ten dollars, knowing it had been stolen. Agent assured the court he had carefully enquired into this young man's history; he had been in a very delicate state of health for some time, and unable to earn his daily bread, under this pressure he had yielded to temptation; he was never in prison before; he had evinced penitence for the past, beside these powerful considerations, in all human probability this young man will soon be numbered with the silent dead. His Honor, the recorder, in a very impressive manner admonished and advised him, then suspended the judgment and discharged him.

The association rendered him a little pecuniary aid, by which means he was enabled to go into the country.

No 44.—Plead guilty to an attempt at grand larceny, and was brought up for sentence. Agent reminded the court in this case nothing had been stolen, the youth was found in suspicious circumstances; he had hitherto sustained a good character for sobriety, honesty and industry, and was very kind and attentive to his widowed mother.

Since his arrest he had studiously avoided the society of men worse than himself, on every occasion he was seen by agent, he was in tears and always expressing a strong determination to avoid even the appearance of evil.

The judge regarded the case as one of very hopeful character, judgment was suspended and the young man was discharged; he has since walked circumspectly.

No. 45.—A colored man and his wife were arrested in August, 1854, on charge of burglary, in January, 1855, they were tried and convicted; subsequent developments satisfied the authorities that these parties were innocent of the charge; in the month of December following, agent waited on the judge before whom they were tried, to ascertain the cause of their protracted im-

prisonment, when he replied, "I feel some doubt of their guilt, in fact I am persuaded they were not guilty;" agent begged his honor to adopt such means as would secure their discharge, as it appeared cruel to keep innocent persons so long in prison. The judge said, "I thought a little imprisonment would do them good, as their characters were not the best;" an immediate discharge was obtained for them by pardon, for which they tendered their best thanks.

No. 46.—Was accused of taking out work from a manufacturer with intent to defraud him of the same. The prisoner said he had applied for the work not for himself, but for an acquaintance, and he had no doubt but it would be safely returned.

The Recorder proposed to remand him until next court day, and should the property not be returned then to send him to the penitentiary. The man having a very large family dependent on him for support, agent begged his Honor not to remand him, and to allow him to depart, to suspend the judgment for one week, and then should he fail to produce it to re-arrest and punish him; to this proposition the recorder acquiesced. On the Saturday following, the complainant, with the man and his wife, called at the office of the association, to say the material had been made up (by this man's friend,) and brought in, to his entire satisfaction; the woman thanked the agent for saving her babes from want, and her husband from disgrace and a prison.

No. 47.—A miserable looking man was brought into court of Special Sessions, he had been confined in prison for 10 weeks on charge of a felonious assault and battery; no witnesses could be found; no one appeared against him. The assistant district attorney requested his discharge; agent begged the court to send him back until the association supplied him with a clean shirt and a suit of clothes, which were sent on the following day.

No. 48.—Remanded from last court day, was again brought up; when agent stated he had made very diligent enquiries into his antecedents; up to this time his life had been above reproach, he appeared very penitent and promised never to make another attempt in this wrong direction.

His father had been sick the last eight years, his mother, has a terrible struggle to support him and her four children, she begged the judge to forgive him if he was guilty of an attempt which she could not believe; agent recommended his discharge which was granted.

No. 49.—Was charged with petit larceny, he acknowledged his guilt, but promised to steal no more, it was his first offence and a very trifling one. Three of his former employers were seen by agent, they each spoke well of him, one of them "full of soul" said, "he is not a bad fellow, please get him discharged and I will employ him right away." These facts were shown the court and he was discharged.

No. 50.—A sailor had been confined in prison during 14 weeks on charge of grand larceny. Agent waited on the district attorney of the U. S. Court, and earnestly begged that he be tried or discharged, as he was in a state of great wretchedness for want of clothes and linen.

The complaint was promptly investigated; there were no witnesses against him, he was therefore discharged.

These few instances will suffice to give a general idea of the character of our labors; hundreds of others might be adduced of equal interest and importance.

We have felt, during the last two years, often, very often, discouraged, and disquieted within us at the frightful number of our unfortunate fellow-men locked up in our city prisons on charges of crime. We have daily visited them, and as industriously labored to do them good.

The most hopeful cases were very carefully selected, especially those whom we regarded as innocent of the crime imputed to them. In such instances we never tire in collecting testimony, finding witnesses, and bringing them before the courts.

For those who for the first time are arrested, and by whom sincere penitence seems to be shown and promises of amendment made, these representations are, at the proper time, submitted.

Where the prisoner has been enticed in a moment of temptation—sinned as by accident—impelled by hunger, consequent on being out of employment; in fact, whenever we discern any circumstances of extenuation, these are honestly submitted to the proper authorities, and the unfortunate creature is more or less advantaged.

Special attention has been given to young persons, to whom our timely interposition has been of remarkable service. In multiplied instances we have restored such to their parents and friends, on the promise of exercising a more watchful care over them. Very many of these visit us at our office, to whom we lend a useful book, and encourage to walk in right paths. Others we have been enabled to send into the country; some, through the influence of private friends, and many by the Children's Aid Society, to whom we feel much indebted.

Much of our time has been devoted to men confined in prison on complaints of their wives for alleged assaults and abandonment. In most of these cases the faults were found to be pretty nicely balanced and reciprocated between them. In very many instances we have not only procured the discharge of the prisoner, but have happily succeeded in showing them a more excellent way of life.

The wife has been influenced to make home clean, comfortable and attractive, and the husband induced to become a man of peace, and sober, industrious habits. In this work we have rejoiced as such jarring elements have been harmonized, much distress to families prevented, and precious time that would have been sacrificed in prison devoted to pursuits of healthy employment and profit.

A very prominent feature in our visits to the city prisons is especially to help those who may be penniless, friendless and alone, should their cases commend themselves to our sense of equity and right, and in no one instance to lend ourselves directly or indirectly to assist an old offender, as we hold it to be our duty to protect the community from a repetition of outrage and crime.

A retrospective view of the past should excite our grateful acknowledgment; under Divine Providence we have been instrumental in aiding many deserving persons, in drying up bitter tears, and healing hearts well nigh broken; the wanderer from right paths has happily been restored, and is now rejoicing in an upright consciousness.

There is no exaggeration in saying there can be no objects that demand more imperatively the study and attention of the legislator, or claim the devotion and sympathy of the philanthropist and christian, than those of this association. It seeks the diminution and prevention of *crime and the reform of the criminal*. It is true the agency employed has been feeble, and the efforts comparatively insignificant, but God in his providence has given efficiency to their humble exertions. We have not labored in vain, neither spent our strength for naught; the blessings of those who were ready to perish is our rich reward; we thank God and take courage.

Your agent feels it his important duty to recognize the efficient aid and help rendered him in the prosecution of his ardent and trying labors, by those connected with the administration of criminal law in New-York and Brooklyn.

The advice and assistance afforded him, especially by the district attorneys and their assistants, he most gratefully appreciates.

We repeat, with small means and a treasury exceedingly contracted, much good has already been done. The resources at hand, well husbanded, have alleviated great distresses. The hungry have been fed, the naked clothed, and the desolate heart made to rejoice. Much of our success we attribute to the law of love, the law of kindness; we have tried to win and constrain men to forsake their evil ways, and by evidences of disinterested sympathy and commiseration, without reward, gratuity, or recompense, our prayerful desires have been exceeded beyond our fondest anticipation.

Please accept my best thanks for every measure of assistance yourself and committee have rendered me; and with a solemn

purpose to work in this field of practical godliness, with constant fidelity and zeal,

I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,
ABRAHAM BEAL,
Agent of Detention Committee.

OFFICE OF PRISON ASSOCIATION, 15 CENTRE-ST., }
 New-York, January 23, 1857. }

To the Committee on Discharged Convicts:

RICHARD REED, Esq., Chairman: Dear Sir—In compliance with your rules and regulations, I respectfully present to you a brief statement and annual report, which will embrace the practical amount of work done in this department of the association, during the last two years, ending 31st December, 1856.

In all our efforts we have labored in conformity to one of the prominent articles of our constitution and charter which says:

Its objects shall be "the support and encouragement of reformed convicts after their discharge, by affording them the means of obtaining an honest livelihood, and sustaining them in their efforts to reform."

If there is one class of our unfortunate fellow-men that need our sympathy more than another, it is the prisoner just thrown once more upon the world from his cold and narrow cell.

The first that the public hear of a prisoner is, that he is accused of crime. All the material facts are collected—he is convicted; and then, instead of taxing our ingenuity to ascertain the most probable means likely to affect his better nature, our study is, how much punishment can we inflict upon him, rather (we repeat) than what can be done to enlighten and reclaim him. Little do we think of the various circumstances which have surrounded and led him into temptation. The law may be exceedingly arbitrary in his particular case. He is consigned to the penitentiary for months, or the State prison for years, where the facilities to acquire light and knowledge and a higher moral sense are but few and small. Although the condition of prisoners is very much improved and meliorated, and the discipline is of a more humane character than it was, still we are constrained

to make the humiliating acknowledgment, that whilst much is done to improve the condition of other unfortunates, comparatively little is attempted by appropriate moral appliances, to convert the transgressor of the law from the error of his ways; to restore him to himself, his family, his home, and to make him a good and useful member of society. We, however, confidently hope, in this our day of extraordinary progressive development, the approximation of a more propitious dispensation for the unfortunate inmates of our penal institutions.

When, instead of gloomy prisons, ball and chain, the yoke and destructive showerbath and instruments of pain, moral hospitals, under the direction and supervision of moral physicians, shall administer to their diseased patients moral medicines, which shall restore them to moral health. In the march of christian civilization and progress that day must dawn; then will the long predicted period be facilitated, when the wickedness of the wicked shall come to an end.

We avow ourselves the friend of the discharged convict; we have for many years felt deeply interested in his behalf. We fix our eye upon him when the law has had its full demands, when he is once more to be entrusted with his liberty and mingle again with his friends, and enter the busy walks of life; he looks forward to it with a throbbing heart, with hope not unmixed with fear; he counts the hours with sleepless excitement; his brain is fevered, his pulse beats high and loud; at length the morning comes, he leaves his narrow cell with earnest ejaculation, "oh God keep me from coming back," he doffs the prison livery and resumes a better dress, the door is thrown open, and he finds himself without its walls; what an interesting moment; he rapidly ascends the hill, his eye dilates on the magnificent scenery around, above and beyond him, his lungs expand, he breathes another atmosphere, one much more congenial to his nature, and as his steps quicken towards the depot, his capacious soul cries out, "I am free! I am free! I am free!" He possesses but limited means to travel beyond the distance of the place from which he was sentenced; he proceeds hither with railroad

[Senate, No. 145.]

This change of Convicts, his education in getting free.

velocity, it is the home of his childhood, the home of his friends, with enthusiastic anticipation of meeting there a hearty welcome. He seeks his wife—she had visited him occasionally the first two or three years of his imprisonment, but now to his horror he ascertains she is gone to parts unknown. His steps are instinctively led to the former habitation of his mother, from whom he hoped much, although he had heard nothing for a year; he finds her not, she is numbered with the dead; his fall and consequent punishment had brought her grey hairs in sorrow to the grave. The more distant branches of his family are scattered and away, and the apparently more respectable portion of his earlier associates know him not; he stands isolated and alone, sadly discouraged, his desolate heart is nigh breaking.

This is a momentous period in his history, one pregnant with serious consequences for weal or woe, affecting his best interests for the present and the future, and which often exerts an influence on his temporal, spiritual and eternal condition.

Now, at this very moment, he needs the aid of christian sympathy; let it be extended to him in kind looks, in kind words, in kind actions; follow the example of our common Lord, who conferred benefits on the body as the most efficient means to secure the confidence, affections and salvation of the soul. In such a case he may be sustained even in this hour of sore trial, and become once more happy and useful; but let this precious opportunity pass, and he who had sincerely purposed in his inmost soul to live as becomes a man, falls to rise no more. He is invariably driven into bad society, his old and more desperate associates, neglect and persecution, produce a reckless disregard of laws, human and divine, and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

There are few conditions more critical and embarrassing, helpless and forbidding than this of the discharged convict. The infamy of crime attaches to his name and follows his footsteps, and however strong the evidences of reformation he may exhibit in the present state of society, it cannot be expected that the confidence of the community will be at once extended to him.

A great gulf divides prison life from the life of our homes. More the pity, but the gulf exists, it is wide and deep, darkness and ruin are there, and therein have teeming thousands fallen to rise no more. In our experience we have daily and painful illustrations of its truth. Where is the mistress that will take as a help a servant; where is the tradesman, the merchant or manufacturer, who will take by the hand and employ one of our unfortunate fellow creatures just released from a prison. The very proposition to a large majority of our citizens excites ridicule and astonishment.

Hence it will be quickly perceived the path of the discharged prisoner is strewn with great danger, He leaves the prison with but \$4, allowed by the State, a sum altogether inadequate to sustain him until he finds employment, the difficulties of which we know much of.

Under such circumstances temporary relief is absolutely indispensable, both to him as well as to the security of life and property of the entire community.

The following cases, selected from our diary, are respectfully submitted as an exposition of the principles on which the association is based, and as an illustration of their practical development.

No. 1.—Was convicted of burglary in the 3rd degree, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for 2 years. He calls at the office on his discharge and says, "I worked hard in prison and suffered much for this the first crime I had committed, I am determined never to suffer for the second." He had left the prison a week and was now in this city, without money or home, he wished to return home to his friends in the country. The association procured him a ticket, lent him a dollar and saw him on his road.

No. 2.—Had been convicted of grand larceny and sentenced for 2 years to State prison. On his discharge he calls on the association and says, "Intemperance occasioned all my troubles and disgrace, that I may avoid stealing and doing other wrongs, I will drink no more intoxicating drink. I was once showered

for talking, and once for looking up from my work as some visitors were passing. I have no fault to find with my keeper or the prison officers." He was sustained until a situation was procured for him.

No. 3.—Had spent four months on Blackwell's Island, on charge of vagrancy: he said, "I was out of work and short of money, I applied at the station house for shelter during the night. On the following morning an officer conducted me before a police magistrate, where he in his wisdom sent me to prison. Pecuniary aid from the association enabled him to reach the country.

No. 4.—Had spent three years and six months in Sing Sing prison, on conviction of burglary in the 3rd degree. He served out the whole term and returns to this city "no better man;" he admits drink had produced all his disgrace and misery in the past. To-day he calls on the association under the influence of his *old enemy*; he was admonished, but his case is a very bad one, he having taken the most effectual step to return. A place of work was provided for him on a canal.

No. 5.—On conviction of petit larceny had been sentenced to the penitentiary for 6 months. He says he feels anxious to avoid a prison in future; he was driven by want (and it is an ugly customer) to steal, he means well now and hopes to be kept right. He was aided by the association until he obtained work.

No. 6.—Was charged with grand larceny. On his own confession he was convicted and sentenced to Sing Sing for 2 years. He says he had a decent situation in this city, where he conducted himself well until he was beset with a temptation he could not resist, it was sudden and powerful, he fell, he robbed his employer; the change from innocence to guilt was tremendous within a few minutes he fell in his own estimation and most sincerely regretted the step he had so wickedly taken; he did not abscond, the property was restored, it was his first offence; fondness for company and the social glass were the prolific source of his fall and degradation.

The association helped him with a little money, a place of work was obtained for him in the country, he abstains from li-

quor and is now prudent and economical; we have strong hopes he will walk circumspectly.

No. 7.—Had served out a sentence of 3 months in the penitentiary for stealing; he called at our office expressing his determination to be scrupulously honest in time to come. One of his former employers offered to give him work, he was sent there with suitable clothing by the association.

No. 8.—Was convicted of receiving stolen property, and sentenced to the penitentiary for six months. The facts were, a little girl, aged 12 years, had been addicted to purloin trifles from her parents; these were spent on candies, &c., at length she called on the same poor old woman of whom she had purchased those small notions, with a dollar bill, asking her to take care of it for her; she complied. Subsequently the bill was missing; inquiries were instituted, when this young girl acknowledged taking it, and placing it in the hands of this old lady. An officer was directed to arrest her on the charge. She solemnly protested that she knew nothing of the theft.

On her discharge she calls on the association and says, the punishment was unmerited and unjust. When arrested twelve shillings was taken from her, she applied for its return, and was told her lawyer had, on her order, received it. She says "what to do she knows not; could she obtain that sum she might begin her little business, and without it the work house must be her portion." Agent asked the lawyer to disgorge the amount; he acquiesced. The poor woman appeared to be very grateful, she is now keeping a stand with fruit and candies, doing well.

No. 9.—Has been out of employment since his discharge from custody, on suspicion of petit larceny. Agent sent him to a benevolent tradesman who employed him. Two dollars were lent him. After the lapse of a few days he calls to say a better situation had offered, and which he had accepted. He subsequently pays the association the money that had been advanced him, and with grateful thanks.

No. 10.—On his discharge from the penitentiary, calls at the office of the association to say he wants to reach —, where he

could procure employment and be saved from threatened ruin. This was regarded as a hopeful case, a coat, hat and money were given him, which enabled him to get home.

No. 11.—A German had been sentenced to Blackwell's island for a petit larceny. He admits his guilt and appears to be not only penitent but determined to mend his ways. Gave him a coat, pants, shirt, cap and a German Bible.

No. 12.—Calls on the association after being in the penitentiary a month on charge of petit larceny. Agent had written to his friends, who declined to give him shelter, as such a step might operate injuriously to them, and not at all advantageously to him. They begged every effort may be made to induce him to return to Germany; for this purpose funds were placed in the hands of a friend. To this proposition he replied, "I cannot go home, I have sinned, and it would come out, and then my mother's heart would break; my prospects are better here, bad as they are, than they could be there; I feel I am an altered young man, in the future I will be honest; oh Mr. B., you helped me when I was tried, pray try and help me now; do get me some humble place where I can earn a livelihood; I will never disgrace you, no never. He was sent into the country by the association, where, we are glad to know, he is doing well.

No. 13.—Served six months in the penitentiary on charge of assault and battery. He says, "I was to blame, but my punishment was too severe; my wife was unable to keep house, hence she was sent same day to alms house; we both left to-day, destitute and friendless." The association redeemed his tools, and lent him a little money; he immediately went to work, with good prospects for the future.

No. 14.—Was convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years; he served out the term and was discharged. At that time the association aided him with money, clothes and employment. He visits the office to-day and says, "Never shall I forget the kindness shown to me when I left the State prison in this association; my object in calling is to assure the gentlemen that from that time to the present, nearly three

years, I have done nothing wrong, and I feel a delight in walking honestly and uprightly."

No. 15.—Had spent two years in Sing Sing prison on charge of grand larceny. He calls at our office, begging the association to assist him with a few shirts and other necessary garments, as he hoped to get shipped for St. Juan to-morrow. At a later hour he again called, agent having ascertained the truth of his statement; he was supplied with the articles he most required. He appeared very thankful for the sympathy shown him, same time solemnly promising the first step in the wrong direction shall not be taken. Several good books, with Bible and Prayer book, were presented to him.

No. 16.—Was convicted of forgery in the 4th degree and sentenced to State prison for 2 years. On his discharge he called on the association, praying them to find him work, until this was accomplished his daily wants were supplied; a Bible and other appropriate good books were given him.

No. 17.—Had been convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to State prison for 3 years and 6 months. He says, I was a foolish fellow to do wrong and worse to keep bad company, it came home to me, my punishment was severe still I will not complain. I have no fault to find with the prison or the officers, I did not expect to meet with a palace there, neither did I dream of finding angels as keepers. Since New-Years we had a complete change of officers, I think them more humane whilst they hold a tight rein with a strong hand, they are not unkind. Still I prefer liberty to a prison, and to avoid it I will try what I never tried before, I will follow the example of better men than myself, and I will see what the Bible and the church will do. I am determined to turn completely round. This man is now, 16 months after his discharge, industriously pursuing an honest course, avoiding the very appearance of evil, respected and respectable.

No. 18.—Calls at the office when discharged from the penitentiary, where he had spent 6 months on charge of embezzlement. This case from the first was regarded as one of a hopeful,

character, he evinced pungent sorrow, having sinned against the clearest light, the result of an early religious training. He said "never can I forgive myself;" he expressed his sincere thanks to the association for the anxious care manifested towards him, at the same time he solemnly pledged himself under all circumstances to evidence his sincerity by the blamelessness of his future life.

He procured a situation away from New-York, where he is now occupying a position of respectability, anticipating the day when he will be enabled to make restitution for the wrong done. On leaving the city he said, "I bless God there is such an institution as the New-York Prison Association."

No. 19.—Was convicted of grand larceny on his own confession and sentenced to Sing Sing for 2 years. He says, "I did not deserve to be punished at all. I was charged with stealing a watch, it is all gone by, but this is the truth; the prosecutor and myself were drinking together at an hotel down town, he became quarrelsome and wanted to fight, he pulled off his coat, vest and watch, I took up the watch and left the place; returning to the boarding house where we both slept in the one room, I went to bed leaving the watch on the table. Soon after the owner returned, with an officer and the hotel keeper, I was arrested; when brought before the court for trial, I had no lawyer and no one to advise with. When asked, "are you guilty or not guilty?" I replied, "I took the watch but not to steal it." I was not permitted to say more, it was cruel to send me to prison as my only object was to protect the watch for him." Still I think my punishment has worked together for my good. I had acquired habits of intemperance which might have destroyed my body and soul. I hope and believe it will be seen in my future life, that the hand of God had to do with the whole affair. I felt encouraged to call on the association and to say, please take me by the hand, do get me work, and I will try hard to serve God and man.

This poor fellow has had a hard time of it since his discharge, but he abstains from strong drink, is watchful, prayerful, and industrious, hence we have strong confidence in his permanent

reformation. Every thing was done for him that we could do, clothes, money, &c., books were given him. This case is one of very encouraging character.

No. 20.—Was convicted of forgery in the 4th degree and sentenced to State prison for 2 years. The following facts were shown. A female friend about to leave that section of the country had presented him with her likeness, requesting his in return. For this purpose with but a dollar in his pocket he called on the artist requesting his picture to be taken. When completed, the charge was \$3, he expressed great surprise and regret at not having sufficient cash, he left the dollar, promising to return and fetch the likeness; he failed in his attempt to get the money, but returned pledging himself to pay the balance in two weeks, and offering to leave with the Daguerreotypist a note of hand for \$20 as a collateral security. This proposition was acceded to, the alleged maker of the note being known to the artist. On the following day said note was discovered to be a forgery. He was arrested, tried and sentenced, and served out the entire sentence.

On his discharge he called on the association asking them to find him work; until this was accomplished his daily wants were supplied, suitable clothing, &c., were provided him. Within a week a situation was found him on a farm, he was much affected when he left the office saying, "I never expected to meet with such friends, in the prison association, or any other association, I never can repay you, I hope God Almighty will." Some months, subsequently, the following letter was received from him:

Gentlemen—I am much obliged to you for all the favors you have bestowed on me; the situation you procured for me in the country I like very well; I am to have \$100 for the next eight months; this is \$12.50 per month, and my board and washing. I went to church twice last Sunday; Sunday school I will begin very soon, I am striving to raise a class, I want to be useful. My bark is on the boisterous ocean, but I see a light a head, and it grows brighter the nearer I approach it. Oh, by the blessing of God, I will go right, I will walk straight, yes, and I will try

and do some good. I should like to explain to you how much better it is to live here in the country, at peace with one's self, hard at work, healthy and happy; it is joyful. I really pity the poor fellows in State prison. I hope it will never be known here that I was in Sing Sing for two years. Do rest satisfied I shall go right. I send you my best and sincere thanks.

Yours, gratefully,

No. 21.—Calls at the office from Blackwell's island; he says, "In a moment of sore trial and temptation I committed a trifling larceny, for which I was sent to State prison for three months; I now, after being discharged, feel both pained and ashamed, and devoutly hope never to be guilty of another dishonest act while I live." The association enabled him to reach a neighboring town, where he obtained employment.

No. 22.—Was convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years. He says, "I served out my sentence, was not punished by my keepers; when prisoners behave well, as a general thing they avoid such troubles. On the whole the discipline is very severe. The men are treated tolerably. The rules need to be pretty tight, as there are many bad lawless fellows who neither fear God nor man. It was the first time in my life that I was in prison, by the help of God it shall also be the last time. I was advised to make this, my first call; I want to get employment without delay; an idle life in days gone by produced all my troubles. I am a carpenter by trade, and a good one, but am without tools. My friends are in good circumstances in Europe, and they know nothing of my fall and disgrace; I should be glad to return if I had the means."

It was deemed advisable to facilitate his passage home, and which was accomplished.

No. 23.—Had been three months in the penitentiary on a petty charge. From an address delivered to the inmates in the chapel on the Sabbath he had felt encouraged to call on the association. He now feels in a better physical condition, the weather is favorable, he wants work, and has been accustomed to agriculture. At this moment a letter had been received requesting a

farm laborer to be sent on, we gave him a trifle, clothes, &c., and saw him off.

No. 24.—On charge of petit larceny had spent three months in the penitentiary; he admits his guilt, and hopes to be saved from a repetition of dishonest practices. His tools were held for a debt of three dollars; the person was willing to give them up provided a part of the claim was satisfied. His statement was found to be truthful; the association advanced him two dollars, which redeemed his tools, and enabled him to reach the country, where we trust he will characterise the honest man.

No. 25.—Calls and says he can get work no where; he was discharged from Sing Sing seven months since; he expressed his thanks for past favors. He had been employed all the winter, but now his difficulties increase and he begins to despair. Agent procured him a place on board a steamer as coal passer. The day before he sailed he was supplied with boots, &c. He left us encouraged and apparently thankful.

No. 26.—Convicted of petit larceny. On his discharge calls on the association, and says he hates himself on account of his past misconduct; he resolves to become a better man. He had received a line from his former boss, who promises to employ him (as before) in a brick yard. The association enabled him to reach said place. Saw him on board a steamer.

No. 27.—Was sentenced to Sing Sing for two years for stealing two chests of tea. He says to agent, "I was guilty; frequenting dance houses, gambling and drinking saloons, and low theatres did it; I know what ruined me then; I hope to avoid such places in the future. I was punished several times whilst there; my keeper was a severe man; I was once showered for not sweeping to please him, and twice for not performing my task. I hope to be kept from dishonesty all my life." Assistance was rendered him until laboring work was provided for him.

No. 28.—Was convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to State prison for three years and six months; he served out every day of the sentence; was showered twice. He says he hopes he

has learned a useful lesson, never to be forgotten. His mind had been much and seriously impressed by the ministrations of the chaplain, Rev. M. M. Wells.

"I have no fault to find with the law, or those who administered it, or the prison or officers; I did wrong, very wrong, and I deservedly suffered. I would rather die than go back to prison. Liberty is sweet. I was advised to call here and seek your advice."

Having friends who were willing to take him by the hand, it was deemed advisable to send him on to them. A ticket was obtained for him and a trifle of money advanced him; he left, grateful to the association.

No. 29.—Was convicted of burglary in the first degree and sentenced to Sing Sing for 21 years and 6 months. After being there 11 years and one month, his mother petitioned the Governor and he was pardoned. "The crime was not of a very bad character, no violence was committed, no property was taken, but I did wrong, very wrong, and I have been a thousand times sorry for it, before God I have repented and I hope I am forgiven. I was punished twice for trifling violations of the prison rules. I am glad to say the treatment of prisoners in the State prison is much more mild and humane than it used to be, I was not showered. I have been told that it is a very hurtful punishment. I don't want to try it. I judge of others by myself; cheerfully would I do anything for those who used me kindly, but as hard hearted and as obstinate as a devil should I become if beat, flogged, showered or kept half starved. Take my word for it, to make thieves honest, to make bad men good men, the best way is to treat them kindly."

"I am now out of prison blessed be God, (and thanks to the Governor,) and here I promise by His grace never to be found even in the way towards it again." A place on a ship as cook was provided for him. He was introduced by agent with his due bill to a respectable merchant; he left with a decent supply of clothes and a light and grateful heart. We hope and trust he will be kept in right paths.

No. 30.—Was convicted of receiving stolen property (knowing it to be such,) and was sentenced to Sing Sing for two years. He says "I was treated pretty well, I expected to find it a prison, it is nothing less, I have no cause of complaint. Since New Year, the food, in fact every thing is improved." This man had received intelligence of a small property bequeathed to him by his mother. A free passage by a distinguished mercantile house was given him to London, England. Provisions for the voyage were provided by the Commissioners of Emigration.

The association supplied him with clothes and books, and a trifle of money. He left with many thanks to those friends, whom Providence had so unexpectedly raised up for him, in an hour of need.

No. 31.—Calls on the association after his discharge from Sing Sing, where he had spent two years on charge of grand larceny. He says "I was guilty and was very properly punished, it has been a lesson to me I hope never to forget. To get my resolutions strengthened, I will go to church, and go right over there, on the right side. I will keep out of bad company and avoid the very appearance of evil."

"I have no fault to find with my keeper, the prison or its officers; it shall never be said No. 31 liked it so well, that he is gone back." This man is now, 9 months after his discharge doing well.

No. 32.—Calls on the association to thank them for the interest shown by them in his behalf when he was tried; he was sentenced to Sing Sing for two years, for an alleged felonious assault and battery. After being there 14 months his friends petitioned Gov. Seymour, for his pardon, the application was favorably regarded, and his sentence was commuted. He says, "I left the prison, to return (I pray) no more for ever." This young man appears to appreciate the blessings of liberty.

No. 33.—Was tried and convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to Sing Sing for two years. He says, "I was once showed for talking, my keeper kept me in nearly ten minutes, the

terrible fall of water produced exhaustion, as I was almost deprived of breath; under the former warden the keepers could and did punish as they pleased, but now the principal keeper, examines the complaint and awards the punishment and is present when inflicted. I was sick in hospital several months, the physician, Dr. Fisher, treated me kindly."

"I am resolved to be honest all my future life. My wife sustained herself and child by washing during my absence. I was welcomed home. I do feel thankful for a home. I promise to show my gratitude by an honest life." A situation was obtained for this man within two days. He often calls to see us, he appears well intentioned.

No. 34.—Was convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to State prison for two years. He says, "I was not punished by keeper, to avoid trouble, I made myself familiar with the rules, and conformed in every particular to them; still I suffered both in body and mind, and before God, from the bottom of my heart did I repent. I understand the scriptures now better than formerly, especially the passage, 'The way of transgressors is hard.' I feel that I am weaker than a 'bruised reed,' but I put my trust in God, to strengthen me, to keep my oft repeated vows. I promised never to be found in bad company, never to touch a drop of intoxicating drink. May I be enabled to watch and pray, lest I enter into temptation. I had a good wife and three dear children when I was arrested; she came twice to see me within the first six months of my incarceration, since which I have heard nothing of her. To-day I labored to find her, but my efforts were vain; one says she is dead, another that she is again married and gone west. What to do I know not, I am nearly beside myself, I shall starve without work, and I have no tools or but very few."

The association advanced him cash to buy such tools as he most required; he went to work, as he said unalterably determined to act well his part. A Bible and other books were freely given him.

No. 35.—Was sentenced on charge of forgery to State prison, Penn., for two years. He says, "It was my first offence; I was not an intemperate man, or one given to gross vices, but I was very far from being what a man ought to be; I never was influenced by a love of truth, or by principles of high morality. I hope and believe the discipline of the prison has worked in me a change for the better; I will now try and live to God."

He felt anxious to reach Massachusetts, the home of his fathers; the association enabled him to do so. The following letter was received from him on reaching his destination:

"Kind Sir—I am now at home, enjoying the fresh and reviving air of the Granite State, which fills soul, body and mind with feelings indescribable. How beautiful are the works of God upon the mountain top. The little birds sing praises to their creator, and why not man, whom God created in his own image. Alas, how much wickedness there is in the world; I see it now more than ever I did before; evidently man is a fallen creature. I would be glad to receive a letter from you; I have not forgotten your kindness, and will pay you as soon as I can.

"Respectfully yours, _____."

No. 36.—Was discharged from Sing Sing prison some months since, when he called and received a trifling pecuniary assistance at the office of the association. He now calls with the amount, heartily thanking them for their kindness to him on that trying occasion. This man was, previous to his arrest, sadly addicted to intemperance; he not only abstains from the use of those deadly drinks, but seems to avoid the very appearance of evil.

No. 37.—Calls on his way from the State prison, where he had spent the last two years on charge of grand larceny. He says: "I was guilty, and have repented doing this wrong. I felt encouraged to call on the association, hoping you will provide me employment where I may be enabled to earn honest bread." His request was complied with; means were placed at his disposal through which he reached the country. He is diligently pursuing an honest calling.

No. 38.—Had spent three months in the penitentiary for petit larceny. He says: "For the first time in my life I have been a prisoner; I humbly hope, and sincerely determine, this shall never be said of me again; I will get work, and if I only earn three dollars per week, I will live within my income. I am sincere; I say farewell to a lazy, lawless, rowdy life." He was supplied with needful clothing, then sent to a place of work a short distance in the country.

No. 39.—Had been sentenced for four years to Sing Sing on charge of petit larceny, it being his second offence. He says: "My punishment was too severe. My object in calling on the association is to get employment, and to ask the agent to see the late contractor, who owes me \$57.75 for over work, and if possible to collect it for me, as that sum would enable me to begin a small business." This unfortunate creature admits the use of liquor had produced all his trouble. He appears insensible to the danger of getting back to his old quarters. But little could be done for him, as he manifestly despised remonstrance and reproof.

No. 40 accompanied 39.—He had been an inmate in the same prison for five years and three months, on charge of burglary in second degree. He says: "I am in a most helpless condition; I left the prison two weeks since, and have had to sell my coat and hat already." In neither case would it have been practicable to assist them with money, except in very small sums, they being slaves to intemperance.

These two unfortunate creatures appear to be incapable of doing right. We helped them, and tried to save them, but every effort was fruitless, and precisely as was anticipated, within three months they were charged with petit larceny and committed to the penitentiary.

No. 41.—Was sentenced to the penitentiary for six months on charge of petit larceny. When discharged from prison he called at the office, asking advice and assistance; these were cheerfully given him, and he was urged to take a trip to sea. On the following morning he again entered the office with hope beaming

in his eye, and said, "I have almost got a place as cook on board a ship belonging to —, and she will sail to-morrow; the captain, after concluding I shall suit him, asked me where he could apply for my character; I was nearly choked, I had not time to think; in a moment I told him you knew me well; said he, I will go with you and see him, and he is now waiting below, and if you, kind sir, will only give me a character I shall be engaged." Your agent replied, "If I do as you request me, I must tell the truth, and it will be a bad one." He was painfully exercised, and wept many bitter tears, saying "then am I ruined, down, never to rise again; do pray try me this once, I do solemnly promise to be an honest young man." The agent was introduced to the captain, who said, "Sir, I want a cook, I think this chap will do me, provided he has a good name, do you know him? is he honest? I often have property belonging to others in my cabin, it is only right I should be particular; how long have you known him? Is he a chap I can depend upon? Is he honest?" The agent, seeing the captain was one of nature's noblemen, replied, "I have known him nearly 18 months, and hear me, this poor fellow has been very unfortunate, he was thrown into bad company, he was, in an evil hour, tempted, and fell under its power; he was detected, arrested, and punished, but he has evinced repentance, and solemnly promises to do better; give him a chance to reform." The captain involuntarily shuddered; after a considerable pause he looked the weeping young man in the eye, and said, "I am sorry to hear this of you, but it is a long lane that has no turn; will you, from to-day, be honest?" He was much affected, but as soon as he could articulate he emphatically answered, "Captain, I will." "Then," said he, holding out his willing hand, "come along with me and I will be your friend." This conduct was characteristic of the true sailor.

No. 42.—Had been an inmate three months in county jail. He says, "I had been sick, and incapable of labor; I was turned out of my boarding house, as I was in arrears. On leaving I left my old threadbare coat, and took one belonging to another boarder; I sold that for a dollar and bought one for 37½ cents; [Senate, No. 145.]

with the balance I purposed to buy bread and pay for a bed, but I was arrested. It was the first dishonest act of my life. This conduct was not the result of my innate depravity, but of sheer necessity." This story was believed to be trustful, and cautious inquiry justified this conclusion. A suit of clothes was given him; he really danced with joy; he was afterwards sent to his friends.

No 43.—Plead guilty to a charge of grand larceny; on his own confession, he was convicted and sentenced to State prison for two years. When discharged he calls on the association, amply humbled on account of the past; he says, "when I abstracted the amount from a trunk, but which was not stolen as I was detected, I was out of employment and had been for several weeks, and was much distressed because of my inability to pay my board. While idle I formed associations prejudicial to my character." When asked by agent is this your real name or one assumed, he replied, "it is not fictitious." Then your parents were professedly pious; you was brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord; he begged that no more questions on that point be asked him, he was assured these enquiries were prompted by an earnest and fervent desire to serve him, and that he could confide in the questioner as his friend. After a copious flow of tears, and considerable embarrassment, he replied, "my father was a minister of the gospel, he died before my fall and degradation, my mother, my dear and precious mother lived in —, when I saw her last, I am told, in fact, I know she resides there still." When asked, you have doubtless written to her within the last two years, said, "Oh no, I have not, how could I, Oh no, I dare not, it would have broken her heart, had she known I was an inmate of a State prison. It is a great alleviation to my mental suffering, that she knows nothing of my being charged with crime, and consequent punishment."

"I should not have called at this office but for the encouragement held out to poor penitent prisoners, inviting those who purpose to reform, to visit the association when discharged. I want employment and would cheerfully work at any thing to earn an honest livelihood." He was advised to visit his mother,

he wept and sobbed aloud, saying, Oh, no sir, I cannot, I dare not, meet my mother; he was importunately urged to go at once, without delay, and throw himself on her sympathies; after some deliberation and a very severe struggle within, he concluded to adopt the advice given him, to repair to his mother's home and to his mother's heart. He left the office with the firm resolve to abstain from the very appearance of evil, and to follow the example of his pious parents, and that finally, he with them may inherit a better life. Pecuniary assistance was rendered him; he was accompanied by your agent on board a steamer bound for the residence of his mother. He ineffectually attempted to express his grateful thanks to the association for the aid afforded him, and the interest manifested in his behalf. We confidently hope this unfortunate young man will be speedily and permanently restored to his family and the church.

No. 44.—Was tried and convicted of burglary in the 2d degree, and sentenced to Sing Sing for 5 years. He says, "I was twice punished for talking, once I was put into a dark cell, once I was showered, I believe this latter mode of punishment very injurious to the health; men have been so showered as to be incapable of walking away from it without help. The effects of this sudden fall of water, in a continuous stream, for even five minutes produces a crushing kind of effect; and almost suffocation, many a man has been rendered deaf, and some injured for life.

"My keeper the first three years of my convict life, was a severe man; the last two years we had a change; he was kind and humane, and for him every convict in the shop would do anything. The contractor was also very kind, we seldom had a wrong word and but few men were punished from that shop. I had poor health there. My cell, one of the lowest ones, was very damp, with a south west wind the wet would run down the walls, this I think to be one of the causes of rheumatism so prevalent there, leaving a warm work shop, and afterward being shut up in this damp cell. I came out in poor health. I was very unhappy there, on account of my family, I am more unhappy now; my wife was sober when I was charged with this

offence. She is intemperate now, all is dark, dark, dark, what shall I do. I come to you for advice, with bad health and worse in mind and spirits; what shall I do? I cannot bear up, I cannot live long, would it not be best for me to take a voyage to sea and never return."

This desolate and almost broken hearted creature, was encouraged to look up and hope. Every help within our reach was afforded him. As soon as employment was obtained, the cloud and the darkness gently passed away and his domestic difficulties diminished. We often see him, he is hard at work, and begins to feel more cheerful, and because there is a *brighter hope of peace at home.*

No. 45.—Was convicted (on his own confession) of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced for two years to Sing Sing. When discharged he called on the association and said, "I was guilty of this offence, drink and bad company led me to do wrong, it was really my first attempt, it may be a blessing I was detected, the prosecutor sustained no loss, this has been a comforting reflection. My object in coming here is to get employment. I do resolve to drink no more distilled or fermented liquors, and it is my fixed purpose to avoid persons of immoral and dishonest character." A situation was procured for this young man, he is doing well and not only getting an honest living, but he has begun to deposit money in the savings bank.

No. 46 and 47.—Were sentenced to Sing Sing for three years and three months, on charge of burglary in the third degree. They said, we were very young when convicted of this crime, 16 and 17 years, our parents died when we were in our infancy, the neighbours placed us both in the orphan asylum. At a very tender age we were apprenticed out to a cruel master. So inhuman was his conduct we could not remain, we ran away, having no friends, no home, no one to influence and instruct us, we went astray, forming evil associations, frequenting low theatres, staying out by night and running into ruin. Our career was a very short one, we were detected in committing crime and punished severely.

"I hope it will prove a warning to us, and that we shall never be confined again within the walls of a prison." With some difficulty places were found for these young men, they are diligently at work doing well.

No. 48.—Had been an inmate of Sing Sing prison for 2 years, on conviction of grand larceny, he was discharged in June, 1852, at that time pecuniary assistance and encouragement were given him. He visited the association in 1855, to say he feels thankful for past favors, and especially, that he now has a pleasing consciousness of doing right, and that he unalterably resolves to walk uprightly.

No. 49.—Was sentenced to State prison for five years on charge of burglary. He says, "I arrived from Germany but a few weeks previous to my arrest; my little money was soon gone, my boarding-house keeper became angrily impatient for the trifle I owed him; I was a stranger, I could get no work, neither could I speak one word of English, I was almost crazy; unless I paid my little debt for lodging I was to be turned into the street. I resolved to raise some money before I returned; my circumstances rendered me desperate. At this trying moment I passed the door of a respectable house; the door was open (although sworn to the contrary); I entered, determined to take the first thing I could lay my hand upon; there was nothing in the hall; I went into the parlor, picked up a pair of gold spectacles laying on a book, and ran hurriedly away. I returned to my boarding house, afraid of myself and all others; my landlord demanded his claim, and believing I had money but unwilling to part with it, he sent for his brother who was an officer; he insisted on my being searched; nothing was found upon me but these gold spectacles, which were taken by him as a security. On the following morning an advertisement appeared in the newspapers offering a reward for the stolen spectacles and conviction of the thief. I was tried and convicted, and served out every hour of my allotted term. This was my first offence, I earnestly pray it may be the last; by the help of God I will never steal again. A place in the country was procured for him.

No. 50.—Was convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to State prison for three years and six months; this was the second offence and second time of imprisonment. When asked by agent "What could have induced you to commit a second larceny, and how soon do you intend to return to Sing Sing?" He replied, "I hope never, the last six years has been the most miserable of my short life. My object in calling on the association is, through their influence, to get employment. I should not have done wrong the second time but nobody cared for me; when I came out I could get nothing to do. I well remember, before my discharge the first time, how I resolved to go right, and always to speak the truth, whatever might befall me. When I applied for work the first question was, 'where were you employed last?' I told them; in a moment they said, 'we want honest men, and not thieves;' I told them my soul's desire was to shun every evil way; no one believed me, all turned their backs upon me. I was discouraged, and after suffering much from want, I was reluctantly driven to steal; this is the truth; I can only say, if you only knew what I now feel you would believe, feel for and help me." A trifle of money was advanced him, a situation was soon provided for him, a considerable distance away, for which he expressed his grateful acknowledgments.

These few cases, selected from hundreds of such on our record, are merely to exhibit the class and character of those persons with whom we daily come in contact. Many discharged convicts from our State prisons, county jails and penitentiaries, most of whom are bankrupt in character, mind, body and estate, and all requiring advice, admonition and friendly solicitude, apply to us, hungry and almost naked, without friend or home. With small means we have done our best; the pressing wants of the most abject have been relieved, bread has been given to the starving, and such garments as were sent us by the kindness of friends were cheerfully bestowed. With an exhausted treasury we have necessarily exercised great caution, always alleviating the distress of the most worthy, of whose reformation we had

strong hope. The idle and apparently incorrigible, with the confirmed drunkard, have been sent empty away. As a fixed rule, we hold it to be impossible to help those who refuse to help themselves. The trifles in money advanced by the association are as loans, which have been repaid in many instances, with expressions of grateful thanks. The return of such sums often enables us to renew those obligations, which is a source of very great pleasure, and it becomes an important and vital question, to what extent this relief should be afforded by the municipal government of our city and the Legislature of the State.

The following figures, abstracted from the summary of the general operations of the association, appropriately belonging to the discharged convict department, show what has been accomplished by them during the last two years, ending the 31st day of December, 1856.

MONTHS.	1855.			1856.		
	Number of discharged persons relieved with money.	Number of discharged persons supplied with clothing more or less.	Number of discharged persons provided with situations and employment.	Number of discharged persons relieved with money.	Number of discharged persons provided with clothing more or less.	Number of discharged persons provided with situations and employment.
January,	40	13	11	32	15	9
February,	48	13	9	36	17	8
March,	42	15	7	24	11	9
April,	63	9	12	23	13	7
May,	47	11	19	17	9	11
June,	29	33	17	24	11	9
July,	29	16	14	29	8	7
August,	26	11	16	23	13	11
September,	23	7	9	27	8	13
October,	25	13	11	16	9	11
November,	35	15	17	17	13	9
December,	34	11	13	14	11	8
	439	147	155	282	138	112

In thus concluding the report of my labors, I have renewedly to thank God, and take courage for the future; and with many thanks to you, kind sir, and your committee, for the encouragement rendered me in the performance of my very trying and yet blessed duties,

I am, very respectfully, yours,

ABRAHAM BEAL.

1355-56

REPORT ON THE KINGS COUNTY JAIL.

Pursuant to a resolution of the executive committee of the New-York Prison Association, the undersigned visited the Kings county jail, on the 15th inst., and they beg leave to submit the following report as the result of their examination.

This jail is located in Raymond street, near Myrtle avenue, about one and a half miles east from the Fulton ferry landing. It stands upon dry, elevated ground, and is regarded as a very favorable locality for a prison. Perhaps a better position could not be selected for a city prison, so far as considerations of health and convenience are concerned; as, in the latter respect, it is not over ten or fifteen minutes walk from the courts of justice.

The jail is divided into two compartments or wings, north and south; the north wing being assigned to male prisoners, and the south wing to female prisoners. An open court of considerable size divides the two wings, and supplies ventilation and light for each. The Male Department was constructed as far back as the year 1839, and is altogether a fair specimen of those miserable and inconvenient prisons which have been brought down from an age, when no efforts appear to have been made for the alleviation of prison life. There are three tiers of cells constructed one above the other. Access is had to these cells through long halls, extending the entire length of the wing. The cells open into these halls, and the latter, we were pleased to observe, are kept in a cleanly condition. The cells occupy the inner or court side of the wing, and measure $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width, 11 feet in depth and 9 feet in height. They are supplied with tubs attached to iron waste pipes, in the usual manner, for the convenience of the prisoners; said pipes being washed by water supplied from a tank in the rear of the prison. The cells are lighted by means of small oblong windows, after

the old fashion, about 4 inches wide and 18 inches long. These windows communicate with the open court and serve the double purpose of admitting the light, and permitting the escape (when open) of the foul air generated in the cells. The doors of the cells are latticed at the bottom, and will admit fresh air through the corridors, whenever care is taken to open the windows in the outside wall of the jail. Your committee are of the opinion that this very necessary duty is too much neglected even at this season of the year.

In each cell door there is a small port-hole, through which conversation is held with the prisoners, and also affording a convenience for supplying the prisoners with articles of food, &c. Your committee entered a number of these cells and feel compelled to remark that we did not find them in good condition. The prisoners are required to clean their own cells; and it is obvious, that when the prisoners are of filthy habits, great circumspection is necessary on the part of the keeper to enforce the strictest rules of cleanliness and order. Under such conditions, the cells should be thoroughly renovated at least once every day. If this rule be not rigidly enforced, filth and vermin will necessarily accumulate. Common decency, to say nothing of sanitary and other considerations, should strongly recommend this suggestion to all who are entrusted with the care of county and State prisons. The filthy condition of the cells is unquestionably due, in some instances, to the degraded character of the occupants themselves; but nevertheless, your committee are of the opinion that the keepers are not sufficiently stringent in requiring the prisoners to perform their part of the duty. The male prisoners are not allowed the free use of the halls, as it is considered unsafe to grant them this privilege.

We now come to report upon the Female Department. This wing of the prison is of more recent construction, and is said to have been the product of the brain of one of the present supervisors. After a most careful examination of the structure, it appears very evident to your committee, that the designer or architect thereof, has no legitimate connection with the descendants of Jove. The female department is provided with three

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tiers of cells, in the same way as the male department; but the cells for females are arranged on the inside side of two long corridors or halls, which extend along the outer and inner courts of the prison. These halls have hinged windows, opening into their respective courts or prison yards. Through these windows light and fresh air is admitted to the cells; and as these essential elements of health and comfort are only admitted to the cells through their doors, they are necessarily dark and gloomy abodes for wretchedness and misery. Through the back wall of the cells are moderate-sized apertures, communicating with flues, for the purpose of properly ventilating the cells. These flues are supplied with "registers," controllable by the prisoners; but your committee judge that they are little skilled in the proper use of these registers, as in most of the cells we found the registers closed, and the air much vitiated in consequence. So far as regards ventilation, the cells in the female department are superior to those appropriated to prisoners of the opposite sex; but this advantage is more than counterbalanced by the miserable arrangement for lighting. There is no excuse whatever for this sad defect; as it would have been an easy matter, at the time of the construction of this part of the jail, to have opened a "well" between the cells whereby both light and air could have been more abundantly supplied. In consequence of the cheerless and melancholy aspect of these cells, it is necessary to open the cell doors during the day, allowing ingress to the halls; and thus the inmates, black and white, vagrant and criminal, are allowed to mingle freely together. The scene, altogether, presented a sad and disgusting picture of degraded humanity. Your committee feel obliged to condemn, in the strongest possible manner, this system of free intercourse among prisoners. Your committee do not conceive it possible, even under the most careful discipline, to carry forward a moral reformation among those who seem capable of being reached by kind, christian sympathy and instruction. If it be true that "one sinner destroyeth much good," (and human experience fully sustains the preacher's declaration on this point,) how true it must be that one or two of the vilest characters in a prison will readily destroy or seek to destroy, any good influence which

might be brought to bear on the more tractable portion of the prisoners.

Your committee do not think that sufficient care is exercised in the classification of prisoners. If it were absolutely necessary to crowd the cells with more prisoners than comfort and cleanliness can allow, there would be no occasion to find fault with the management of the jail in this respect. There are, however, a number of cells in both departments of the prison, which are at present unoccupied; yet, notwithstanding this fact, we found in one cell three adults, grovelling in filth and in the bad odor of tobacco smoke. In another cell we found four boys, about 14 years of age, one of whom was entirely destitute of a shirt, and had nothing to cover his nakedness excepting a pair of dirty pants and a ragged round jacket. In reply to an enquiry as to how he came to be there in that sad condition, he said that a boy who had left the cell only a few days before, had carried off his clothing. In another cell we found two boys about 16 years of age, in company with a man of about forty years, a fact which we did not fail to bring to the keeper's notice. We gave him to understand that the New-York Prison Association deprecated, in the strongest possible manner, this careless system of classification, as being injudicious and likely in most instances, to produce a bad effect upon the future life of those inexperienced in crime.

In explanation of the cause of this general defect in classification, it was remarked by one of the keepers that it was done in some instances, at the request of the prisoners themselves, and especially when prisoners are ill, requiring attention, the offices of nurses are supplied by fellow prisoners.

On this subject your committee would remark that the greatest precaution should be taken to prevent the confinement of prisoners who for the first time, perhaps, have been guilty of crime, along with those who have become hardened in iniquity. The practice of confining various prisoners in the same cell, without this proper discrimination, is not only unjust, but is wholly at variance with salutary prison discipline. Instances are numer-

ous where boys committed to the same cell with men old in crime, have been so instructed in the arts of wickedness, and have been so thoroughly imbued with a knowledge of criminal practices, as to become in all their future lives notorious for doing evil, and are thus generally found constant inmates of prisons; one crime following another with such rapidity that the offenders never appear to attain to perfect freedom from the rigorous punishments of the law.

In the female department there are a large number of unoccupied cells, yet, in spite of this, from two to three prisoners are allowed to occupy the same cell. It is obvious to your committee that there is a disposition, on the part of those who have the management of the jail, to confine the prisoners within the smallest possible compass, and thus avoid all apparently useless labor and trouble in taking care of them. For the want of proper light and ventilation, these cells present a very forbidding appearance, and must exert a seriously pernicious influence upon the physical and mental well-being of their occupants; in fact, we do not see how it is possible for these poor creatures, with all the other inconveniences of their prison life, to sleep with any degree of comfort within these narrow, closely confined, badly ventilated, and ill-lighted abodes.

In connection with this prison there are no hospital arrangements for the sick. In cases of sickness the prisoners remain in their cells, and there receive the attention of the physician. The annual salary of the physician is \$300, and he supplies all necessary medicines. We examined him at some length in regard to the health of the prisoners, and also with reference to their diet. To our inquiry on the first point he informed us that nearly all the prisoners, male and female, at the time of their entrance into the jail, were more or less afflicted with disease, brought about by excesses of various kinds. With respect to the diet, the prisoners, with few exceptions, complain of its meagreness. The physician, however, asserts that they have as much to eat as is proper for them. Your committee are inclined to accept the judgment of the physician on this point, and are of the opinion that if the prisoners do not have all they want, it

is no evidence that they do not have all they need. Without healthful exercise, plenty of fresh air, and out-door employment, it would be manifestly improper to suffer the prisoners to gorge themselves with all the food that their morbid appetites seem to demand.

The food for the prisoners is furnished by the sheriff, who receives 25 cents per diem for each prisoner, and it is understood that the emoluments of his office are principally derived from this source. The food consists of beef, bread, soup, mush and coffee.

The jail is warmed by means of a hot-water furnace, and such a degree of temperature is maintained as causes a comfortable warmth to pervade the whole building.

The conveniences for bathing are very limited, we saw but one tub devoted to that object, and were informed that the prisoners seldom use it.

We could not learn that any kind of punishment was inflicted upon refractory prisoners.

Your committee now come to the last and most important inquiry connected with their examination, viz: What means are employed for the moral reformation of the prisoners?

It is a matter to be deeply regretted by all who desire to witness the moral elevation of the oppressed and unfortunate in our community, that so little attention is paid by public officers to proper instrumentalities necessary to this result, and it is especially a most deplorable fact in the history of nearly all our prisons, that those who are entrusted with the care of the inmates do not show sufficient solicitude for the reformation of the criminals under their charge. Considerations of patriotism, morality and religion alike demand that a great change be made in this respect; it is obviously much needed in our State and county prisons, and we shall fail to discharge our whole duty as an association if we do not "cry aloud, and spare not," until we see that desirable change accomplished. The unfortunate persons incarcerated in jails are commonly regarded as aban-

doned wretches—common brutes—worthy of no other position than the one which they occupy. The usual opinion is, that because the law has pronounced its stern mandate upon them, therefore the avenues of mercy must all be closed against them. In the jail now under consideration only a few of the prisoners are furnished with the word of God. Few, if any, have any religious books, and there are no established ordinances for affording prisoners the privilege of religious instruction. Although, on every Sabbath, the jail is regularly visited by a neighboring minister, who labors, we believe, faithfully to promote the spiritual welfare of those who will listen to him, yet it cannot be asserted that there is any regular chaplain officially connected with the prison. The duty of inculcating moral precepts, as it is now performed, is wholly a labor of christian love. It is asserted by the officers of the jail that it is useless, as a general thing, to furnish Bibles and towels to the prisoners, as in most instances they destroy them, and the waste pipes of the cells have sometimes been completely clogged with leaves torn from Bibles and other books, and with towels. Now your committee do not wish to throw blame upon the keepers for the evil consequences that come from the acts of vicious prisoners, but they cannot resist the conviction that these evil results would be less frequent if, in the presentation of the Bible or any good, religious or moral book, to a prisoner, it should be accompanied with a few words of gentle warning and kind advice, the effect would be salutary in many cases. The springs of sympathy should be opened towards these offenders, and every means employed to awaken the latent impulses of good intentions in their souls. The officers and keepers of prisons should remember that the most degraded human characters placed under their care have souls for which a Saviour shed his blood, and that the angels in heaven "rejoice with joy unspeakable" over every sinner that repents. If this religious element could be firmly and unalterably established in the prisons of our State and country, the vast amount of crime now committed would, we believe, be greatly diminished, and society would reap a corresponding amount of benefit.

In closing this report, your committee beg permission to return their thanks to the officers of the prison for their courtesies. Every facility was afforded by them to enable your committee to make a thorough examination of every department of the prison, and no disposition was shown to cover any of the evils which exist in the general construction and management of the prison.

SALEM H. WALES,
STEPHEN CUTLER,
Committee.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 23, 1857.

1855-56

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF EXAMINATION OF ONONDAGA, ONEIDA, SCHENECTADY, RENSSELAER AND SARATOGA COUNTY PRISONS, BY JAMES H. TITUS, MARCH 24TH, 1856.

The undersigned, a committee appointed by a resolution of your board,

REPORTS:

That under the authority of, on an order made by ———, one of the judges of the supreme court, he visited during the month of November last, the prisons of Onondaga, Oneida, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties, inspected the same, and left with the keepers of each, a copy of your printed form of inquiries on the appropriate subjects of examination, with the request that answers should be carefully stated in the blanks. No response has been made to such requests by any of the keepers, excepting by P. H. McOmber, of the Saratoga county prison.

Onondaga. *Titus*

The prison of this county is situated in the city of Syracuse, on a commanding site, built of brick and stone, and when completed agreeably with the original plan, will be a commodious and suitably arranged prison. The cells are in a wing of the main building and constructed in a block of tiers with proper corridors and stairways, and having halls on three sides of the block, through which light and air are supplied to the cells from the windows in the side walls of the wing, no special arrangement for ventilation or for lights to the cells. The general appearance of the cells indicated a fair degree of attention on the part of the keeper, which is more than can be properly said of the main building and its apartments, there was noticed evi-

dence of a lack of order and neatness. The apartment designed for a chapel is well arranged for the purpose; your committee expected to find it, at the time of the visit, occupied as a lumber room. Religious services are not provided by the authorities and very seldom volunteered by others.

The original plan for this prison contemplated the employment of the prisoners in a work house, for which purpose a building of moderate accommodation has been erected, but such employment has been mainly abandoned; at the time of the committee's visit most of the prisoners were at work, under charge of a deputy keeper, grading a public road. The site of the building is peculiarly eligible, the grounds spacious and capable of being made useful for the prison and ornamental to the city; much has already been done in the way of grading and improvements, probably all that could be expected from the limited appropriations made by the authorities. It is to be regretted that the citizens of the county and of the city of Syracuse, should have stopped short of the completion of the plans originally contemplated for this prison. The wealth of the county and city certainly could warrant the expense; and the varied, large and increasing population in the nature of things, must demand proper provisions for the confinement of offenders. At present the arrangements are deficient with any view to proper prison discipline; and the undersigned concluded, from what was seen and said, that the spirit of improvement and reform, which prevailed at the time when the original plans were made, has now mostly subsided; and that political strife, local jealousy, and puerousness have co-operated to produce this falling off from a good work.

The neglect of the keeper to return answers to the list of inquiries left with him, prevents a report from the undersigned, of any particulars relative to the statistics or police of this prison.

Oneida. *Good*

This county has two prisons; the one situated at Utica, was visited by your committee; the keeper was absent at the time in

attendance at court with some of the prisoners; the only person found in charge was his daughter, who unlocked the doors and afforded an opportunity of viewing the cells, which were found to be shameful alike in style of structure, in plan of arrangement and in condition of care; all which makes evident how little the citizens of the county and of Utica, regard either the safe keeping, the health, condition or the proper discipline of prisoners.

The undersigned called on the keeper at the court house and left with him your printed list of enquiries, relative to the statistics and police of the prison, with the request that he should insert answers in the blanks; a compliance was readily promised but has never been performed.

Schenectady. *Good*

The prison of this county is situated in the city of Schenectady. It consists of a few cells constructed in the rear part of the principal floor of the court house, where the prisoners, irrespective of age, crime or character are huddled together. No classification being made, except in regard to sex, and as many as possible are lodged in one cell to save trouble. The idea of fitness prevailing in the mind of those who constructed this prison and now ruling its management, appears simply to be that prisoners should be detained safely at the smallest possible expense. It is not intended by this remark to make any reflection on the humanity of the keeper or of the public authorities, so far as the case in providing the necessities of life is concerned; but it is designed to say distinctly there exists an appearance of total ignorance if not disregard of proper prison discipline, and an entire absence of any interest in promoting ameliorating efforts in behalf of prisoners.

Rensselaer.

The prison of this county is situated in the city of Troy; a dilapidated and shabby building, and in every respect unsuitable for its purposes. The cells and rooms are in the upper stories and appear to have been constructed more with reference to an economical sub-division of the space, than with any view

to fitness for a prison. Here, as in the Oneida and Schenectady jails, the prisoners were found mixed and crowded together, irrespective of any classification beyond that of sex. In one room were seen several females without a single article of bedding or furniture, all prostrate on the naked floor; and the small hall communicating with the cells was found crowded with a motley assembly of vicious and depraved looking men.

A copy of your printed list of inquiries relative to statistics and police was left with the keeper, who promised to insert in the blanks appropriate answers, and to forward the same in time for this report, which promise not having been performed, the undersigned is unable to give any particulars relative to the prison, but feels himself warranted in expressing the opinion that the citizens of the county and of Troy, have fallen much short of their duty in provisions for the proper care and detention of offenders, and show themselves to be quite negligent of all considerations appertaining to prison discipline.

Saratoga.

The prison of this county constitutes the north part of its court house, which is situated on elevated ground in the village of Ballston. It is a peculiar satisfaction to the undersigned to be able to speak of this jail in much more favorable terms than of any visited this season, or of most of those visited on former occasions; in fact this jail, and the careful attention of its keeper, are worthy of high commendation. There was manifest throughout the building such evidence of neatness, order and discipline, as to satisfy your committee that the keeper (P. H. McOmber, then deputy, now high sheriff,) performed his duties with conscientiousness as well as with great intelligence and efficiency. The building in the main is a good one, much more creditable to the citizens of the county than are most of the county jails; still the undersigned could readily perceive that it was deficient in such accommodations and arrangements as are necessary to meet the requirements of proper prison discipline.

Mr. McOmber is the only keeper of the jails visited who has performed the promises made to furnish answers to the list of

inquiries left with them. He reports with reference to his jail as follows:

Number in prison during the year: white males, 257; colored, 10; white females, 12; colored, 4; total, 283; average number, 18; no employment. Amount of annual expense of prison, \$3,000; of repairs, \$50; of clothing, \$25; of medicine and attendance, \$40; of bedding, \$200; of fuel, \$250. No extraordinary repairs, no new erections, no tobacco furnished, no salaries for guards, no pardons, no deaths, none diseased except three insane. Number of cells, 10; dimensions of cells about 12 by 15, and are of comfortable temperature in winter and summer; dry and heated by stoves; at all times free of vermin; each supplied with a night tub, being the only means used to meet the calls of nature; the cells are well lighted and ventilated by windows, and each supplied with a Bible. The limited number of cells prevents separate confinement of the prisoners at all times. Punishment: confinement in a dungeon and bread and water diet, imposed only by the keeper, which usually has a beneficial effect; no corporal punishment ever inflicted.

Diet of the prison: for breakfast, beef, pork, potatoes, rye bread and crust coffee; for dinner, bean or beef soup, mush or bread and milk, such food being always of plain but wholesome quality, varied according to the seasons, served twice a day in the cells, with an abundant supply of good water.

Conveniences for washing allowed in the cells morning and evening; the bedding changed every week; no special arrangement relative to shaving or cutting the hair of the prisoners, but they are allowed their own will in the matter; no suitable convenience for bathing; clothing changed every week; is sufficient in quantity; not peculiar in fashion or color, and no special change for Sundays.

No classification except what the law makes necessary; strict silence not enforced; friends of the prisoners allowed to visit them at any time, the keeper being present; no charge for admission; opportunities for moral and religious instruction not good; no provision for a chaplain; the prisoners are allowed to

send and receive letters which have been first read by the keeper; average length of confinement, 60 days; of sentence, 30 days; no money given to prisoners on their discharge.

Drunkenness is the principal cause of the offences for which commitments are made.

In the visits and examinations of those prisons, with the exception of that of Saratoga county, the undersigned has found no opportunity to alter the disparaging estimate which he has heretofore expressed relative to the affairs and general condition of our county prisons, and he ventures to express it, as his conviction, that the cause of the great defects existing in our prison accommodations and discipline rest more with the citizens themselves than with the individuals in charge. Our citizens allow the offices attached to prisons to be held up as political prizes to stimulate partizan strife, and withhold any proper measure of sympathy or co-operation in efforts for reformation and improvement. On this head the undersigned will reiterate in substance what he has said in some former reports to the association.

There is much evil appertaining to the administration of our State and county prisons, resulting from the action of political parties. This remark is made with no special reference to those individuals at present in charge, but is intended to apply to the established usage of making the appointment and tenure of official positions in our prisons dependent upon the success or defeat of a political party.

No greater impediment to the improvement and efficiency of the police of prisons can occur—no more unfavorable influence towards the profitable employment and desired reformation of prisoners can prevail, than the frequent change of the administrative power. The advantageous management of prisons, and the judicious control of convicts, require that judgment and skill which can only be acquired by practical experience, and when attained should constitute a distinct occupation or profession, and the qualifications of such character should be the standard by which an applicant for office in a prison should be

judged, and not, as now, by the certificate of services rendered in placing a political party in power.

Another great evil appertaining to the affairs of our prisons is, that the accommodations and appropriations provided for prisoners by the public authorities do not contemplate scarcely anything beyond the necessities of life and secure confinement. When this has been done jail keepers consider they have fully performed their duty, and thus it is that we find no effort for the reformation of prisoners, no attempts at the improvement of prison discipline, no provision for moral or religious instruction in the county jails.

There is a lamentable indifference and culpable neglect on the part of our citizens with reference to their duty in connection with the proper care and judicious management of prisoners. If this duty was rightly apprehended by the public, in connection with sound civil policy, or justly appreciated by individuals according to the dictates of humanity, or viewed by the christian community in the light of its religious responsibility, surely the old evils of our prison houses would be abolished, and the present delinquency of our citizens in that portion of their public duties would be amended. As the matter now stands, the undersigned regrets to say, as on former occasions, the prevailing opinion with our community as to the duty of society in prison affairs, seems simply to be, that offenders against the laws should be caught, condemned, imprisoned and punished at the smallest possible expense. The matter of improvement in prison discipline, as connected with judicious State policy, to say nothing of considerations applicable to pleas of humanity or the precepts of religion, does not appear to enter into the thoughts of our citizens. Surely this is far from being a commendable character for a community claiming credit for its christianity.

All which is respectfully submitted by your committee.

JAMES H. TITUS.

Public and District

AN ACT

To incorporate the Prison Association of New-York, passed May 9, 1846, by a two-third vote.

The People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. All such persons as now are and hereafter shall become members to the said Association, pursuant to the constitution thereof, shall and are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of "The Prison Association of New-York," and by that name have the powers that by the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes, are declared to belong to every corporation; and shall be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying any estate, real or personal, for the use of said corporation: *Provided*, That such real estate shall never exceed the yearly value of ten thousand dollars nor be applied to any purpose other than those for which this corporation is founded.

§ 2. The estate and concerns of said corporation shall be managed and conducted by its executive committee, in conformity to the constitution of the said corporation; and the following articles that now form the constitution of the Association shall continue to be the fundamental laws and constitution thereof subject to alteration in the mode therein prescribed.

ARTICLE I.

The objects of the Association shall be,

1. The amelioration of the condition of prisoners, whether detained for trial, or finally convicted, or as witnesses:
2. The improvement of prison discipline, and the government of prisons, whether for cities, or counties, or States:

3. The support and encouragement of reformed convicts after their discharge, by affording them the means of obtaining an honest livelihood, and sustaining them in their efforts at reform.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the society shall be, a president, four vice presidents, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, and a treasurer, and there shall be the following committees, viz: a finance committee, a committee on detentions, a committee on discipline, a committee on discharged convicts, and an executive committee.

ARTICLE III.

The officers named in the preceding article shall be ex-officio members of the executive committee, who shall choose one of their number to be chairman thereof.

ARTICLE IV.

The executive committee shall meet once in each month, and keep regular minutes of their proceedings. They shall have a general superintendence and direction of the affairs of the society, and shall annually report to the society all their proceedings, and such other matters as shall be likely to advance the ends of the Association.

ARTICLE V.

The society shall meet annually in the city of New-York, at such time and place as the executive committee shall appoint and at such other times as the president, or, in his absence, one of the vice-presidents, shall designate.

ARTICLE VI.

Any person contributing annually to the funds of the Association, shall, during such contribution, be a member thereof. A contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute a life patron, a contribution of one hundred dollars an honorary member of the executive committee for life; and a contribution of twenty-five dollars shall constitute a member of the Association for life. Honorary and corresponding members may from time to time be appointed by the executive committee.

ARTICLE VII.

A female department shall be formed, consisting of such females as shall be selected by the executive committee, who shall have charge of the interest and welfare of prisoners of their sex, under such regulations as the executive committee shall adopt.

ARTICLE VIII.

The officers of the Association shall be chosen annually at the annual meeting, at which time such persons may be elected honorary members as shall have rendered essential service to the cause of prison discipline.

ARTICLE IX.

Any society having the same objects in view may become auxiliary to this Association by contributing to its funds and co-operating with it.

ARTICLE X.

The executive committee shall have power to add to any of the standing committees such persons as, in their opinion, may be likely to promote the objects of the society; and shall have power to fill any vacancy which may occur in any of the offices of the Association, intermediate the annual meetings.

ARTICLE XI.

This constitution may be amended by a vote of the majority of the society, at any meeting thereof, provided notice of the amendment has been given at the next preceding meeting.

The officers elected for the current year under the constitution shall continue to be the officers thereof until others shall be duly chosen in their places.

And it is hereby further enacted, that no manager of said society shall receive any compensation for his services.

§ 3. The said executive committee shall have power to establish a work house in the county of New-York, and in their discretion to receive and take into the work house all such persons as shall be taken up and committed as vagrants or disorderly persons, in said city, as the court of general sessions, of the

peace, or the court of special sessions, or the court of oyer and terminer, in said county, or any police magistrate, or the commissioner of the alms house, may deem proper objects; and the said executive committee shall have the same powers to keep, detain, employ and govern the said persons, as are now by law conferred on the keepers of the bridewell or penitentiary in said city.

§ 4. The said executive committee may from time to time make by-laws, ordinances and regulations, relative to the management and disposition of the estate and concerns of said Association, and management, government, instruction, discipline, and employment of the persons so as aforesaid committed to the said work house, not contrary to law, as they may deem proper; and may appoint such officers, agents and servants, as they may deem necessary, to transact the business of the said Association, and may designate their duties. And the said executive committee shall make an annual report to the Legislature, and to the corporation of the city of New-York, of the number of persons received by them into said work house, the disposition which shall be made of them by instructing or employing them therein, the receipts and expenditures of said executive committee, and generally all such facts and particulars as may exhibit the operations of the said Association.

§ 5. The said executive committee shall have power, during the minority of any of the persons so committed to the said work house, to bind out the said persons, so being minors as aforesaid, as apprentices or servants, with their consent, during their minority, to such persons, and at such places, to learn such proper trades and employments, as in their judgment will be most conducive to their reformation and amendment, and future benefit and advantage of such persons.

§ 6. The said executive committee, by such committees as they shall from time to time appoint, shall have power, and it shall be their duty, to visit, inspect and examine, all the prisons in the State, and annually report to the Legislature, their state and condition, and all such other things in regard to them as may

enable the Legislature to perfect their government and discipline. And to enable them to execute the powers and perform the duties hereby granted and imposed, they shall possess all the powers and authority, that by the twenty-fourth section of title first, chapter third, part fourth of the Revised Statutes, are vested in the Inspectors of county prisons; and the duties of the keepers of each prison that they may examine, shall be the same in relation to them as in the section aforesaid are imposed on the keepers of such prisons in relation to the Inspectors thereof: *Provided*, That no such examination or inspection of any prison shall be made until an order for that purpose, to be granted by the Chancellor of this State, or one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, or by a Vice Chancellor or Circuit Judge, or by the first Judge of the county in which the prison to be examined shall be situated, shall first have been had and obtained, which order shall specify the name of the prison to be examined, the names of the persons, members of the said Association, by whom the examination is to be made, and the time within which the same must be concluded,

STATE OF NEW-YORK, }
In Senate, May 8th, 1846. }

This bill having been read the third time, two-thirds of all the members elected to the Senate voting in favor thereof,

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

By order of the Senate,

A. GARDINER, *President*.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, }
In Assembly, April 21th, 1846. }

This bill having been read the third time, and two-thirds of all the members elected to the Assembly voting in favor thereof,

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

By order of the Assembly,

WM. C. CRAIN, *Speaker*.

Approved this 9th day of May, 1846.

SILAS WRIGHT.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, }
Secretary's office. }

I have compared the preceding with an original law on file in this office, and do certify, that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed the seal of this office at the city of Albany, the fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

[L. S.]

ARCH'D CAMPBELL,
Dep. Sec. of State.

REVISED STATUTES, *Part IV, Chap. 3, Title 1.*

§ 24. It shall be the duty of the keepers of each of the said prisons to admit the said inspectors, or any one of them into every part of such prison; to exhibit to them, on demand, all the books, papers, documents and accounts pertaining to the prison, or to the persons confined therein; and to render them every other facility in their power, to enable them to discharge the duties above prescribed. And for the purpose of obtaining the necessary information, to enable them to make such report as is above required, the said inspectors shall have power to examine on oath, to be administered by either of the said inspectors, any of the officers of the said prisons, and to converse with any of the prisoners confined therein, without the presence of the keepers thereof or any of them.

B Y - L A W S .

I. There shall be a stated meeting of the executive committee on the fourth Monday of each month, and a special meeting shall be held at any time, on the requisition of either of the standing committees, or the chairman of the executive committee, or chairman of any standing committee.

II. At every meeting of the executive committee, stated or special, the attendance of five members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

III. The order of business at every stated meeting shall be as follows:

1. The reading and adoption of the minutes of the last preceding meeting.
2. Reports from the standing committees in the order in which they are named in the constitution of the Society.
3. Reports from female department.
4. Report from corresponding secretary.
5. Reports from special committees.
6. Motions and resolutions.

The business first in order at a special meeting shall be the subject for the consideration of which the meeting shall have been called; and no other subject shall be brought before the meeting, except with the consent of a majority of the members present.

IV. The chairman shall nominate and appoint all special committees, and no person nominated by him shall be excused, unless upon reasons, assigned by him, that shall be approved by the meeting; but a chairman pro tem. shall not have such power, unless authorized by the meeting.

V. The chairman shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal, and the rules of order shall be the same, so far as they are applicable, as those of the House of Assembly of the Legislature of New-York.

VI. It shall be the duty of the finance committee:

1. To receive and pay over to the treasurer of the society all moneys received, either as donations or for memberships.
2. To audit and direct the payment of all bills against the society in such manner and form as they shall direct, but no bill shall be paid by the treasurer unless approved by the committee and countersigned by the chairman thereof.
3. To invest and control the surplus moneys of the society, under the authority of the executive committee.
4. To have power, under the same authority, to employ one or more agents to obtain members and collect subscriptions to the society; and it shall be their duty to make a report, at each monthly meeting, of their proceedings and those of their agents.
5. To annually examine and report upon the treasurer's accounts, and to audit the same.

VII. The following shall be the duties of the committee on detention:

1. To inquire into the causes of commitment of all persons detained for trial, or as witnesses, in any of the prisons of the cities of New-York and Brooklyn, and to adopt proper measures for procuring the discharge of such as shall appear to be entitled thereto.
2. To visit frequently the prisons under their charge, and to endeavor to improve the condition of the prisoners, by training them to habits of cleanliness and exercise; by securing to them comfortable accommodations, having a regard to space, light and temperature; by procuring for them suitable employment; by providing them with books, or other means of mental occupation; by secur-

ing such a separation and classification as shall preserve the young, the innocent, and the less hardened, from the contaminating intercourse of the more depraved; and by obtaining for them honest and legal advice; and generally, by bringing all practical, moral, and religious influence to operate upon their minds.

VIII. It shall be the duty of the committee on discharged convicts,

1. Under the authority of the executive committee, to employ an agent for the relief and aid of discharged convicts, and for the performance of its daily routine of duties, whose place of business shall be at the general office of the Association.
2. To keep a record of all commitments to our State prisons, and New-York and Kings county prisons, of the crime of which each person was convicted, of the date of his commitment and discharge, and all other important information thereto appertaining.
3. To open a correspondence with the prison agents or superintendents, relative to the character and trades of prisoners, and to ascertain previous to the discharge of each prisoner, his feelings, views and capabilities, with a view to making the best arrangements for his future employment.
4. To keep a record of all persons who will employ discharged prisoners, and of their several occupations; to procure employment for prisoners applying therefor, as seems best adapted to the capacity of each; to hold a correspondence with employers; to keep a record of the behavior and prospects of those for whom places are obtained, that they may be sustained and encouraged with the idea that a continual friendly interest is felt for them.
5. To endeavor to procure suitable boarding places for the discharged prisoners, where they will not be exposed to corrupting influences, taking care not to have more than one in a place, when it can be avoided.

6. To see that the prisoners are provided with suitable clothing, of a kind that will not attract attention, and point them out as convicts.

IX. The general duty of the committee on prison discipline shall be the supervision of the internal organization and management of the prisons in which convicts are confined, embracing the moral and physical influences to be exerted on the prisoners during their confinement.

This duty shall be comprised under the following general heads:

Health.—Under which shall be included diet, dress, cleanliness, warming of prisons, ventilation, exercise, modes of employment, insanity, and medical treatment generally.

Reformation.—Including the classification of prisoners according to age, sex, physical condition, character and numbers; instruction, religious and ordinary; moral treatment, isolation and intercourse; rewards and punishments; the visitation of friends, and pardons.

Financial System.—Embracing convict labor, prison revenues and expenses.

Administration and Supervision.—Comprising the mode of appointing officers, their qualifications, duties, abuse of their powers, and the internal police regulations of prisons.

Comparison of Prison System and Reforms.—Including the collection of works and reports, correspondence with other societies, superintendence of prisons, and persons interested in prison discipline. The collection of statistics, and their publication under the order of the Association.

Visitation.—The visiting of State, county and city prisons, including houses of reformation of juvenile delinquents, at such periods and in such manner as the committee may from time to time determine.

Criminal laws.—Their character and influence on the commission of vice and crime.