

OFFICERS OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF
NEW YORK FOR 1859-60.

15th-16th
report.

PRESIDENT:
CYRUS CURTISS.

VICE PRESIDENTS:

JAMES H. TITUS, ISRAEL RUSSELL,
R. N. HAVENS, GEORGE HALL.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
JOHN STANTON GOULD.

TREASURER:
WM. C. GILMAN, JR., 18 Merchants' Exchange.

RECORDING SECRETARY:
JAS. C. HOLDEN.

The Executive Committee consists of the foregoing officers, *ex officio*, and the following committees:

CHAIRMAN: JOHN H. GRISCOM, M.D. *re the report*

FINANCE COMMITTEE:
WM. C. GILMAN, CLEAYTON NEWBOLD.
JOHN A. BRYAN,

COMMITTEE ON DETENTIONS:
FRANK W. BALLARD, SOLOMON JENNER,
SAM'L G. GOODRICH, 2D, H. P. MARSHALL,
HENRY A. OAKLEY, SAMUEL A. CHURCH.

COMMITTEE ON DISCHARGED CONVICTS:
STEPHEN CUTTER, JOHN A. PULLEN,
JOSEPH F. JOY, EDWARD RICHARDSON.
JOHN H. KEYSER,

COMMITTEE ON PRISON DISCIPLINE:
ADAM T. SACKETT, JOHN H. GRISCOM,
GABRIEL P. DISOSWAY, GEORGE E. BAKER,
CHAS. A. PEABODY, AUGUSTUS WIGGIN.

GENERAL AGENT:
ABRAHAM BEAL, 15 Centre street.

1859

REPORT.

To the Hon. the Legislature of the State of New York

The Prison Association of New York present their report for the year 1858 and 1859:

The objects for which the Association was formed, and the operations, are passed upon and set forth in the address passed May 9th, 1848, and in the by-laws. (See page 10.)

The Managers were authorized and empowered among other things to inspect all prisons throughout the State, and were to report to the Legislature as to their condition and to make with such recommendations in respect to improvement and discipline as might be deemed proper. In the exercise of this duty they have called the attention of the Legislature to many gross abuses, both in the State and county prisons, and have indicated the reforms most likely to secure the reformation of the convict and the prevention of crime. Their reports now embrace several large volumes.

The inspection of prisons has been conducted by the managers solely at their own expense; not a cent of the contributions to our treasury having ever been devoted to the payment or reimbursement of these expenses. All the funds which we have been able to raise have been appropriated to the relief and reformation of discharged convicts, and to the amelioration of the condition of detained prisoners.

In past years we have made reports to your honorable body concerning all the State prisons, and most of the county prisons in the State, which would have been continued by us but for circumstances fully detailed in our former reports to the Legislature.

We have, however, continued our visits to the prisons in New York and Kings counties, which are still in need of improvement as pointed out in our last report. We have nothing further to add respecting them.

It is to be deplored that in our State prisons there has been so little improvement in regard to the punishments which have been there practiced for many years, and which, in our judgment, are both contrary to the principles of justice and productive of no good to the

We present the following summary of our labors for the years 1859 and 1860:

	Number of persons visited in our city and in which circumstances of the poor and comparatively helpless.	Number of cases selected as hopeful, and in which circumstances of ex- tinction were apparent.	Number of complaints that need on visits, they being either in the most, instances the result of passion and prejudice.	Number of persons discharged from our penitentiary, they being young, inexperienced in crime, and penitent.	Number of discharged convicts, and others, relieved with money, by means they removed into the country.	Number of discharged persons supplied with clothing, more or less.	Number of discharged convicts and others, from our penitentiaries and county jails, provided with situations and employment.
1859.							
January . . .	450	123	44	33	37	13	8
February . . .	480	107	51	42	33	17	10
March	500	119	54	43	61	16	12
April	450	127	53	47	38	17	14
May	420	110	41	61	53	17	18
June	410	114	43	52	61	13	23
July	450	113	49	57	58	13	16
August	500	121	41	39	49	4	12
September . .	550	117	43	45	41	13	11
October	450	116	37	44	43	11	9
November . . .	500	109	41	39	51	9	13
December . . .	550	118	35	48	54	11	17
	5,740	1,394	552	551	579	164	163
1860.							
January . . .	500	119	46	53	54	17	13
February . . .	460	128	54	48	37	13	12
March	400	95	39	31	43	13	10
April	200	50	21	17	19	6	7
May	450	144	66	59	49	17	13
June	500	132	53	52	57	19	16
July	450	151	62	51	41	15	11
August	460	131	54	47	54	11	10
September . .	550	111	41	53	55	10	8
October	500	134	51	41	37	14	11
November . . .	550	119	44	47	61	16	14
December . . .	450	137	58	49	59	13	9
	5,470	1,451	589	553	608	164	134

Much as a rigid economy has enabled us to do, very much more could we have done, had our receipts been at all adequate to the calls upon us. More dollars would have enabled us to save more wretched men and women from despair and ruin. But we are happy to state that with the aid and through the prudence, patience and indefatigable labors of our agent, Abraham Beal, the association has managed to get through the past two years with its usefulness steadily increasing. We are now able to announce the association out of debt.

We also give, in the appendix, a number of new cases selected from Mr. Beal's diary, and several letters received by the chair-

are tortured into information. The law attain that end; and how can we expect to be employed whilst wardens, keepers and more with reference to their claims as pointed to their qualifications as teachers, moral reformers. No man should be appointed to govern a penitentiary who does not fear God, and has not a missionary spirit. A man of kindness, with a reasonable hope of reformation, indispensable necessary that from the punishment, down to the dumbest employee, all should be treated with a large degree of patience and perseverance, a forbearing demeanor, a cheerful and benevolent disposition, and a sympathetic nature. A Christian spirit, and a

The warden or general superintendent should possess these, a quick discrimination of character, a ready judgment upon little circumstances and turning them to the advantage of the institution, and such an un- mistakable sagacity and prudence, that he may be relied upon and felt by his subordinates and the prisoners, to be a good man, and as the ruling intelligence of the institution. We do believe that such faithful servants as we have here described can be obtained. God grant that our State authorities will open the door to the employment of such, and then will "the hearts of the disobedient be turned to the wisdom of the just."

During the year 1860, we issued a circular, to which we refer for full particulars of the nature and extent of our operations and the means employed. What we there set forth so fully embodies what we wish to say in this report that we give it a place in the appendix.

man of the executive committee, from judges, district attorneys and others, in relation to the efficiency and usefulness of the association, and the invaluable services rendered to the community by its agent.

Since the formation of the Prison Association, a beneficent Providence has called its members to mourn the loss of comparatively few of their active associates, but those few stood deservedly high in their personal characters as Christians and philanthropists, and especially were they deeply interested in the progress and operations of this association. Two of the three to whom we now particularly allude had passed more than three score years, and the other had exceeded three score and ten, and all were eminent among their fellow-citizens of every rank for their professional standing and for their good works.

John Duer, Benj. F. Butler and Richard Reed will long be remembered by their fellow-members as among the pioneers of the Prison Association, aiding, by their wise counsels and their material substance, and leaving on its records ample evidence of their industry and deep concern for its welfare.

The first lived to the age of 76, continuing unremittingly to toil in dispensing truth and justice among his fellow-men, till summoned to nobler scenes, on the 8th of August, 1858.

Exactly three months afterwards he was followed by his former colleague, Mr. Butler, at the age of 63, too well known in the political and judicial annals of his State and country, to need any eulogium at our hands. It sufficeth for us to record of him as ever alive to the purposes and labors of this association, regarding it as a most important adjunct in the administration of criminal justice, an opinion which his extensive engagements and intimate knowledge of the subject enabled him to pronounce authoritatively, and which he supported practically.

Though moving, humanly speaking, in a more humble sphere, it can be safely affirmed of our departed friend, Richard Reed, that no member of the association was ever more faithful to his voluntary duties, more sincerely interested in its labors and welfare, or more ready to give his time and services to individual cases. Rarely absent from a meeting during the many years of his connection with it, and never without an apology for the apparent neglect, he was always on the alert, with a genial and sympathizing heart, and elevated Christian conversation, to pour balm upon

the broken and contrite spirits whom he found in his many prison walks. He was taken from works to rewards on the 14th of January, 1860, at the ripe age of 68.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CYRUS CURTISS,
President of the Association.
JOHN H. GRISCOM,
Chairman Executive Committee.
JAMES C. HOLDEN,
Recording Secretary.

1859-60

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Prison Association of New York in account with its Treasurer.

Ca.	
By balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1859.....	\$14 28
Donations in 1859, as per list.....	1,994 75
Donations in 1860, as per list (to Jan. 5, 1861)....	1,849 15
Cash borrowed.....	113 10
Total	<u>\$3,971 28</u>

Dr.

To cash paid agent for balance due him on account of his disbursements in 1858.....	\$549 76
To cash paid agent's salary for 1859.....	1,000 00
To cash paid agent's salary for 1860.....	1,020 00
To cash paid on account rent of office, 15 Centre st.....	350 00
To cash, donations to discharged convicts, postage, fuel and office expenses.....	670 47
To cash paid for printing and advertising.....	52 27
To cash commissions on collections.....	328 78
Total	<u>\$3,971 28</u>

NEW YORK, Jan. 5, 1861.

E. E. WM. C. GILMAN, *Treasurer.*

NOTE.—At the date of the above account, the association owed for cash borrowed as stated..... \$113 10

For disbursements by agent, chiefly to discharged convicts	55 19
For rent.....	<u>133 33</u>

These obligations, and all current expenses have been paid in full, and the association is now free from debt.

No paid collectors have been employed since the present treasurer entered upon his duties in September, 1860.

NEW YORK, March 27, 1861.

CIRCULAR.

OFFICE OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION, No. 15 Centre street, }
NEW YORK, November, 1860. }

Dear Sir—No apology need be offered for calling your attention to a deserving object for the exercise of your benevolence; and notwithstanding the invitations to make charitable contributions are becoming so frequent and pressing, it will, nevertheless, be conceded that it is the duty of every good man to endeavor to do a little more. The Prison Association would, therefore, be open to censure did it not make known its objects, and present its claims. When it has done this, the responsibility rests on those to whom its appeals for aid are made, if it is not adequately sustained.

This association was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature, on the 9th of May, 1846. Its objects, as therein declared, are: "1st. The amelioration of the condition of prisoners, whether detained for trial, or fully convicted, or as witnesses. 2d. The improvement of prison discipline, and the government of prisons, whether for cities, or counties, or States; and, 3d. 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." Large powers were conferred for enabling the Managers to inspect prisons, and to report to the Legislature, on their condition and management, with such recommendations in respect to improvements in discipline, as might be deemed proper. These powers have been exercised in such a way that many salutary reforms have been effected by the Legislature on the recommendations contained in our annual reports, which now embrace several large volumes. It will be found, on consulting them, that the subject of crime, and the means of its prevention—of criminals, and the influences to be employed for their reformation—of prison discipline, and the improvements to be made therein, have all been fully discussed, and the arguments, *pro* and *con*, clearly set forth, together with ample statistics drawn from every attainable source, both in the United States and in foreign countries; so that, now, it may be confidently affirmed that what was once exceedingly

difficult and perplexing in this department of philanthropic science, has been made comparatively plain and easy of accomplishment.

So far as the improvement of prisons and of prison discipline is concerned, it only involves the personal exertions of the Managers, and no funds are needed. But with reference to the amelioration of the condition of prisoners and the reformation of discharged convicts, it is indispensable that money should be raised.

It cannot be justly charged against this association that it has been actuated in its efforts by a misplaced or morbid sympathy for the criminal, for it has resolutely adhered to the Scriptural proverb, that "The way of transgressors is hard," and has sternly acknowledged that this should be so; yet, while looking in this direction with a face of flint, it has steadily borne in mind the idea upon which all modern legislation has proceeded in respect to crimes, viz., that the great object should be to *prevent* their commission and *reform* the criminals, and not to deal with them in a spirit of vindictiveness.

To those who may not be familiar with our plans, and who, for that reason, may not be prepared to acknowledge the utility of such an organization, we desire to submit some of the most prominent evils which exist, and the remedies which have been and are still sought to be applied to their correction:

1. *Detentions of alleged criminals.*—It will be readily conceded that *some* are improperly charged; that *some*, while innocent, are in danger of being condemned by false or vindictive witnesses, through inadvertence, or for want of the aid of honest lawyers; that *some* are stripped of all they possess by "shysters," without receiving any beneficial services in return; and that *some*, by reason of circumstances difficult to be explained at the time of conviction, are made to suffer punishments which might be properly mitigated, if the matters in extenuation were reliably brought to the notice of the court, but which, owing to the fears, confusion, or friendless situation of the accused, cannot be furnished without timely aid, *volunteered on the spot*.

2. *Prison discipline.*—It is well known, that in *some* detention prisons at least (but it would be safe to say in nearly all of them), it is quite common to confine prisoners under accusation and before conviction, although innocent, in the same quarters, and under the same restraints, and in the same cells, with those justly

convicted; that witnesses are confined there for the want of bail, and are thus subjected to restraints and contaminating influences, which it is impossible, by any species of argument, to justify; that proper regard to cleanliness and the general sanitary condition of the inmates of the detention prisons is *often* omitted, and that the innocent, the guilty, and the witnesses, are, in *most cases*, alike subject to this neglect; and that in the prisons for the confinement of prisoners under sentence, there is no suitable classification of them; adepts in every species of infamous crimes, and hardened criminals, such as professional thieves, burglars and pickpockets, being confined and brought in close contact with first offenders, and convicts for minor offences, such as assaults and batteries, and other misdemeanors; and that, in *some cases*, cruel and unusual punishments are inflicted by drunken, ignorant, passionate, unprincipled, or brutal keepers.

3. *Discharged convicts.*—It will not be denied that *some* of this class would reform, if properly encouraged, especially those whose crimes may be traced to intemperate habits, want, suffering, prejudice, or passion; that, in *most cases*, this class come from the prisons, on the expiration of their terms of sentence, branded as infamous, and cut off from the confidence and sympathy of the community; and that, in *some cases*, even the most wicked and incorrigible criminals, when discharged, might be reclaimed.

We might extend this catalogue of evils, and illustrate their enormity by a variety of cases coming under our immediate observation, but the limits within which we feel it our duty to bring this appeal, will only allow the mention of the most glaring, and those which have been made familiar to the public, in our previous reports and through the press. The evils we have above enumerated are so confessedly notorious, that it would be difficult to find any one who would venture to deny their existence.

On a little reflection, it will not be difficult to understand that the discreet management of the detention and discharged cases, requires much skill, and occasions a great deal of trouble. There are but few men who have the patience, tact, industry, and, above all, the disposition, cheerfully and perseveringly, to undertake such labors. We are compelled to confess that there is no one in our Board of Managers who appears to be thus qualified, nor whose other engagements will permit him to perform these duties. If such men can be found, we will gladly welcome them to a place on the board. Owing to the peculiar nature of the efforts to be

Treatment of convicts

made, and the unremitting attention requisite to be bestowed in these cases, the employment of a general agent was necessary, and Mr. Abraham Beal, who has been so long connected with us in that relation, will still continue his self-sacrificing and arduous labors. It appears to be a duty which we owe, not to him (because he don't care for it), but to that portion of the public who may not know him, that we should say something of his qualifications to hold such a position. He is eminently, and in a very peculiar degree, fitted for the performance of the work in which we are engaged. His experiences have been so varied and extensive, and his integrity, Christian benevolence, efficiency, and reliability so perfect, that what was once difficult of performance by this association, has been, through him, rendered comparatively easy. He has the unreserved confidence of the courts, district attorneys and magistrates, and to an extent which demonstrates his trustworthiness and influence for good, more completely than anything we could say in commendation of his services. He is quick and shrewd in his discrimination of character, prompt and fearless in his dealings with the authorities, and while overflowing with sympathy for those who need it, he is, at the same time, a terror to those who do not deserve it. His position is one in which his influence might be sold, but he has never imperiled his usefulness by being even as much as *suspected*. And, lastly, he is, so far as can be discovered, insensible to flattery, but marches right on in the performance of his duty, regardless of praise or favors. With any other than *such* an agent to carry out our plan of operations, we believe we could never have sustained our organization, upon the slender amounts which have been contributed, nor could we, without his aid, have accomplished, under such circumstances, one-half the good which, for several years past, his diaries have exhibited. Such men are rare. Let us, then, when we find one, sustain him and use him.

Out of the *hundreds* of detention cases recorded in these diaries, we take the following, at random, for the purpose of conveying some idea of the nature of his efforts:

No. 1. Saw a poor, wretched woman [name and residence] weeping in the Tombs, and ascertained that her husband had been confined the last nine days for disorderly conduct, and in default of \$300 bail. She has five children now in want. The offence is trifling, as shown by the papers. The police magistrate was seen, and the man's discharge obtained.

No. 2. Was convicted of stealing a piece of ham. The association had visited her in prison, and subsequently ascertained her story to be truthful—that at the time of this petit theft herself and two children were in great want. The truth was told the court, and her discharge recommended. She left the court-room with her children, very grateful for the mercy shown to her, and expressed a determined purpose to suffer rather than be found in such a place again. Her pressing wants were for several weeks supplied by the association.

No. 3. Was charged with stealing articles valued at \$6 from her employer. She denied the charge. The only evidence against her was that a few buttons belonging to her were found on the floor near where the missing things had been kept. She was remanded. To-day the association assured the court that her character, previous to this allegation, was good. Her discharge was recommended and obtained.

No. 4. Was convicted of an assault and battery, on complaint of his wife, and sentenced by the court to the penitentiary for four months. At request of the association he was remanded until next court day, and the sentence withheld. To-day we showed, by two reliable men, for whom defendant had worked the last twenty-five years, that he is a sober, honest, industrious man, always providing a good home for his family. One of the witnesses testified that his children were pretty well grown up; one of them, the younger, aged sixteen, is a self-willed, obstinate girl; that she kept late hours, and entertained her young friends at their house as late as two, three, and often to four o'clock. The mother was indulgent, whilst the father apprehended some evil would result from such indulgences; hence he determined to prevent it. These and other causes have created this difficulty. The association then begged his discharge. The court acquiesced.

No. 5. The District Attorney of the United States Court was seen in behalf of two seamen detained as witnesses for the prosecution, and against the mate of ship, who stands charged with murder. These two men have been in the Tombs nearly seven months. One of these is a married man, who has not been able to send his family any money since he was locked up. The Marshal and District Attorney promised that they would do all they could to facilitate the trial.

No. 6. Aged twelve years; was taken into custody on charge of stealing a veil. Her fears were so powerfully wrought upon,

it was deemed prudent to recommend her discharge, which was granted. The probabilities are, she will never forget this circumstance.

No. 7. Was in prison, awaiting trial on his wife's complaint. She regretted the step she had been advised to take in having him locked up, because of the suffering herself and children now experienced. The association were instrumental in bringing about a reconciliation between them, and a solemn promise that both should pull one way, the right way, and both together. The recorder, on recommendation of the agent, discharged him. They both expressed their sincere thanks.

No. 8. Was arrested nine months since on charge of burglary. Two months subsequent to his arrest, symptoms of insanity were exhibited by him. The association applied to the resident physician and one of his assistants to examine him. They pronounced him temporarily insane from the use of strong drinks. He was then sent to the insane asylum on the Island. After being there seven months, we ascertained he is now in a much better state. A certificate was obtained, when an application to the district attorney was made that he be brought back to the City prison and disposed of. The complainant was seen; he had no desire to prosecute, as the offence was committed during the day, in their presence, and when under some hallucination produced by strong drink. All these particulars were submitted to the court by the association, when the prisoner was discharged.

No. 9. Was charged with a petit larceny. He stoutly denied his guilt, although the evidence seemed clear against him. He assured the court the witnesses were influenced by prejudice against him, and without any cause. The association begged that he might be remanded, as he represented that witnesses could be found who could prove him entirely innocent of the charge. These persons were subpoenaed, and to-day appeared in court and testified the defendant slept at their house, and consequently it was impossible for him to have committed the larceny. The recorder believed their statement, and that the witnesses for the prosecution had been mistaken in his identity. He was immediately discharged.

No. 10. Had been confined in the Tombs over a month, on a charge of grand larceny. The association visited him, and felt interested in his behalf. His story appeared truthful. He was believed to be innocent of this charge. The complainant was

seen and spoken to; and the more thorough our inquiries, the more satisfied were we of his entire innocence. The district attorney was conferred with, and sent the case to the special sessions. When the complainant was asked to take the stand, but two or three questions were put. Neither he or the witnesses could say one word to convict the prisoner of the alleged larceny, when he was instantly acquitted. He called again and again to thank the association.

No. 11. An inmate of Eldridge Street jail, begs the association to aid and help him. He represents that he had been charged with an assault and battery. On the examination before a police justice, the complaint was dismissed. His prosecutors then commenced a civil suit against him, when he was arrested and thrown into this prison in default of bail. He has no money, or friends who can assist him. We lost no time in finding the plaintiffs in the action. Much time was sacrificed in our attempts to convince them and their counsel that the defendant was unable to pay the costs. We did succeed, however, in procuring his discharge, for which he appeared thankful to the association. This unfortunate man had been in the custody of the sheriff, on this contemptible charge, not less than one hundred and twenty-four days.

No. 12. The Danish Consul calls to ask the aid of the association, in behalf of a man now confined in Eldridge Street jail, on a charge of smuggling two hundred cigars from on board a ship from Hamburg. The Marshal, the District Attorney, and the Collector of the port, were seen by the agent of the association, who called their attention to this case as one of a very insignificant character. The prisoner's character was very good. His imprisonment had distracted his family sadly; they are now wanting the necessities of life. The Collector immediately ordered his discharge, for which they all appeared thankful.

No. 13. These two men were convicted of assault and battery, and sentenced to the penitentiary for three months each. The disproportion of the punishment to the alleged trifling offence committed, induced the association to ask the court to withdraw the sentence until next court, when a fuller and a fairer statement of all the facts would be submitted. Such was the case; instead of sending these men to the penitentiary, as at first proposed, a fine of \$5 each was inflicted; this latter decision was much more equitable and fair.

No. 14. Was remanded, also, last court day, on a charge of petty larceny. When brought up this A. M., her eyes were much swollen, and she was sadly distressed; the complaint was very frivolous, and ought never to have been sent to this court. It was shown that this young woman refused to remain in her situation, although offered an advance of wages. When they found she was determined to leave, this petty charge was trumped up against her, and on which she was arrested; her character had been uniformly good, very good, previous to this complaint. Judgment was suspended and she was discharged. The association immediately applied to the family and demanded her wages, which were promptly paid; and the girl seemed to be very thankful.

No. 15. Was confined in the City prison, charged with committing a grand larceny, stealing a gold watch. The story of this man was so simple and apparently truthful, that we believed him innocent of the alleged theft. The papers were carefully examined, which showed that complainant had lost his watch, but as against the defendant, it was a case of mere suspicion, on a very flimsy tenure. From subsequent enquiries, we found the watch had been taken away by a woman with whom its owner had cohabited; she had, since the arrest of this poor fellow, restored the property. The attention of the district attorney was speedily called to this fact; the papers were sent before the grand jury; no bill was found; hence the prisoner was discharged.

No. 16. Was visited in the Tombs; he appeared to feel deeply sensible of the degraded condition in which he was found, charged with grand larceny. He had spent the evening with a relative, and when about to leave, had stolen his friend's gold watch. He frankly, and with bitter tears, acknowledged his guilt, that he had, in a moment of unexpected temptation, wickedly yielded to do wrong, and that he could never forgive himself for the disgrace he had brought on his own character, and the mental anguish produced in the minds of his family, and the heart of his mother. Appropriate means were taken, and this penitent young man was saved from the disgrace and ruin of a protracted imprisonment. He left the prison, evidently moved with a sense of his own folly and unworthiness, and expressed his best thanks to the association, for the timely help that had been rendered him. The following letter was sent to us by his mother:

"To the Agent of the Prison Association: Dear Sir—Permit me to express my grateful thanks for your kind services rendered, in

rescuing my son from a living tomb, and myself from days and nights of distressing sorrow. I give hearty thanks to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, that our feeble prayers were heard and answered, and that means were at hand, and those successful. My hearty desire is, that you may be cheered in all your labors. My son joins me in these humble thanks, with an earnest desire to profit by the past, and live more careful in the future.

"Thankfully yours,

No. 17. Called at the office of the association to confer with its agent; he had been addicted to dishonest practices the last five years, but from several causes, such as his own physical sufferings, his apprehension of being severely punished in the future, if not in the present life, his wife's constant wretchedness and mental disquietude, the upbraidings of a guilty conscience, the result of an early religious training by his poor but pious mother, all combined to make his existence too intolerable to be borne; he had now made up his mind to mend his ways. He asks advice. We sat down with him, counting the cost of the path now to be pursued. He deliberately resolved, if he perished, he would become an honest man. The association took him by the hand, he was supplied with sufficient means, just to enable him to get the necessaries of life, until work was provided for him; he went at it in earnest; his sincerity was put to the test, and he showed conclusively that he meant to reform. He did reform; the noon meetings for prayer and praise in our city, were of great advantage to him; he derived great strength from them; such a change has been wrought in his experience, that we now have confidence in him, that he will characterize the honest man. We copy a letter addressed to the association by him, some twelve weeks subsequent to the newly acquired happy experience:

"Sir—I want to write to you, but know not how. Permit me to say that I have been in this city for the last five years; my business was that of a professional pickpocket. All this time I was a stranger to happiness, although never once convicted of crime. I had a dread of being arrested and punished; how I escaped I cannot tell; perhaps because of my honest little wife, who always entreated me to steal no more. She prayed for me; I think her sighs and tears to the Lord, led me first to call on you at your office, now about four months ago. Since then I have been an honest man. Many a time we wanted bread; my poor wife and child could not sleep for hunger. My old companions

often urged me to join them again, but I did not yield, and starvation staring me in the face; no food, no coal; none but my Maker knows what I have suffered; but amidst all, you kept me up; had I not met with you, we must have perished, or I continued a thief. I shall never forget your kindness, your advice, and your prayers, and the fifty cents given to me by Mr. C. on that very cold night. We were, with our few bits of furniture, just out on the sidewalk. I repeat it, these things made me resolve to reform; I have stolen nothing these last four months. To help me in this way, I go to church, and the more I go the more I want to go, and whilst I am very sorry and ashamed of my past life, I hope God will forgive me, and keep me, and show me how I can keep right and serve him. I am more happy now than I ever was before. When I went to church last Sunday week, the minister seemed to know all about me; he almost pointed at me; I had to shift my seat; I thought it very strange. I don't yet fully understand what religion is, but such people appear to be the most happy, and I want the happy to pray for me. I have lived since you set me up, as I promised you, dear sir; to prove grateful, I will pay back all the money you lent me. I am now an honest man, and such I hope to remain. Accept my best thanks, and do let me look up to your association for encouragement and help. My wife's health is improved; she left the hospital last Monday. I will call and consult you about our taking a room, as we are anxious to have our child, and commence housekeeping in an humble way. Please carry my sincere thanks to the gentlemen of your society, for the help that has been given me, hoping I shall prove thankful and worthy.

"I am, dear sir, yours, gratefully, ———."

No. 18. Was sent to the penitentiary for three months for stealing of bread. He left the prison without coat or vest. He begs the association to supply his wants and aid him to return to Connecticut. He was furnished with suitable clothing and a small amount of money.

No. 19. Says her mistress sent her away without paying to her the wages due to her, amounting to \$10; that she was discharged without cause or provocation. The case was investigated, and successful means taken to secure the girl her wages.

No. 20. Two respectable citizens call on the association in behalf of a young girl reputedly connected, and who had arrived in this country but three weeks. She had been induced to enter

and engage herself as chambermaid in a house of ill-fame in Mercer street, not knowing it to be of that vile character. She is represented to be in a distracted state of mind, and most anxious to get away; but this appears to be impossible, the abominable wretches having taken her clothes from her and refusing to give them up. An efficient officer being at our office at this interview, he adopted proper means to rescue her from the corrupting influence of those destroyers.

No. 21. Calls to say that he is starving, and don't want to steal; his necessities drove him to sleep in the station house; there the captain told him of the association, and advised him to apply for assistance here. "Prevention," said he, "is better than cure." In this case we thought so too; it gave us pleasure to help him. We supplied his immediate wants, then found him employment.

No. 22. Charged with grand larceny. The officer who arrested him recommended a lawyer; it would occupy some time to find him, but this he cheerfully offered to do for expenses out of pocket, \$3. The prisoner's fears were excited. Another lawyer was introduced; he made light of the complaint, and said, "You had better get bail. Give me \$20, and I will secure a man who will bail you out in a few hours." A bar-tender whom he had seen three or four times, called on him and said, "I have a friend who for \$25 would have bailed you out; this person present, who has come with me, knows him well, and he could induce him to do it for you right away, but he would require \$10." These sums were given to these professed friends (\$58); he saw them no more. At length the first counsel came to his relief; he sympathized with him—took the balance of his funds, \$25. He came up for trial; counsel advised him to plead guilty, when he was sentenced to State prison for three years. The prisoner had \$95 in his possession when arrested on this charge. This is a pretty fair specimen of the practical operations of the skinning and shystering of those fellows called Tombs lawyers. The sentence was well enough, but we propose to make an effort to have ultimate justice done to his friends.

These cases will give only a very limited idea of our labors. Hundreds of such, and of equal interest, occurring every year, might be mentioned. A brief record of most of the cases examined will be found on the books of the association, the principal object being to preserve a reference to the facts there stated, should the same person be again charged with crime. When old

Admission by Tombs lawyers

offenders are brought up in court, it frequently happens that this association is the only source from which the court can get information as to their past careers, and it has come to be pretty well understood that where our agent does not urge a discharge or mitigation of punishment, it is either because he can offer naught in extenuation, or because the prisoner has friends and means to take care of him, without our aid. We confine ourselves almost exclusively to the poor and friendless. The average number of detained (*i. e.* unconvicted) prisoners selected out by us for visitation is about 5,000 per annum; of which about 1,500 cases are found proper subjects for special investigation by this association. Of these about 500 complaints are discontinued by the complainants on our advice; and about 500 more are discharged by the courts on our recommendation. The number of commitments to the City prison in 1859, was about 40,000.

But by far the most painfully laborious part of our efforts are those which are made in behalf of discharged convicts. There are multitudes of persons who are altogether faithless in regard to the propriety of any such efforts, and who consider them entirely useless. But our theory is, that there is no creature so debased or wicked that he cannot be reclaimed—sometimes through the sympathies and influence of his fellow creatures, but oftener through the grace of God. The opinion seems to be formed that those who commit crimes, and thereby subject themselves to punishment in the penitentiary or State prison, are beyond the reach of all substantial improvement, if not beyond all claim upon the sympathies of a moral and christian community. Yes, the greater part of the world, and a large proportion of the church, are very apt to look upon all convicted persons in the same light, as utterly depraved, as hopelessly fallen. This, we think, is a sad mistake, if not an uncharitable and wicked conclusion, for it is a well ascertained fact that many of the convicts discharged from our State prisons, repent of the crimes they have committed, go and sin no more, and in despite of all obstacles, persevere in living honest lives.

The truth is, that the discharged convict is an unfortunate fellow-creature, needing our pity and our friendly commiseration; though guilty and fallen, he has yet a heart to feel, and the effect of human sympathy and christian kindness, may be to touch some chord of the soul which has refused to vibrate to harsher sounds, or to call into exercise some remaining portion of humanity which

has hitherto lain dormant, under the withering influence of neglect, or bad associations, followed by some criminal offense, and the arbitrary administration of justice.

In connection with our labors we have witnessed many pleasing illustrations of the magical power of kindness, and we give the following as an instance, condensed from the diary of Mr. Beal:

A poor, crushed, desolate creature, called at our office and stated that he had been confined in one of our State prisons during the last five years; after giving us his entire history, begged that he might be provided with work at anything and anywhere; that he could not seek it himself as every one seemed to look upon him as a "State prison bird." He said, imploringly, "please furnish me with employment, and I solemnly promise neither to disgrace myself nor bring discredit on you or the Association." We delicately hinted that his clothes were unsuitable; we handed him a small looking-glass, and never shall we forget the effect produced. He stood aghast, and almost petrified. After recovering the shock he wept most distressingly. When asked what had produced such painful emotions, he replied, "I have not seen myself in a looking glass the last five years and four months; I well remember what I was then, and oh! what am I now? a discharged convict, and everybody knows me to be such!" It is true, his appearance was most sadly against him. We spoke words of kindness to him; he was taken into an adjoining room to our office where he had a good wash; he was then furnished with a decent shirt and a suit of clothes; we tied a black silk handkerchief about his neck. This act overwhelmed him and he wept convulsively. After the lapse of half an hour's friendly conversation, we were delighted to see hope beaming in his eye; whilst he felt encouraged to thank God, the Prison Association proved to him an ark of safety. We were enabled to place this poor fellow in a place of work at a dollar a day, and he has called upon us three or four times since our first interview. He says he never shall forget that day when the handkerchief was tied around his neck. He observed, "I shall never steal again, for I always carry that handkerchief with me."

Mankind are very slow to give up their faith in the principle of physical force. We are too apt to think it necessary for the correction and discipline of men. All civilized nations have been very tardy in abandoning their faith in force. The proposal to settle quarrels by peaceful means is still too often held to be Uto-

pian. We have been so trained and educated into the belief of the efficacy of force, that we can scarcely imagine it possible that the framework of society could be kept together upon any other principle.

There are some, however, who entertain the belief that systematic coercion begets blind resistance, and that if we put down children or men by violent methods, we only call forth a spirit of rebellion, which breaks out in violent deeds of hatred, vice and crime. In the history of the world we think we see most clearly a demonstration of the failure of physical force. If we would make men better and happier, we should employ a greater and more beneficent force, viz., the power of gentleness, the power of kindness. In the instances in which this power has been fairly tried, how magical have been the effects produced! Humane and gentle methods of treating men, whether in prison or out of prison, have never, in any case or under any circumstances, produced resistance or rebellion; have never made them worse, but, in all cases, have made them better. Kindness is a constraining power. It elevates and civilizes all who are brought under its influence. It indicates faith in man, and without faith in man's better nature, no better methods of treatment will improve him. Distrust of men makes them vicious and criminal; and continued distrust keeps them so. Hence our jails, penitentiaries and state prisons, when regarded merely as places of punishment, are very expensive arrangements, and of doubtful utility.

We might illustrate the power of kindness in many ways. In the training of children we can resort, as a general rule, to encouragement, gentleness and good example, with better success than to the employment of the rod. It has been found, too, that in the treatment of lunatics the law of kindness is the only means which can be successfully used in their government and control. A visit to our Lunatic Asylum, on Blackwell's Island, will convince the most skeptical of the superiority of the principle of kindness over that of harshness.

This principle is capable of extensive application. In every relationship of man, kindness will produce the same beneficial results. It draws out the better part of every nature, disarming resistance, dissipating angry passions, and melting the hardest heart. It overcomes the evil and strengthens the good. In a word, then, let us say, apply it with all its power in our prisons everywhere. Then, and not till then, can we reasonably hope to

see them *moral hospitals*, and their afflicted inmates restored to moral health. We repeat that we should extend to our prisons abundant and appropriate moral appliances. "Then will the hearts of the disobedient be turned to the wisdom of the just," and the hardened culprit will feel constrained to reform; unhealthily and inhuman punishments will be numbered among the things that were, and there will be less apprehension or probability, when he is restored to liberty, of a relapse into crime.

We still avow ourselves the friends of the discharged convict. Our sympathies and anxious solicitude in his or her behalf, remain unabated. During the last three years we have more than ever felt that they have strong claims upon us. Our labors in this department were often of a very trying and embarrassing character; but, prompted as we have been by a sense of duty, by love to God and towards our neighbor, we have steadily endeavored to perform the work faithfully. We have labored hopefully and with earnest fidelity to benefit these erring ones in body, mind and circumstances. They come from our respective prisons often, very often, cast down, well nigh crushed, hopeless and dejected, almost in irretrievable ruin. We try to inspire and light up the spark of hope within them. Often beyond our limited means do we assist them and sustain them until a place of work, away from city life and its powerful temptations, is obtained. And should the question be whispered, do they ever reform? Thank God, they do. It is our joy and rejoicing to witness their reformation. We also cheerfully bear testimony that but very few of those we select from the hundreds who call upon us for counsel, advice, and pecuniary aid, are again found guilty of a repetition of crime. We are obliged, however, to acknowledge some exceptions to this rule, and this has happened, in most cases, because our pecuniary means have been at times literally *nothing*, and for that reason we have not been able to afford them subsistence until we could find employment for them.

The following are a few cases selected from the diary of Mr. Deal, to illustrate the nature of our labors in this department:

No. 1. Convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced for one year to the penitentiary, calls to-day, almost perished with cold, regretting his past wicked conduct, and promising to live honestly in the future. The Association furnished him with more suitable clothing, and provided employment for him.

No. 2. Had been in the penitentiary four months; he calls, ask-

ing advice and help; the last few months have been the most wretched of his life; he promises to keep out of bad company. We regard this case as very hopeful. The Association furnished him with suitable clothing, found him employment, gave him a bible, and urged him to read it.

No. 3. Called, out of situation, and said what to do he knew not; he had been discharged from prison three months, since which he has had but nine days' work; he was forced to leave his boarding house yesterday, and has had nothing to eat since. Temporary assistance was rendered him until work was provided.

No. 4. Was convicted of grand larceny, on her own confession, and sentenced to Sing Sing Prison for two years and three months. She had lied with a respectable family. On one occasion she was invited to a ball: the daughter of the lady with whom she lived was from home, when she took from the drawer a broach, merely to wear to this gathering. On her return home, after midnight, her cousin insisted on having said broach, and playfully took it with him; before it could be restored it was missed. The girl left the house and repaired to the house of her cousin, but he was at his employment. On her way thither an officer pursued and arrested her. She told her story with truthfulness and without prevarication. The cousin was found. He admitted having the article, was arrested, and subsequently discharged. The poor girl called at the office with a letter of recommendation from the matron and chaplain; a situation was immediately found for her with a family connected with the association. She is doing very well.

No. 5. On her own confession, was convicted and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years, on charge of grand larceny. She says she could not at present return to her native town. The matron advised her to throw herself on the sympathy and protection of the Prison Association. She was placed in a situation without delay, at \$5 per month. There she behaved well, was sober, honest, and industrious. Her wages she kept until she possessed the means to reach her home. The Association wrote to her friends. They invited and urged her to return, promising her a hearty welcome.

No. 6. Was convicted of forgery in the fourth degree. He being a youth, and evidently inexperienced in crime, the Association wrote to his former employers in a distant city. They certified to his good conduct whilst he was in their employ. These letters

were submitted to the court, which influenced the recorder to be lenient towards him. Instead of sending him to State prison, he was sent to the penitentiary for twelve months. He calls on us now to present his sincere thanks for being instrumental in saving him from the brand of a Sing Sing convict, and to say he hopes to avoid bad company in the future; then shall he be able to look after his best interests. We advised his immediate return to his home, to the residence of his parents. He reluctantly, and yet thankfully, availed himself of a free passage, after the Association had clothed him decently. His greatest fear was to meet his mother.

No. 7. On his own confession, was convicted of grand larceny. He was sentenced for two years to Sing Sing prison. He says, up to this time, he was regarded as a young man of high moral tone. He had lent money to a man whom he believed to be honest, but in the end he found, to his bitter experience, that his hard earnings were all lost—he had cajoled him out of the sum he had lent. In a paroxysm of anger, he went and took some property which he believed to have been purchased with his money, and for which he was punished. This young man was enabled, by the Association, to go west, and is now doing well.

No. 8. Was convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced to State prison for two years. This young man calls on the Association after the expiration of his sentence and asks pecuniary aid, by which he may be enabled to go south. He is the son of pious parents, members and officers of a christian church. He says if he had followed their counsels and examples, all would have been well; but he despised remonstrance and reproof, and formed evil associations, which brought him to ruin. He regrets the past, and pledges himself to avoid the first step in the wrong direction. The Association advanced him the sum required to enable him to reach the place named. It is our happiness to know that he is now doing well.

No. 9. Calls on the Association, and says: "I was tried and convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced to State prison for ten years. After being a prisoner nearly three years, the judge who tried me was convinced of my innocence—like a just judge, he immediately applied to the Executive to pardon me. I was released, and although only an act of justice, I feel thankful to our good Governor. My object in calling, he says, on the Association, is to beg of them, if it be possible, to send me on

to Massachusetts." He was introduced to the chairman of the executive committee, who happened at that moment to enter the office. He was instrumental in sending him on at a reduced fare which we paid.

No. 10. Was convicted of assault and battery with intent to do some bodily harm, and sentenced to Sing Sing for two years and six months. He says: "I shall never forget that my sentence was a very severe one. Drink was the cause of this quarrel; my prosecutor abused me most shamefully. Whether he struck me first I know not, but in the muck, I threw a pitcher at him. I think the punishment inflicted by the court on me should have been divided between us; that would most certainly be fair play." The Association were enabled to put this man to work, and he is now doing well.

No. 11. Was sentenced to State prison for two years; he so conducted himself there as to secure the approval of all the officers. He says he was guilty of grand larceny, but that it was his first offence; he seems sincere in his purposes, that it shall be the last. He doubted the truths of the Bible until the last fifteen months; should nothing more result from his being confined in a prison, he thinks his change of heart will more than compensate for all he has suffered, and that was considerable. The Association furnished him with suitable garments, then sent him into the country, and introduced him to employment.

No. 12. Was convicted of two burglaries, and sentenced to State prison for twenty-one years. He served out every hour of his sentence. He says he is a shoemaker by trade. "On the evening of these robberies, a man, an entire stranger, came into my house to get his boots repaired, and whilst I was at work upon them, he talked of the difficulties of the laboring poor, and the selfishness of the rich, until I became envious and discontented, being very poor at that time, the result of several losses and other circumstances. When the boots were repaired he put them on, and then urged me to go out and take a drink. I complied; we took several glasses. On our return, he said he was going to raise the wind; he asked me to accompany him; we walked until twelve o'clock, when he showed me what he was about to do. I went with him, and we did the jobs one after the other, but we were arrested, tried and sentenced for twenty-one years. I was used tolerably well during the long term of my severe punishment. This was my first offence; I am now on my way to —, but my

baggage is at the pier, and they demand of me \$3.25 as freight, and I have not enough to pay it. My poor, faithful wife has gone on—what shall I do?" The freight agent was seen, and the circumstances partially told him, and he kindly permitted him to take away his baggage. The Association then rendered him some pecuniary help, and he went on his way, not rejoicing, (for he never will rejoice again), but thankful that he had found a friend in his need. The poor fellow cannot last long.

No. 13. Was tried and convicted of assault and battery, with intent to kill, and sentenced to Sing Sing for seven years. He worked in the shoox shop whilst there; his hand was caught in the machinery, two of his fingers and a portion of his thumb and hand were torn off, and he disabled for life. He calls here to day and says he received a severe punishment for the offence; but for strong drink it never could have happened. At a liquor store he and several others quarrelled; from words they went to blows; when he found himself on the ground or floor and two men whipping him; he drew out his knife and cut one of them, for which he was punished for seven long years. He comes out to-day, after a long captivity, with \$4, the sum allowed by the State, a crushed and almost ruined man. The Association labored industriously to find him work, but were unsuccessful, he being crippled in the hand. A trifle of money was advanced him, and subsequently a hand-cart was furnished him. He is now peddling and doing comfortably; he often calls to show himself, and express his grateful thanks for what has been done for him.

No. 14. Was convicted of grand larceny on her own confession, and sentenced for two years to Sing Sing prison. She says: "When I first went to live out at service, my character was very good, and for several months it remained so, until I became familiarly acquainted with a girl in the house whose habits were very bad. I soon followed that example, and especially as regards dress and eating those whose external appearances were superior to my own. My wages were inadequate to gratify my pride, hence I began to pilfer, and at length I was charged with stealing a gold watch and chain from my employer, valued at \$150, a silk dress pattern, and several other articles, and I was arrested, when the whole of the articles were restored except the gold watch." The uniform practice of the Association is to ascertain of the accused, immediately on their arrest, the whereabouts of the stolen property, and, if possible, to influence its restoration. The interroga-

tory was put to this poor girl: "Was not the watch restored?" She replied no. Did you in no way dispose of it? No. Then you must now have it. She wept and replied, I know where it is; I wish I had never taken it; I will never, no, never be guilty of such a thing again. Are you sincere? She said, with copious tears, I am. Then fetch me that watch. She left our office and soon returned with it. It was our pleasure, on thanksgiving day, to restore the complainant his valuable gold watch. He appeared very much gratified, and thanked us very heartily. We then suggested the propriety of making her some reward for this evidence of her contrition and reformation, and urged him, now that all his property had been restored, that he make her some acknowledgment, as such a step on his part, would encourage her in her purposes to do better. He conceded that this would be well, and promised to call. We have, subsequent to this interview, sent him the watch key, with a few lines reminding him of his engagement, but no reward has yet reached this office. We are glad to bear testimony to the excellent character of this young woman since her discharge from prison. She resides with a family who are acquainted with her case and degradation, and who now delight to witness daily, her uniform, moral conduct. Her employers when speaking of her, say, "Would that all our help everywhere were like her, except in her never to be forgotten and bitter experience of the past." Her reformation we believe is, and will manifest itself to be, of a very permanent character.

No. 15. Was convicted of burglary, and sent to Sing Sing State prison for eight years and six months; he served out the whole of his term, and, on his discharge, called on the agent of the Association, who took a deep interest in him and helped him. On his return home, he wrote the following letter:

"—, August 11, 1850.

"DEAR AND HONORED SIR:—With pleasure I take this favorable opportunity of writing these few lines to you, to let you know that I am well, and hoping that these few lines may find you enjoying the same great blessing. Dear sir, I am happy for the opportunity of acknowledging my grateful thanks to you for the favor and benefit your goodness did confer upon me by enabling me to get away home at so cheap a rate. After I left your office, on the third of this month, I went down in Greenwich street, and there I obtained a ticket for five dollars; I received it with thank-

fulness, for I was so anxious to get home to my dear parents. I left New York on the fifth of this month, and on the seventh I reached D——. I stopped in the village over Sunday with a Mr. B——, and went to the Episcopal church in the afternoon, to hear the little children sing; and on the same afternoon I went to the Presbyterian church, and there it was, for the first time in all my life, I had the pleasure of hearing the Word of God preached, and to be in my right mind, and to have my liberty, and to see how everybody treated me, it made my poor heart truly thankful to Him who has thus blessed me with this great and blessed privilege, which I pray God to enable me to ever be grateful for. I must now turn to the history of my journey. On Monday, the eighth of this month, I reached my home a little after sun setting. I came to the gate of my father's house, and there I met one of my sisters. I asked her if Mr. L—— lived there; she said yes, he did, and, saying that, she ran into the house, and who should come to the door but my dear mother and brother. No son was ever received with more joy than I was; my mother kissed me; my brother took me by the arm and led me into the kitchen where my father and the rest of the family were at supper. My father was very glad to see me. So after we had talked a little, my father went to bed, then mother took the family Bible and read a chapter, after which my mother, brother and sister, and myself, fell down upon our knees and offered thanks to God for His great mercy toward me, in sparing my life to meet my parents once more—the first time that I ever prayed with my family in all my life. You may imagine what my feelings were for this great and blessed privilege. I have three sisters, one brother, and mother, who believe in the blessed Jesus, and now we are all praying for my father and one brother, who are still out of the Ark of Safety. Please, Mr. Beal, remember my poor father in your prayers. My mother and sisters are just gone to see a person baptized; they wished me to go along with them, but I had some tallow to see to which I am trying out. I have been in the harvest field since I have been home and helped father to get in his wheat. My father has a very large farm, but his crops are very poor on account of the frost which they have had here. My father has given my brother and me the privilege of going into the wood and cutting down the hemlock trees for the purpose of obtaining the bark, which is worth twenty shillings a cord. If I had only learned some trade while I was there, my father would have given me a start, but having none that I could work at, I suppose I shall have

to learn one, or else live at home, which I can do if I wish. If you should see Mr. Luckey, please give my best love to him, and please write to me, if you can make it convenient, and direct your letter to * * * * I must give thanks to you once more before I close my letter, and trust that I may ever remain your humble servant,

To Mr. ABRAHAM BEAL, No. 15 Centre street, New York city.

The above cases exhibit the class and character of those persons with whom we daily come in contact. Many discharged prisoners from our State prisons, county jails, penitentiaries, and various courts, come to us prostrated in character, mind, body and estate, and all requiring advice, admonition and counsel, and they apply to us, hungry and almost naked, without friend or home. With small means, well husbanded, we have done our best to relieve the pressing necessities of the most abject of them. We have given bread to the starving, and such garments as were sent us by the kindness of friends, were cheerfully bestowed. The greatest caution has been observed. We cannot relieve them all, and therefore we give special attention to alleviating the distresses of those whose reformation we have strong hopes of effecting. The indolent and apparently incorrigible, with the confirmed inebriate, are sent empty away. As a fixed rule, we hold it impossible to help those who cannot or will not help themselves.

To give money to aid in these efforts, is the easiest part of it. To find men willing to undertake them personally, is indeed difficult. We know something ought to be done for these poor creatures, and the reader of this appeal will confess that he ought to do something *if he can*. Well, what can he do? Will he give his name, his influence, his personal exertions, or his money. We will thankfully accept either, and entreat him to aid us in any way he can, if it be nothing more than a few articles of cast-off clothing.

To carry out the affairs of the Association successfully, it requires about \$5,000 per annum, whereas, during the past few years our contributions have not reached half that sum—probably for the reason that our appeals have not been made with sufficient earnestness. Contributions of money or clothing may be sent to William C. Gilman, Jr., treasurer, No. 18 Merchants' Exchange; or to Abraham Beal, general agent, No. 15 Centre street.

By order of the executive committee,

JOHN H. GRISCOM, *Chairman*.

JAMES C. HOLDEN, *Secretary*.

DIARY.

DISCHARGED CONVICTS.

No. 1. Calls at the office of the association and begs them to enable him to reach the country, where he has friends who will place him in employment. He left the penitentiary this morning, and, as he says, never more to return; to secure a happy new year, he promises to live an upright life. The association furnished him with a warm garment or two, and a small sum to pay his fare away.

No. 4. Sixteen women called at the office to-day from the penitentiary, work-house and other institutions, in great distress, starving with cold and hunger, several of them were slaves of intemperance. The most hopeful were carefully selected and aided.

No. 5. Was convicted of petit larceny and sentenced to the penitentiary for three months, he says "that he never had such a time of it before, and under no circumstances will he again." He was temporarily aided.

Nos. 7 and 8 were convicted of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill, knowing it to be such. They were sentenced to the State prison for five years each. No. 7 calls on us to-day, and says he thinks the punishment was too severe, for he had never been in prison before; he was, at the time, a novice in crime; No. 8 gave him the bill to pass, whether he knew it to be a bad one No. 7 cannot say.

He was used pretty well, was showered but once, he thinks *that*, a very hurtful mode of punishment, he cannot believe such treatment effects a moral change in any man.

He received \$4 from the State when he left. He says, "the idea of living five years in a State prison, and of painful servitude, is bad enough, but to be disowned, shunned and abandoned by those who seemed to love you (previous to this calamity) is worse than all." He came out of prison at a very unpropitious season, it was not possible to obtain him employment; his heart was well nigh broken. He resolved to leave the city.

The association rendered him assistance, and encouraged him to be of good cheer. We have subsequently ascertained he is doing well.

[Assembly, No. 131.]

No. 8. Was convicted of grand larceny, stealing a horse, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for three years. He worked in hat shop, and labored successfully to secure the good will of the officers. He calls on the association and asks them to find him employment. He says, "nothing shall induce him to go astray from right paths, he has learned some useful lessons from his past sad experience." The association enabled him to travel away to a distant city. We have since ascertained he is doing well, working industriously for an honest livelihood.

No. 9. Was tried and convicted of false pretence, and sentenced, by the recorder, for two years to Sing Sing prison. He says that this was his first offence; he was, at this time, a thoughtless, giddy youth, and, but for bad advisers, he thinks he would *not* have committed himself. He determines to live an honest life for the future.

Assistance was rendered him, by which means he reached the residence of his mother.

No. 10. Seventeen deplorable women called at the office to-day, asking advice, clothing, money and situations, they were a most miserable group of degraded fallen creatures. The Home, and all other institutions, would refuse to admit them, except the work-house. We regretted our inability to do them any good.

No. 11. Was convicted of an attempt at burglary in the 3d degree, he was sentenced to the penitentiary for one year. This offence was the result of intemperance, and it was the first dishonest act ever attributed to him.

His wife, already seriously afflicted, had been rendered much worse by this event, and his little family had suffered very seriously.

All these circumstances were submitted, by the association, to the court, and which had providentially saved him from the State prison.

On his release he calls to express his heartfelt thanks for the timely aid rendered to him, and promises to avoid the use of everything that would tend to make him do wrong.

The association furnished him with suitable clothing, and sustained him, with trifles of money, until he obtained a berth on board a schooner belonging to a distant State. He left us apparently grateful for the help afforded him.

No. 12. Was convicted of an attempt at burglary in the 3d degree, on his own confession, and was sentenced for two years to State prison.

He says he had been out of employ and was near starving, or he should not have thought of such a thing.

We were enabled to introduce him to work, he has since done well.

No. 18. Was convicted of petit larceny, and sentenced to the penitentiary for six months.

He comes out to-day and calls at our office, and says that he was under the influence of strong drink, or he could not have committed a theft. He admits stealing a case of surgical instruments which were pledged for twenty shillings, and that he spent the money on rum. From what he heard in the chapel on the island on the Sabbath, he was resolved to live a sober life, and become an altered man.

The landlord with whom they have lived the last two years, had permitted his wife to occupy a lumber room on the top of the house, rent free. They are now there, without bed, bedding, food or money, wrapping themselves up by night, during this inclement season, with an old awning, on the floor, and in danger of not only losing, even their only candle *by the rats*, but of being bitten themselves by those hungry and unwelcome guests.

The association supplied their pressing wants, furnished them with a few useful articles and warm clothing. They also prevailed upon them both to abstain from drink, when their circumstances soon improved.

No. 19. Was tried at Albany and convicted of grand larceny, dealing from prosecutor his pocket-book, containing \$40. She was sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years. She solemnly declares that she was not guilty of the charge.

She comes to the association, asking them to send her on to her friends who will take care of her. She would not have come to New York but she expected to meet her husband here.

One of the railroad company's, with their characteristic liberality, favored her with a free passage. We have since heard she is doing well.

No. 22. Was convicted, on his own confession, of attempting to pass a \$3 counterfeit bill, knowing it to be such.

He was sentenced to State prison for two years. He says he was too late for the morning cars, hence his dinner in the village, his fare down, his meals, cost him three shillings each, his bed, 50 cents; his finances were reduced to nine shillings, a sum insufficient to reach Pennsylvania.

One of the railroad companies were applied to by the association who granted him a free pass. Whilst he thanked us for the favor done him, we showed him a more economical way of starting life, with a capital of four dollars, the sum given him by the State when released from prison.

No. 24. Forty-seven men and women from our respective county jails and penitentiaries called to-day at our office, asking relief. Thirty-four were sent empty away, with a poor treasury we did our best.

No. 27. A noble looking fellow calls at the office and says he needs a friend. He was arrested on charge of taking a walking cane not his own, and was sentenced for three months to the penitentiary.

His friends are respectable and wealthy, they think him probably employed in Albany, he wishes to reach there, he is sure they know nothing of his degradation, he says he had often been in the clutches of the police before, under the influence of wine, but then he had sufficient small cash to secure his lodgment at his hotel.

We were enabled to assist him and send him to the place designated.

No. 28. Left Sing Sing some few months since, she was recommended to the association by the matron. She now calls to say her health had been bad all the winter, consequently she was driven to pledge her clothes to provide medicine, &c.

A situation is now presented, but she cannot accept it, having no means to redeem her garments.

The association cheerfully lent her a sum sufficient to get out her clothing and to take the situation offered, for which, she wept with joy.

No. 29. Comes from the penitentiary, where he had been an inmate the last two months, on charge of petit larceny. He arrived in this city eleven weeks since from Liverpool, by ship Henry Clay. The complainant, an old friend of his, accompanied him, after being here but four days, he borrowed fifteen shillings, English money, and two shirts of the other. One of the seamen knew of this circumstance, and he advised him (the lender) to secure the repayment of the loan, and the return of his shirts, by taking charge of the other's bag, containing his clothes, &c., the sailor assisted him in fetching said bag to his boarding house,

where they (the two old friends) had put up, when they were arrested for the alleged petit larceny.

The sailor was discharged, this poor fellow who had loaned the other fifteen shillings, was sent to the penitentiary, although his old and mistaken friend begged he might not be punished.

The association provided him a permanent situation on a farm. No. 30. Was sentenced for thirty days to the city prison on complaint of the person with whom she had lived as help nearly four months.

After her release from prison she called, at request of agent, at the rooms of the association, to confer with him in relation to this affair, and the equitable claim she had against this person for wages due her.

The facts are, that she had lived in their service for one month, without any stipulation as to wages, then it was agreed that \$5 per month wages should be paid her. She stayed with them for four months without receiving any payment. On the other hand, she had lent them two dollars. Finding she could not get her wages, after giving due notice she left. Making frequent calls for the same without success, after the lapse of several weeks she commenced suit in a civil court for its recovery. The hearing was postponed for one week, when a charge of petit larceny was trumped up against her. She was arrested, convicted and sentenced as aforesaid for thirty days.

The association, through its agent, thought he understood the case pretty accurately, hence he commenced suit against the wages. A verdict in favor of the claim was returned in court. After a good deal of juggling, and the intervention of the association, the demand was paid and costs of court.

Had this party been in better circumstances, suit would have been instituted against them for false imprisonment and damages. No. 33. Calls to say he has served three months in the penitentiary, and but for the influence of the association, in his behalf, the term would have been much longer.

He insinuates that the police officer told some untruths of him, which he cannot forgive.

The association enabled him to reach a distant town, where he had previously worked for eight years. His letters showed this; and that he stood well when he left it.

No. 34. Says he has been in the penitentiary for four months, and that he found it a very hard road to travel, so hard that he

will avoid it, and the various roads which lead there. The association sent him to work in the country.

No. 35. Left Sing Sing prison two years since. She calls to inform us that she had been confined to her bed with erysipelas, and although much improved, is even now in a bad state of health, and unable to do anything toward the support of herself and children.

Her pressing wants were cheerfully relieved by the association. We regretted that our treasury would not permit us to give her a \$10 bill, she having commended herself to our sympathies by her uniform, sober, honest and industrious habits, since her release.

No. 36. Was fined by the court, for an alleged assault and battery, \$25. The association ascertained the case really was not as bad as had been represented. He was a sailor; his ship was hauled out in the stream, his clothes were on board, if kept in prison his loss would be great, under the circumstances the court was urged to remit the fine and let him go.

The court favorably regarded the application of the association, and discharged him.

The sailor almost danced with joy.

No. 37. During this day, Saturday, thirty-nine persons, many of them we had seen before, and all from our various prisons, called at our office cold and hungry, but evidently indolent, intemperate and in ruins.

What a sickening spectacle! most of them were sent empty

to the State prison, at Sing Sing, for five years. He served out every hour of his term, was fortunate in securing the favor of his keepers; he conformed to the very letter of the prison discipline, he had no extra punishment.

His first wife now forgives his unfaithfulness, he feels it his duty to return to her, and provide for her in the best way he can, and to forsake all others. He is glad to say a place of work is provided for him, and as drink was the cause of all his past troubles, he pledges himself neither to touch, taste or handle it.

No. 39. Served his term of four months on the island, and calls to say he is sick and tired of living a rough and tumble life.

He seems to be sorry for the past, and promises to live a becoming, industrious, sober, honest life. The association gave him a shirt, pants and a little change.

On the following day we introduced him to work a few miles away from the city.

No. 41. Was sentenced to the penitentiary for four months on charge of petit larceny. He says that he had been going the downward road to ruin some six weeks previous to his arrest. He appears to be sincere in his purposes to live a better life. He has been well cared for in his younger days.

The association ascertained a former employer would give him work in the country. He was furnished with a few useful articles of clothing and facilities to return, for which he expressed his grateful thanks.

No. 42. Was discharged from State prison where he served a term of seven years on charge of felonious assault and battery. He felt anxious to do a little business as a pedlar of vegetables, &c.

The association enabled him to buy a hand-cart and to begin. We are glad to say he is earning an honest livelihood.

No. 43. Was in a county jail for nearly three months, on, as he says, a false charge, he was tried and acquitted.

He comes on here and asks the association to procure him work as a sailmaker. We supplied him with a little money and furnished him a few necessary garments, and within a week introduced him to employment.

No. 46. Was indicted for burglary in the third degree, there were other indictments against him, he plead guilty to two and was sentenced to Sing Sing prison for five years on each. He was discharged yesterday, after serving out the term of ten years. He says he was not a thief by nature, bad company induced him to give up work because it did not pay. He now asks the association to find him employment. He was sustained until employed.

No. 47. Was tried in court of General Sessions on charge of grand larceny, he was convicted and sentenced for two years to State prison.

On his return to New York, he calls at our office and begs we will procure him a situation. Suitable clothing was given him, and money for a pair of shoes. The association subsequently found a place for him in which he promises neither to disgrace us nor himself.

No. 48. Whom we first met in Jefferson market prison, and whose discharge we were instrumental in procuring, calls to day respectfully attired, and says that she has lived in a respectable family in a popular watering place since; and that she feels de-

terminated to abstain from the habit which had so much injured her. She expressed her grateful thanks to the association for past favors.

No. 50. Was convicted, on her own confession, of grand larceny, stealing a watch and money. She was sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years. She says now, on her release, that she was implicated in this larceny, but not the only one concerned. The man from whom this property was taken was stupidly drunk at the time, or the act would not have been committed.

She left the prison in bad health. The association obtained for her the best medical aid, she was placed in a good situation, at good wages, when restored, and is now doing well.

No. 51. Was tried on an indictment for burglary in the 3d degree, convicted, and sentenced to State prison for five years.

He says he was not a thief by trade or practice, this was his first offence. When tempted to do this great wickedness, he was out of employment and in great distress. A man who had lived in this city for some years induced him to do this wrong. He says he was guilty, but hopes it will be his last offence.

The contractor owes him \$54.60 for over work, he has been running to and fro the last two weeks but cannot get his pay. Now that he is without money, he asks the association to compel him to do so.

This poor discharged convict was reduced to the necessity of accepting ten dollars in discharge of his entire claim of \$54.60. *a gross injustice.*

DETENTION CASES.

No. 2. Had been confined as a witness in a case of homicide. She being a girl of dissolute habits and a companion of the accused, no remuneration was allowed her by the court. She applied to the association for advice; we urged her to live a better life, and to seek admission to the Magdalen, where moral influences would be thrown around her. She gladly complied; we gave her a letter to the managers.

No. 3. Was charged with petit larceny; he was remanded that inquiries might be made of his past character; it had always been good; want had impelled him to make this attempt; the court was satisfied; judgment was suspended, and he was discharged. We obtained for him employment.

No. 4. Was charged with stealing a dollar from the person where she had lived the last three weeks. The defendant stated

that the house is of bad repute; as soon as she discovered it to be such, she wanted to leave, but madame refused to pay her.

At the request of the association, the court remanded her. On enquiry we soon ascertained the girl's story to be truthful, and that her conduct had been consistent when engaged at other places. The chairman explained to her that she was not justified in paying herself even when her wages were refused.

The poor girl promised not to offend again, when she was discharged.

No. 5. Was charged with an attempt at petit larceny; the complainant was not present. The defendant looked an intelligent young man, but miserably poor, sadly dejected and starving with cold and hunger. He said he lived in White street, and that his wife was now sick and confined to her wretched bed. He was remanded until Saturday.

We immediately started to visit the room of the poor fellow, we found things as he represented, only much worse; his wife had been sick the last seven weeks, and they must have perished but for the kindness of those in the house and their landlord. We returned, obtained his discharge, and made a collection for them in court, and subsequently sustained them until he obtained employment.

No. 6. Was discharged from Court of General Sessions. He calls at the office to say he has so arranged his affairs as to leave New York to-morrow morning for the south, and that he hopes to manifest his grateful thanks, in his future life, for the timely and disinterested aid afforded him by the association.

No. 7. A little girl, aged 13, was charged with petit larceny—an article worth five shillings. She was *unfortunately* defended by three counsellors. The court regarded the evidence as conclusive against her, and, in despite of the lawyers, sentenced her to the House of Refuge.

The association asked the court to let her remain in the prison until the next court, that inquiries might be made of her character and that of her friends.

The result was satisfactory: her family are very poor, but clean, decent people, honest and industrious. They regretted, with many tears, their little daughter should have acted so wickedly—if she had done so.

On the following court day these facts were submitted by the

association, and she was discharged. One of the counsel was induced by the association to return his fee of \$5.

No. 10. Was remanded last court day (on charge of stealing two boys' caps) that the association might ascertain why he attempted to commit this petit larceny. He is a tailor by trade; his health having failed him, he went into Bellevue hospital, was there four months; when he came out, his only friend, a sister, was sick, and unable to assist him; he tried hard to get relief, but failed; in this trying hour he made the attempt of committing a petit larceny, but was detected.

On his promise never to commit another dishonest act, the association recommended his discharge, which was immediately granted; we then enabled him to leave New York.

No. 12. Was arraigned on charge of forgery; he put in a plea of guilty in the fourth degree.

This young man had exhibited symptoms of penitence, and a firm resolve to mend his ways.

The district attorney and his honor the recorder were consulted in this case; a willingness was expressed to suspend the judgment and discharge him, provided the association would keep a watchful eye over him, and inform the court should he ever again be found in bad company, in such an event, a bench warrant would be issued, and he should be sent to the State prison for five years on this conviction. He was then discharged.

No. 14. Was convicted of stealing two shawls, and subsequently pledging them for twelve shillings, and then selling the duplicates.

The mother of this precocious boy had called on the association, asking them to influence the court to discharge him. She is in a respectable situation, and had paid his board the last twelve years.

We inquired into his past character and conduct, and found that he was addicted to petty stealing. When asked what he had done with the money, the shawls and the tickets it had produced, he said, "I spent it with some other fellows going to the Bowery theatre."

The association felt it to be their duty to ask the court to send him to the House of Refuge.

No. 18. Were discharged from court of sessions; they had been inmates of the city prison for nearly six months, on charge of making and forging certain promissory notes.

The principal actor in this performance, for whose accommo-

tion it was said these notes were made, went unwhipped of justice, at least for the present. One of these young men who was discharged, was temporarily aided by the Association until he obtained a situation; the other poor unfortunate fellow was seen, five days after his release from prison, deliberately to jump off one of the Hoboken ferry boats. "He sunk to rise no more."

No. 21. Asks the advice of the Association. His daughter, aged 17, he apprehends is on the road to ruin, and after all he has done for her she will not live a circumspect and virtuous life. There seemed to be no alternative but to arrest her—this was speedily done; we then influenced her voluntarily to seek a home in the Magdalen for twelve months; the Association addressed a letter to the matron, when she was introduced to that excellent and appropriate institution.

No. 22. Was fined \$25 for an alleged assault and battery; the Association ascertained he had really been sinned against. His ship was hauled out in the stream, his clothes were on board, if kept in prison, his loss would be great and an injustice done him. The court was entreated to remit the fine and let him go. After some little deliberation the entire bench complied with the request made by the Association. The sailor danced for joy, and our hearts were made glad.

No. 25. Was charged with and indicted for grand larceny. The complainant was seen, who expressed a sympathy for the accused. He subsequently waited on the district attorney who accepted a plea of petit larceny. The recorder then suspended the judgment, and the young man was discharged; he called at our office tendering his warmest thanks for the interest shown him by the Association. We helped him to trifles of money until we obtained for him a place of work, where he is now doing well.

No. 27. Two interesting small boys were charged with stealing \$22 from one of their employers; they regretted taking this wrong step. One of them wrote to his mother praying forgiveness, with commendable promptitude; she welcomed him to her heart and home; but little of the money was spent, she made up the original sum, when the Association recommended their discharge.

No. 28. Was charged with forging an endorsement of a check, and also with abstracting the said check and letter from the post office. The latter complaint was dismissed, the evidence being insufficient to hold him for trial. He was then arraigned for trial in court of General Sessions for the alledged forgery; he being

in a very bad state of health, it was deemed best to plead guilty of forgery in the fourth degree. All the facts were submitted to the court; with the concurrence of the district attorney, judgment was suspended, and this emaciated creature was discharged. When first arrested, he had in his possession a gold watch and chain, and over \$250 in money. He says he was completely fleeced and skinned by his first lawyer out of \$115; to the next he paid \$60, but he labored for a time to serve him; to procure bail, he paid \$35, and to a large man with bushy whiskers, his father paid \$10 for his trunk of clothes; his watch and chain he at length gave as a collateral security to a man to bail him, but who failed to do so. The Association put him on the right track to get his watch and chain; he succeeded in getting it back, and expressed his sincere thanks for what had been done for him.

No. 30. Was sent to the Association for advice and assistance; he came on from Boston to this city hoping to find employment; in this he failed, and found himself moneyless. A police officer conducted him to the magistrate who committed him for ten days. We were enabled to send him to his home, the city above designated.

No. 31. With his wife, had been in the workhouse for some months; before they left the institution they addressed a line to the Association praying them, if possible, to secure him employment. At length they left, they asked the loan of two dollars, which paid a week's rent, and kept them supplied with bread for ten days. We were by this time enabled to procure for them employment in the country. They have since returned the trifle of money lent them by the Association.

No. 34. This young couple were charged with grand larceny; they appeared to be much affected when before alderman Brady, and said want had driven them to commit this act; they both plead guilty; they said they were lawfully married in a distant city four months since.

On their final examination the justice was asked to remand them until some inquiries were made, both of their friends in Pennsylvania, the minister who they say married them, and of the complainant who had preferred this charge against them.

On a subsequent day the certificate of their marriage was shown to the district attorney, who consented to the discharge of his wife. On the trial of her husband, the association could say but little for him, he deserved severe punishment; but he solemnly promised to reform, and never be found in such a plight again.

All the property had been restored; the district attorney consented to a plea of an attempt, when the recorder sentenced him to the penitentiary for six months. The wife was sent home by the association to her friends in Pennsylvania.

No. 35. Aged 18, was charged with grand larceny. Several gentlemen who have known her for some years, called at our office, expressing great sympathy for her, it being her first offence, and could the court be induced to suspend the judgment in her case, she would never be guilty of another such act; she had lived with a family in the country over two years, where she had conducted herself well. All these facts were submitted to the court by the association and other friends interested in her behalf. Mary was brought into court, when she plead guilty of an attempt at grand larceny; the judge consented to suspend the judgment, conditionally that she leave New York, and when the association was prepared to send her to a place in the country. This was soon accomplished; she is now doing well.

No. 37. Was charged with presenting a forged check for payment. The forgery was detected, and he was arrested.

This young man was visited in prison; the most careful investigation was made of his past life; every one who knew him spoke well of him. The person whose name had been forged did not, and could not believe he had committed the forgery; all the parties concerned felt a sympathy for the prisoner, his wife, and helpless family.

After being in prison eighteen weeks, he was brought into court and plead guilty of presenting said check; judgment was suspended and he discharged. The association rendered this distressed and suffering family all the pecuniary assistance it possibly could; the man has now but partial employment; we earnestly hope Providence will provide, and because he is (we confidently believe) well intentioned.

He often calls at the office of the association, and is not un mindful of his obligations.

No. 38. Was convicted of petit larceny; the court was about to sentence her to the penitentiary, when our agent thought he saw some peculiarity about her; she looked sick and mentally disordered; application was made that she be remanded, that some inquiry may be made concerning her; the court answered affirmatively. This morning we informed the court that she had absented herself from her home and her work without a reasonable cause;

her habits were sober, industrious, and moral. Her mother died in the lunatic asylum but a short time since; two of her sisters were then in court. Her discharge from custody was recommended by the association. Her sisters took charge of her, and conducted her home.

No. 40. A smart, intelligent youth, aged 15 years, was remanded last court day, on conviction of petit larceny, that the association might ascertain his history and report on his case. It was ascertained that he had no friends or home in this State. The association recommended that he be sent to the juvenile asylum; the court adopted the suggestion.

No. 41. Two boys, aged 13 and 17, were convicted of petit larceny, and remanded for sentence. The association called on the complainant; there he was informed it had been discovered a young man had committed the larceny, and had disposed of the little property; hence they desired the discharge of those two boys. These facts were submitted to the court, and the boys discharged.

No. 42. Was remanded last court day on conviction of petit larceny; she denied her guilt. The association was requested to make some investigation of her habits and character. We ascertained that she had lived in this city the last thirteen years, and was never charged with a dishonest act before. On our recommendation she was restored to liberty.

No. 43. Was remanded from last court, convicted of an attempt to commit a petit larceny valued at one dollar. The association was requested to make some inquiries concerning her. We ascertained that she is a hard-working, sober woman, having three children to support, and that her character, up to this time, had stood very fair. The court listened to this statement of facts, and then suspended the judgment and discharged her.

No. 45. A lad aged 16 years, was convicted of grand larceny; this was his first offence. The court suspended the judgment, and would discharge him when the arrangements were completed which the association had proposed in his behalf. He was subsequently discharged and placed with a house in the country, who knew him well and who promised carefully to look after him.

No. 46. Calls on the association to say: On her complaint her husband was arrested for a felonious assault and battery with intent to kill; he had cruelly beat, and finally struck her on the head with a hatchet; she had been subpoenaed to appear before

the grand jury, but had failed to do so. Herself and family are always poor, but now they were really perishing for want of food; in addition to this misery, her landlord had served her with a civil process, and would dispossess her; before noon she expected to be on the sidewalk. We advised her to apply to the Ten Governors for the support of herself and three children; and as to her drunken husband, let him go to Sing Sing, a punishment he richly deserved. She emphatically replied: "Oh no! 'twas liquor made him a devil; in future he promises to drink no more—he will do better."

At her earnest solicitation we waited on the district attorney; the papers were sent before the grand jury; she told her story; no bill was found against him; he was then discharged by the court.

No. 48. Were inmates of the City prison the last four months, on charge of grand larceny; after repeated applications to the district attorney, it was ascertained the witnesses could not be found; they were, after this protracted imprisonment, brought up before the court and discharged, for which they thanked the association.

No. 50. Calls at our office and says, "That her husband was arrested on her complaint for an assault and battery; that when sober he is a well conducted man, but when excited with liquor he is a perfect demon: he breaks and destroys everything within his reach." She thinks those parties who sell such maddening stuff ought to be responsible for the dreadful mischief done by their customers.

She has five children. Since her husband's arrest, their distress and consequent suffering is sadly aggravated, beside which he will lose his work, should he fail to go to it on Monday next. This was found to be a truthful statement. Under these circumstances, the association applied to the court for his discharge. They each expressed their grateful thanks for the prompt attention given to their distressing case and condition.

No. 53. Had been in the penitentiary three months; he was discharged five days since. He says he has tried hard to get work, but failed in every attempt. He is now faint; wanting bread; he has not slept in a bed since his release. We were enabled to feed him, and subsequently to provide him with a place of work at a dollar a day, for which he seemed very thankful.

No. 55. Calls at the office with a line from the chaplain of Sing Sing prison. She had served out two terms of five years each imprisonment, as follows: Under the influence of some real or imaginary wrong, inflicted on her by a former landlord, she, axe in hand, burst open his basement door and took out an old iron pot which she sold for a trifle and spent for rum. She was arrested and tried and convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced for five years to State prison; when released she returned to the old neighborhood.

After the lapse of a few months her old appetite for drink revived—she drank; under its influence she started out to make a few simple purchases, when she stole three sprigs of artificial flowers, valued at 12s, for which she was tried for second offence, and again sentenced for five years to same prison (Sing Sing). She now determines to do better. A situation was provided for her in the country, and with a wealthy family who have known her for many years. We have great confidence in her honest purposes, all the while she keeps from strong drinks.

No. 56. Calls on the association this morning and says he left Sing Sing prison on Saturday last, after serving a term of four years and six months, on a charge of grand larceny.

On or about the 20th November, 1854, he was arrested on charge of petit larceny, for stealing a watch. On his examination before the police magistrate the complaint was dismissed, and he was discharged; he was subsequently arrested on the same complaint, indicted, tried and convicted on the testimony of a woman of the baser sort, who kept a house of ill repute, and was sentenced to State prison, as aforesaid.

This poor unfortunate fellow we believe was innocent of the offence. His sufferings were intense. When released he was in a mental state of disorder and physical prostration. We bid him to be of good cheer and encouraged him to look up, but the recollection of his undeserved punishment, and his consequent degradation, with his present weakness and disadvantages, nearly overwhelmed him. In a paroxysm of almost despair, he purchased four ounces of laudanum, and swallowed it. Some time afterwards he was found by a police officer in a state of stupor and consigned to the city hospital; appropriate remedies was applied and he was restored.

He was aided beyond our means. He is now in the country and still the object of our solicitude.

No. 59. Had spent two months on the Island; she says she is unalterably determined never to be found in such a plight again; she had seen better days. The case was regarded as one of a hopeful character; a situation was found her. We are encouraged to think she will do well.

No. 60. Was convicted of stealing \$290 and a gold watch and chain. He pleaded guilty to the charge, and was sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years. He says he never should have committed the dishonest act, but that he was under the influence of strong drink; and although every shilling with the watch and chain were restored, he shall never forgive himself. At the time he was but recently married. He now feels ashamed to be seen; could he have foreseen all the shame and disgrace which has followed this first criminal act of his life, he thinks it would not have been committed.

He is now living with his wife and her mother; they appear frankly to forgive him, but even in their presence he cannot feel as he felt before his fall. Had he now ample means at his command, cheerfully would he give them could he blot out this one dark spot in his history. He fears this cannot be done, but he promises to do his utmost to avoid so great a calamity in time to come.

Having confidence in his upright intentions, the association obtained a place of work for him, where he is earning an honest livelihood. Six months subsequent to his release from prison we talked with him; he is contented with his work and his wages, but he feels he can never be happy again.

No. 61. Was convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced in White Plains, Westchester county, to Sing Sing prison for two years.

He says: "I did not commit the burglary: Jack and Bill done that part; they secreted the property, came on to New York, and sent me for it; as I was about to step on shore from the steamer I was arrested, with it in my possession.

"This was my first offence—I hope it will be my last. When I left the prison I went to Newporl, then to Boston, and several places on the Fall river, where I had formerly worked, but I was everywhere unfortunate.

"I now want to reach — canal; I am known to be sober, honest and industrious, and there, I can obtain employment for the season. I ask the association to favor me with a free

passage." This was accomplished, and a trifle of money advanced him, sufficient to procure him necessaries for a few days. He has since done well.

No. 62. Had been six months in the penitentiary. He says he now sees more clearly his manifold weaknesses and follies, and promises if he can but get work, he will never again disgrace himself or act in opposition to right and equity.

The association thought it best to advise him to go a voyage to sea. He acquiesced, and we soon shipped him.

No. 63. Was sentenced to penitentiary for a term of six months, for an alleged assault and battery. He says the complainant was more in fault than himself, and that he did not regard the truth when he gave his testimony; he thinks that business is done strangely in our courts, but it is consoling to know it might have been worse. He says he was used pretty rough in the prison; the men in charge of the prisoners use the cowhide and the "cat o' nine tails" very dextrously; he thinks they must have been on some rice plantation south; he felt degraded that a man of low origin should walk by his side, and if he failed to step right to be cut over head and ears; it often made him to forget himself; such treatment, he says, tends to make those poor fellows worse than they were when arrested.

No. 64. Was convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for the term of three years. He says previous to this charge he had lived in Albany, was out of employment and in great want; he applied to the authorities for relief; they sent him to jail for two months; when released his condition was worse than before; he felt in danger of perishing. He says: "I had never committed a single dishonest act in all my life; want made me desperate; I could hold out no more; under its terrible influence I stole a horse; this was a bold act, as several persons saw me get up into the saddle and ride away; I was hotly pursued, overtaken, and arrested as aforesaid."

The association thought a sea voyage would improve his general health, hence he was soon shipped; he subsequently called to say he is contented and hopeful.

No. 65. Was convicted of an attempt at grand larceny, and sentenced to the penitentiary for twelve months. He says he lived and worked with his brother; they were both shoemakers, and from Germany; under the deceiving influence of strong drinks he robbed his brother of \$40; he was crazy, or such an act could

not be perpetrated by him. He calls on his discharge from prison, and asks the association to furnish him with tools and a little money, that he may begin life afresh.

The association advised him to work on a farm, at least for the season, confidently believing such employment would contribute to his general health. We were enabled to place him on the right track; he is now with a good family, who know of his fall, and who believe in his daily rise and permanent reformation.

No. 66. Had been in this country but eight days; was out of work and in great want; in this trying hour he yielded to temptation, and stole a watch and some trifling clothing; he was arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced for six months to the penitentiary. He says: "I will never do wrong again." The association sent him to a sailors' boarding house, as he wished to get shipped.

No. 67. Was tried in Court of General Sessions, and convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years. He says he had worked and boarded with his boss for one month, when he ascertained there was but little hope of his getting his wages. He supplied himself out of the store with coat, vest, and cap, the value he thought to be about \$10. He had made no definite arrangement about wages, but he had expected to get at least \$12 per month; he left his boss, was soon arrested on charge of stealing clothes valued at \$30.

The officers of the prison gave him a recommendatory letter to the association; we sent him to a boarding house, and obtained shop work for him without delay. We are glad to know he is hard at work earning an honest livelihood.

No. 69. Convicted of grand larceny; was sentenced to State prison for two years. He calls to say, he left there yesterday and never to return again, he confidently hopes. He wants to reach a distant city, the residence of his friends, who are about to leave there for Illinois as soon as his sister here in New York, and himself, can join them. The Association regard this case as one of peculiar interest; he was enabled to reach the place designated.

No. 71. Was convicted of forgery in the second degree, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for ten years. He says that a land warrant purporting to be from the Hon. Gerrit Smith, had been forged; an attempt was unsuccessfully made to raise a loan upon it—he at length sold it for five dollars. When arrested on this charge, he expected no more than a few months on the Island, but

to his dismay, he was sent up for ten years; this was his first offence. During one of Governor Morgan's visits to the prison, he condescended to speak to me; enquiries were made by him into my case; the result influenced his Excellency to pardon me after being there nine years and three months. He says, since he was released he has travelled from place to place hoping to find some of his relatives and friends; he has failed in every attempt made. He could not have believed so great a change, even in ten years, would be apparent, everything appears strange, and all men to him are strangers. His resources were exhausted having but four dollars when discharged. The Association advanced him a trifle of money to enable him to reach a manufacturing city where he hoped to obtain employment through a friend connected with us.

No. 72. Convicted of an attempt of grand larceny; was sentenced to the penitentiary for two years; he says this was his first offence; if punishment cures men of crime, then he must reform for there some of the keepers inflict severe brutal corporeal punishment. We advised him to take a trip to sea—he acquiesced; he was shipped.

No. 73. Was tried in court of Special Sessions on charge of petit larceny, and sentenced for six months to the penitentiary. He says he had lived in an adjoining State for some years, he married, but finding his wages insufficient to meet his expenses, he came on to New York to better his circumstances; here he met with an old acquaintance, was prevailed upon to take two or three drinks, then went and laid himself down in the rear of a house and went to sleep; an officer was called, and he hurried through the court. He says he is not a thief, and was never prone to dishonesty. He asks the Association to loan him a dollar to enable him to reach the country where he left his wife, expecting to return within a day or two; we complied with his request, he went, and returned with a certificate of her death and burial; she was found on the railroad track about a month after his arrest, and was instantly killed. His poor heart appeared to be well nigh broken; he promised to call again, but has failed to do so, which we regret.

No. 75. Was tried and convicted of burglary in the second degree, and sentenced August 12, 1852, to Sing Sing prison, for a term of seven years. He calls and says, I left there this morning after serving out every hour of my sentence; I was used pretty well, and tried hard to conform to the rules laid down, so that I

escaped all extra punishments; I now want work, but would prefer going home to my parents could I accomplish it, but my money is very short. The Association was glad to take this poor man by the hand, confidently believing he will never be guilty of another dishonest act. The president of one of our railroad companies kindly sympathized with him, a cheap passage was secured and he reached his friends in safety.

No. 76. Calls and says, "Please help me; I have been in the penitentiary the last four months; my friends are now in Connecticut, could I reach them I should have plenty of work and all would be well."

He showed us a letter received from his mother. She most feelingly urged his return to his home and her heart. The association handed him the means to reach there.

No. 78. Was sent to the penitentiary for one month for an alleged assault and battery on his shipmate. Previous to his removal he informed the association that his clothes, worth to him \$40, were on board his ship, which would sail in less than a week, and that his wages, amounting to \$50, would be lost unless immediately seen to. The captain was seen, the money and the clothes were placed in the hands of the British consul. When released he called to thank the association for the favor done him.

No. 79. Calls, accompanied by his wife, to say that they have had their difficulties since he was released from State prison, nearly three years ago. Their prospects for the future are hopeful; could they now accept an offer of going into the country, there they believe their bread would be sure. But they had no means to remove their goods into the country unless the association could aid them. For this purpose a few dollars were placed at their disposal.

They presented their grateful thanks for the sum advanced to them, believing the step about to be taken would contribute to their permanent comfort.

No. 80. Was tried, on charge of grand larceny, stealing a horse and wagon; he was convicted, and sentenced to the State prison for two years.

He says that he hired the horse and buggy and paid \$10 for their use for three days; he drove about thirty miles, then left them at livery and came on to New York. He never attempted to sell, or in any way, directly or indirectly, to raise money upon them.

His counsel in his defence tried to prove him insane, but that was a failure, although it was shown that he had been an inmate of a lunatic asylum for a period of three years. The association rendered him some pecuniary aid until a place of work was provided for him. He is now doing well—all things considered.

No. 86. Was arraigned in court of general sessions on charge of grand larceny. Representations were made to the proper authorities that this young man had lived a life of uniform propriety; that he was never suspected of committing a dishonest act. He had been out of employment, and with a wife and two children were sadly straitened in their circumstances. The assistant district attorney, Mr. Sedgwick, with his characteristic discrimination and high sense of equity, accepted a plea of an attempt at grand larceny, and he was treated with great leniency by the court. Sentenced four months to the penitentiary.

He calls to thank the association for saving him from a protracted confinement in prison, and most solemnly pledges himself never to yield to such a temptation even should he want bread.

We were instrumental in finding him employment. He is doing well.

No. 87. Has been in the penitentiary the last four months. She says that she is entirely sick of dissipation, and would, if prepared, lie down and die; where to go, or what to do, she knows not, unless to a house of prostitution, there her prospects for the future are utter ruin, to body and soul, now and ever.

The association urged her to seek admission in the Magdalen. A line of introduction was given her to the lady managers.

No. 88. Was tried and convicted in the U. S. Court of passing and uttering bogus coin. He was sentenced to the penitentiary for one year.

He calls at the office to say he has obtained work, and will, in future, act uprightly. The association furnished him with a decent suit of clothes, a bible and prayer-book.

We regard this case as one of a peculiarly hopeful character.

For the help afforded him he expressed his unfeigned thanks.

No. 89. Calls and represents that he is out of work, and in very needy circumstances, having no means to pay his board or even his bed.

The association lent him a trifle to meet his immediate necessities, confidently believing that he has lived an honest life since he left Sing Sing prison, now nearly two years ago.

No. 97. Was tried and convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to the State prison for two years. He says that he had been in this country but ten months when he was thrown out of employment, and was in great distress. In his difficulty he was thrown into the company of bad men; they stole the articles and gave them to him to sell; in doing so he was arrested, while they ran away. He declares this to have been his first offence, and with many tears promises that he will die rather than steal or keep bad company.

He slept last night at a shilling lodging-house, where he was robbed of two dollars.

The association obtained him employment and a boarding-house.

He felt grateful, and is now at work earning his daily bread.

No. 98. Calls to thank the association for the interest shown him when discharged from State prison. He says he has been at work ever since, on a canal, at \$10 per month, the season being now over; he is now on his way to a distant city, where he hopes to secure employment for the winter. He says he begins to love right, because it is right.

No. 99. Was convicted of an attempt at grand larceny, and sentenced to Sing Sing for two years. He says this was the first time he was suspected of stealing; he believes the officer and the prosecutor laid their heads together to send him up anyhow; he thinks so, because they did not confine themselves to the truth. He says he never went to school; his father died when he was but seven years old; he had to earn his daily bread soon after; it makes him unhappy that he knows so little; in prison he has learned to spell a little and to read a psalm or an easy chapter in the New Testament; he hopes to be able to learn more and more, and to become a good man. He comes to the association asking the friends of discharged prisoners to find him employment, either by sea or land, and that he will never disgrace himself or cause them regret.

No. 100. Calls at the office of the association this A. M., and says she left the penitentiary after being there twelve months on conviction of an attempt at grand larceny. For several years previous to her arrest she had sustained a good character, and in her occupation as cook, in several excellent situations with families of high standing, all spoke well of her.

In an evil hour she was induced to visit a lottery policy don;

here she sacrificed her wages; she never won, but always lost, hence her difficulties accumulated; money was wanting; she was tempted to take the property of her best friends, with whom she then lived, believing the next draw would prove a prize. She shed many bitter tears of apparent penitence for the past, and made a solemn promise to act right in whatever condition she may be placed in the future.

Some clothing was taken from her by the officer when arrested; she needs it much, but knew not where to find it. The association wrote a line to the property clerk; the clothing was immediately restored to her, for which she expressed her thankfulness.

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CHARTER.

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*, 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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 the 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 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 8, 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. GARDNER, *President*.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
In Assembly, April 24, 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.
Approved this 9th day of May, 1846,

WM. C. CRAIN, *Speaker*.
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.

BY-LAWS.

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. Reports from corresponding secretary.

5. Reports from the 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 forms 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 donations:

1. To enquire 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 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 able 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 influence 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.

X. Each standing committee shall have power to appoint its own chairman and secretary, and to divide itself into as many sub-committees as it may deem proper; and each committee shall make a report of its proceedings at each stated meeting of the executive committee.

XI. The recording secretary shall be the secretary of the executive committee, and it shall be his duty to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the committee, to record them in a book to be provided for that purpose, and to give due notice of all meetings of the committee.

XII. 1. The standing committee shall meet in their order on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the week preceding the regular meeting of the executive committee; and the recording secretary shall give due notice thereof.

2. It shall be the duty of each standing committee to report to each monthly meeting of the executive committee the number of meetings held, and the names of the members attending at each.

XIII. If it shall appear from the report of any standing committee that any member has not attended any one of these meetings during the preceding three months, the members so neglecting to attend shall, if no satisfactory excuse be offered, be deemed to have resigned as a member of such committee, and the executive committee may proceed to appoint another in his place.

XIV. No person shall be added as a member to any of the standing committees unless the committee to which he is to be added shall have reported his name at a preceding meeting of the executive committee, and shall have stated that the member so proposed has consented to serve. No person, so proposed, shall be elected as a member unless by the votes of two-thirds of all the members present; and every such election shall be made by ballot, unless by unanimous consent the ballot be dispensed with.

XV. There shall be a standing committee of ladies for the female department, the members of which shall be selected by the executive committee, and shall have charge of the interests and welfare of persons of their own sex, under such regulations as

the executive committee may prescribe, or they themselves, with the approbation of the executive committee, may adopt. Such committee shall have power to elect its own officers, and, when organized, shall be placed in all respects on the same footing as the other standing committees of the executive committee, in relation to the increase of their numbers.

XVI. The corresponding secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the executive committee, and of each of the standing committees when required, and shall report the same at each stated meeting of the committee, and shall record the same in books to be procured for that purpose.

XVII. The president, chairman of the executive committee, and the corresponding secretary, shall be members, ex officio, of all the standing committees.

XVIII. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to keep safely all moneys deposited with him by the finance committee, to pay over the same in such manner and at such time as the finance committee shall direct, and to give such security for the faithful discharge of his duty as that committee shall require.

XIX. No alterations in these by-laws shall be made, except a notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given at a previous meeting of the executive committee.

1859-60

DONATIONS

TO THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, IN THE YEARS 1859,

	1859.	
✓ J. H. Abeel	\$10 00	
✓ J. W. Alsop	10 00	
✓ Wm. H. Aspinwall	25 00	
✓ J. H. Anthon	-----	
✓ John T. Adams	-----	
✓ Misses Burr	-----	
✓ Amos Billings	-----	
✓ George Bruce	50 00	
✓ James Boorman	25 00	
✓ Theo. B. Bronson	5 00	
✓ B. Blanco	15 00	
✓ James Brown	25 00	
✓ Stewart Brown	10 00	
✓ Babcock & Milnor	5 00	5 00 ✓
✓ J. & C. Berrian	5 00	
✓ Chas. Burkhalter	5 00	
✓ S. G. Bogert	5 00	
✓ Wm. Allen Butler	5 00	
✓ Jas. B. Brewster	5 00	
✓ L. B. Brown & Co.	5 00	
✓ W. Bailey	5 00	
✓ Jacob Badger	-----	5 00
✓ Geo. Brodie	-----	5 00 ✓
✓ Hull Clark	-----	5 00 ✓
✓ John Caswell	25 00	25 00
✓ S. Cambreling	10 00	10 00
✓ Jas. Cruickshank	5 00	5 00
✓ S. B. Collins	5 00	
✓ Wm. F. Cary	10 00	10 00
✓ Wm. B. Crosby	25 00	25 00
✓ Cyrus Curtiss	-----	25 00
✓ E. Cazet	3 00	
✓ Clafin, Mellen & Co.	10 00	20 00 ✓

1859.

1860.

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Francis Hall
Mas. Hunter
Harper & Co.
Hoboken
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Howland
Mas. C. Holden
W. Hegeman
F. A. Hegeman
W. T. Holworthy
C. A. Hecksher
Allan Hay
J. L.
A. Iselin
Richard Irvin
J. R. Jaffray & Sons
J.
W. R. T. Jones
Morris K. Jesup
Wm. L. King
James Lenox
H. B. Livingston
Peter Lotillard
Wm. Loback & Schepeler
Loeschigk, Wesendonck & Co.
A. A. Low
Wm. Lottimer & Co.
N. Ludlum
Linda
Daniel Lord
R. B. Minturn
Geo. D. Morgan
J. F. Melliss
Mitchell & Pott
Thos. Messinger
O. D. Munn
D. Moran
H. P. Marshall
Josiah Macy's Sons
E. H. Miller
Wm. F. Mott

1859.

1860.

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35 00

Henry Coffin
Joseph Cobb
James Cook
Wher Coleman & Co.
C. C. Laundry items
Collection at executive committee
C. C. Lyman, Lyon & Noyes
C. C. Lambmann
C. C. J. Dillon
C. C. Diblee & Co.
C. C. Heday & Beak
C. C. Pappet & Co.
C. C. Douglass
C. C. Sherman & Co.
C. C. Dodge
C. C. Dunham
C. C. Doughty
C. C. Thomas Eddy
C. C. Lucy H. Eddy
C. C. J. R. E.
C. C. Fellows, Hoffman & Co.
C. C. French Consul General
C. C. Jane Green
C. C. Jas. W. Gerard
C. C. W. S. Gilman
C. C. E. H. Gilman
C. C. Grant & Barton
C. C. Goodhue & Co.
C. C. F. C. Gebbard
C. C. Wm. C. Gilman
C. C. Wm. C. Gilman, Jr.
C. C. Misses Gilman
C. C. T. Gould
C. C. Henry E. Granniss, Newark, N. J.
C. C. Daniel C. Gilman
C. C. Meredith Howland
C. C. Hendricks Bros.
C. C. Hargous Bros
C. C. Wilson G. Hunt
C. C. Haskell, Merrick & Buel