

STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. 51.

IN SENATE,

APRIL 8, 1884.

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, FOR
THE YEAR 1883.

PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, }
No. 65 BIBLE HOUSE. }

To the Lieutenant-Governor and President of the Senate:

SIR — In accordance with chapter 163 of the Laws of 1846, we have the honor to present herewith the Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Prison Association of New York, and respectfully to request that you will lay the same before the Legislature.

Respectfully yours,

THEODORE W. DWIGHT, *President.*

CHARLTON T. LEWIS, *Chairman Ex. Com.*

W. M. F. ROUND, *Corresponding Secretary.*

[Sen. Doc. No. 51.]

1883

OFFICERS FOR 1884.

President.

THEODORE W. DWIGHT, LL. D.

Vice-Presidents.

GROVER CLEVELAND, ABRAHAM LANSING,
Rt. Rev. F. D. HUNTINGTON, SINCLAIR TOUSEY,
EDWIN HUTCHINSON, ANDREW D. WHITE, LL. D.

Corresponding Secretary.

W. M. F. ROUND, 65 BIBLE HOUSE.

Recording Secretary.

EUGENE SMITH.

Treasurer.

CORNELIUS B. GOLD.

Executive Committee.

CHARLTON T. LEWIS, *Chairman*, RICHARD A. McCURDY,
THOMAS C. ACTON, HENRY K. McHARG,
LEVI M. BATES, EDWARD B. MERRILL,
STEPHEN CUTTER, THOMAS M. PETERS, D. D.,
JOHN D. CRIMMINS, Rt. Rev. HENRY C. POTTER,
HENRY W. De FOREST, WILLIAM P. PRENTICE,
W. EARL DODGE, WENDELL PRIME, D. D.,
Z. STYLES ELY, STEPHEN SMITH, M. D.,
GEORGE S. FRASER, JAMES R. STEERS,
CHARLES H. KITCHEL, LISPENARD STEWART,
WILLIAM P. LETCHWORTH, CHARLES B. WAITE,
WILLIAM WHITLOCK.

General Agent.

STEPHEN CUTTER, 65 BIBLE HOUSE.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

- M. Charles Lucas, Member of the Institute of France, Chateau à Rongère près le Bourges, France.
 The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, England.
 M. Fernand Desportes, LL.D., Secretary of the Société Generale des Prisons de France.
 Hon. Fr. Stuckenberg, Copenhagen, Denmark.
 Count W. Sollohub, Ministry of Justice, St. Petersburg, Russia.
 Frederic Hill, Esq., 27 Thurlow Road, Hampstead, London, England.
 Rt. Hon. Sir Walter Crofton, C. B., "The Close," Winchester, England.
 W. L. Sargent, Birmingham, England.
 Alfred Aspland, F. R. C. S., Dukensfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, England.
 Hon. Geo. W. Hastings, LL. B., Worcester, England.
 Dr. G. Varraultropf, Frankfort-on-the-Main.
 F. B. Sanborn, Concord, Mass.
 Z. R. Brockway, Elmira, N. Y.
 Rev. Fred. H. Wines, Springfield, Ill.
 Baron Frauz Von Holtzendorff, Prof. Law in the Royal University, Munich, Bavaria.
 Mons. Bonneville de Marsangy, Counselor of the Imperial Court of Paris, No. 7 Rue Penthièvre, Paris, France.
 Signor Martino Beltrania-Scalia, Inspector-General of Prisons in the Kingdom of Italy, Rome, Italy.
 J. J. Henley, Esq., Local Government Board Inspector, New Government Offices, Westminster, London, England.
 Major E. F. Du Cane, Chairman of Directors of Convict Prisons, 44 Parliament street, London, England.
 Mons. Robin (pasteur), 21 Rue Piat, Belleville, Paris, France.
 Dr. Prosper Despina, 12 Rue du Loisir, Marseilles, France.
 Dr. Guillaume, Director of Penitentiary, Neuchâtel, Switzerland.
 Richardson Petersen, Director of Penitentiary, Christina, Norway.
 Herman Adami, LL.D., Bremen.
 Alfred Field, President Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham, England.
 Rev. Sidney Turner, Inspector of Reformatories, 15 Parliament street, London, England.
 Florence Hill, Bristol, and 55 Wimpole street, London, England.
 Joanne Margaret Hill, Bristol, England.
 F. R. Bruun, Director of Prisons, Denmark.
 Florence Nightingale, South street, London, England.
 Edwin Hill, Esq., 1 St. Mark's square, Regent's Park, London, England.
 A. Angus Croll, Esq., Rochampton, England.
 Fr. Ad. Roepstorff, Extra Assistant Superintendent of the Penal Settlement, Port Blair, India.
 William Tallack, Secretary Howard Association, 5 Bishopgate street without, London, England.
 Hon. W. Soldatenkoff, Prison Commissioner, St. Petersburg, Russia.
 Rev. J. W. Horsley, Clerkenwell, London.
 Arthur Maddison, Secretary Reformatory and Refuge Union, London.

LIFE PATRONS.

BY CONTRIBUTION OF \$500 OR MORE AT ONE TIME.

- Henry K. McHarg, New York. Mrs. A. T. Stewart, New York.
- John David Wolfe,* " Miss C. L. Wolfe, "

HONORARY MEMBERS.

BY CONTRIBUTION OF \$100 AT ONE TIME.

- George B. Archer, New York. John A. Pullen, New York.
- Wm. H. Aspinwall,* " George C. Rand, "
- Wm. B. Astor, " W. C. Rhinelande, "
- J. J. Astor, " C. T. Robert,* "
- Mrs. Caroline W. Astor, " C. V. S. Roosevelt, "
- Wm. T. Booth, " Thos. Roosevelt,* "
- Alex. Hargreaves Brown, M. P., Liverpool, Eng. Adam T. Sackett, "
- James Brown,* New York. Joseph Sampson, "
- H. K. Bull, " J. F. Sheafe, "
- H. K. Corning,* " Mrs. Mary Sheafe, "
- R. Fulton Cutting, " C. H. Shippman, "
- John Caswell, " Henry M. Schieffelin, "
- Sam'l B. Cadwell, " R. L. Stuart,* "
- Edward Cooper, " Alexander Stuart,* "
- A. B. Conger, " James Stokes,* "
- Wm. B. Crosby,* " Jonathan Sturges, "
- Wm. E. Dodge,* " Mrs. Catharine L. Spencer, New York.
- Wm. Butler Duncan, " Rev. James Saul, D. D., Phila., Pa.
- Winthrop S. Gilman, " Francis George Shaw,* W. New Brighton, N. Y.
- Henry W. De Forest, " Anson Phelps Stokes, New York.
- Theo. W. Dwight, " Lispenard Stewart, "
- Wm. C. Gilman, " Roswell Smith, "
- Horace Gray, " John Slayback, "
- Cornelius B. Gold, " James S. Seymour, Auburn, N. Y.
- Mrs. Cornelius B. Gold, " H. S. Terbell, New York.
- Lincoln S. Gold, " Seth E. Thomas, "
- Dr. J. G. Holland,* " Sinclair Toussy, "
- Dr. Eliza Harris,* " Henry Villard, "
- Meredith Howland, " Wm. Van Arsdale, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Mark Hoyt, " Alex. Van Rensselaer, New York.
- Adrian Iselin, " Cornelius Vanderbilt, "
- M. K. Jessup, " William K. Vanderbilt, "
- John Taylor Johnston, " George C. Ward, "
- James R. Keene, " Salem H. Wales, "
- James Lenox,* " R. W. Weston, "
- Miss Lenox, " Samuel Willets,* "
- Miss Lenox, " Rev. E. C. Wines,* "
- Peter Lorillard, " J. Walker Wood, "
- Wm. P. Letchworth, " William Wood, "
- Charlton T. Lewis, " Charles B. Waite, "
- Woodbury G. Langdon " Cornelius D. Wood, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- J. H. Mead, " James S. Seymour, Auburn, N. Y.
- Allen McLane, " Joseph Howland, Matzewan, N. Y.
- Samuel F. D. Morse,* " Mrs. Joseph Howland, "
- George D. Morgan, " Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D.D.,* Troy, N. Y.
- Adam Norrie, " Rev. Dr. Darling, Albany, N. Y.
- R. M. Olyphant, " Thomas W. Otcott, "
- Daniel Parish, " Erastus Corning, "
- George D. Phelps,* " Mrs. C. L. McLanahan, New York.

* Deceased.

LOCAL COMMITTEES FOR CO-OPERATION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

1884.

- Albany County: Residence Albany — Maurice E. Viele, William Law Learned, Rev. Rufus W. Clark, Edward Savage, Dean Sage, Rev. Charles Reynolds, *Secretary*.
- Allegany County: Residence, Friendship — Hon. Abijah J. Wellman.
- Broome County: Residence, Binghamton — Dr. John G. Orton, Sabin McKinney, B. N. Loomis, E. M. Noyes, Rev. Robert N. Parke, E. K. Clark.
- Cattaraugus County: Residence, Little Valley — Arthur H. Howe, Dr. L. Twombly.
- Cayuga County: Residence, Auburn — Miss Perry, Dr. S. Willard, Byron C. Smith, D. M. Osborne, Dennis R. Alward, Mrs. Miles Perry, Mrs. D. R. Alward, Rev. Willis J. Beecher, D. D., William G. Wise; residence, Fair Haven — Hon. George I. Post.
- Chautauqua County: Residence, Mayville — Rev. J. H. Miller, William Chase; residence, Fredonia — M. S. Moore; residence, Westfield — Alfred Patterson; residence, Jamestown — Hon. Jerome C. Preston.
- Cheunung County: Residence, Elmira — Dr. W. C. Wey, Z. R. Brockway, J. D. F. Slee, Rev. G. H. McKnight, Dr. T. H. Squire, Dr. Ira T. Hart, D. Atwater, Frederick Hall, M. S. Converse, Maj. E. O. Beers, Rev. J. H. McCarthy.
- Cheunago County: Residence, Norwich — Dr. H. H. Beecher, B. Gage Berry, Daniel M. Holmes, Cyrus B. Martin.
- Clinton County: Residence, Plattsburgh — Hon. William P. Mooers, Henry Orvis, Rev. F. B. Hall; residence, Keeseville — Hon. Henry Kingsland, 2d.
- Columbia County: Residence, Hudson — A. B. Scott, C. W. Gebhard.
- Cortland County: Residence, Cortlandville — Lewis Bouton, Frank Place, Dr. Frederick Hyde; residence, Homer — Dr. Caleb Green, Thomas S. Ranney.
- Delaware County: Residence, Delhi — Dr. Ferris Jacobs, T. W.

Brown, Gen. Ferris Jacobs, Jr., O. S. Penfield, Mrs. W. H. Griswold, Mrs. F. Jacobs, Jr., Mrs. W. Youmans, Dr. H. A. Gates, Mrs. H. A. Gates, Mrs. C. A. Frost.

Dutchess County: Residence, Poughkeepsic — H. Loomis, Jr., Dr. Edward H. Parker, Edmund Platt, Robert F. Wilkinson, Warren G. Cowle, Mrs. Mary G. Underhill.

Erie County: Residence, Buffalo — James Lyons, P. J. Ferris, Dr. John D. Hill, David P. Page, Mrs. A. McPherson.

Essex County: Residence, Elizabethtown — Dr. S. E. Hale, Francis A. Smith, Richard L. Hand, Abijah Perry, Robert W. Livingston.

Franklin County: Residence, Malone — Dr. S. P. Bates, Hon. W. A. Wheeler, F. T. Heath, Hon. John I. Gilbert, J. P. Badger.

Fulton County: Residence, Johnstown — Jacob Bunton; residence, Gloversville — John Ferguson, Dr. Engene Beach.

Genesee County: Residence, Batavia — Prof. G. Fuller, Hon. J. R. Holmes.

Greene County: Residence, Catskill — George H. Penfield, Samuel Harris, Mrs. M. B. Sellick, Thomas Bell.

Hamilton County: Residence, Wells — G. B. Morrison; residence, Sageville — William H. Fry.

Herkimer County: Residence, Herkimer — David M. Davendorf; residence, Hion — E. Remington.

Jefferson County: Residence, Watertown — Richard G. Keyes, Josse M. Adams.

Kings County: Residence, Brooklyn — Eugene D. Berri, Rev. Michael J. Hickie, W. B. Wadsworth, James M. Shanahan, Thomas E. Pearsall, N. T. Beers, Jr., William Haugen, Robert Mayhem, Andrew A. Smith, J. B. Clayton, G. H. Tobias, Moses G. Wanzor, W. J. Schaufele, A. D. Mathews.

Lewis County: Residence, Lowville — Rev. Joseph H. France, Amos Rice, Carroll House, Royall P. Wilbur; residence, Croghan — Hon. William W. Rice.

Livingston County: Residence, Geneseo — Dr. W. E. Landerdale, Rev. T. D. W. Ward, Prof. W. J. Milne.

Madison County: Residence, Morrisville — D. D. Chase, H. P. Meade, Lucius P. Clark; residence, Oneida — W. R. Williams.

Montgomery County: Residence, Fondra — Rev. W. Frothingham.

Monroe County: Residence, Rochester — Hon. Henry R. Selden, Dr. E. V. Stoddard, James J. Stewart, L. S. Fulton, Quincy Van Voorhis, Theodore Bacon, Mrs. Vick.

New York County: The Association's Committees on Detentions and Discharged Prisoners.

Niagara County: Residence, Lockport — Gaylord B. Hubbell, M. H. Webber, Dr. J. B. Hartwell, Dr. A. W. Tryon, Mrs. Robert Norton.

Oneida County: Residence, Utica — Col. Theo. P. Cook, John F. Seymour, Dr. Edwin Hutchinson, Charles H. Warren, Edwin Hunt; residence, Rome — Simon G. Visscher, Mr. Converse.

Onondaga County: Residence, Syracuse — Hon. F. Burns, A. C.

Williams, Dr. H. B. Wilbur, Rev. M. Baird, Dr. R. W. Pease, Hon. W. H. H. Gere, Timothy Hough, M. W. Hanchett, Timothy R. Porter, J. C. Williams, Dr. E. E. Van De Warker, James A. Skinner, G. L. Bonta.

Ontario County: Residence, Canandaigua — Darwin Cheeny, Dr. Harvey Jewett, Cyrus W. Dixon, Mrs. Collins Hart, Prof. Edward Tyler, Hon. James C. Smith, Levi B. Gaylord; residence, Geneva — T. C. Maxwell, Arthur P. Rose.

Orange County: Residence, Goshen — Dr. J. H. Thompson, Rev. Floyd A. Crane; residence, Newburgh — Dr. R. V. K. Montfort, Grant Edgar, William McCrea, John Caldwell, Uriah Traphagen, Lewis F. Corwin, George H. Mills; residence, Middletown — Hon. J. D. Friend, Hon. J. G. Wilkin.

Orleans County: Residence, Albion — Edwin R. Reynolds, Daniel W. Frye, U. C. Rogers.

Oswego County: Residence, Oswego — Hon. O. J. Harmon, G. C. McWhorter, Hon. J. A. Place, Dr. A. S. Coe, G. Mollison, Mrs. George Goodier, Miss Florence Pettibone, Mrs. C. B. Randall; residence, Pulaski — N. B. Smith.

Otesgo County: Residence, Cooperstown — Elihu Phinney, Dr. H. Lathrop, S. M. Shaw, G. P. Keese, Miss Susan Cooper, Dr. W. T. Bassett.

Putnam County: Residence, Carmel — Hon. W. S. Clapp, James R. Weeks, Addison Ely, M. D., Rev. E. W. Colver.

Queens County: Residence, Manhasset — John Keese, W. H. Onderdonk; residence, Hempstead — Rev. William H. Moore, D. D., Ebenezer Kelum, Valentine Glowes; residence, Westbury — Benj. D. Hicks, Mrs. Jas. R. Willets; residence, Glen Cove — Edwin A. Hopkins; residence, Astoria — Rev. Washington Rodman, Miss E. H. Rodman, Dr. J. D. Trask.

Rensselaer County: Residence, Troy — Rev. C. W. Wood, Amasa R. Moore, H. W. Houghton, Rev. William Irvin, Samuel Foster.

Richmond County: Residence, West Brighton — Rev. J. S. Bush, Mrs. J. S. Lowell; residence, Richmond C. H. — Dr. Ephraim Clark, Dr. I. L. Milsbaugh, Stephen Stephens, Miss H. Moore, Miss Mundy.

Rockland County: Residence, Stony Point — Dr. Wm. Govan; residence, Haverstraw — Alonzo Wheeler; residence, Nyack — Seth B. Cole; residence, Tomkins Cove — Walter T. Searing, Mrs. Laura Wood.

Saratoga County: Residence, Ballston Spa — J. W. Horton, Dr. Morgan Lewis; residence, Saratoga Springs — Prof. Hiram A. Wilson.

Seneca County: Residence, Waterloo — Hon. S. G. Hadley, Dr. S. R. Wells, Rev. S. H. Gridley, Solomon Carman; residence, Oneida — Hon. George Franklin, Dr. John B. Chapin; residence, Seneca Falls — Charles A. Hawley.

Schoharie County: Residence, Schoharie — Rev. Jacob Heck, Thos. W. Zeh, Jr.

Schenectady County: Residence, Schenectady — Dr. B. A. Mynderse, Hon. W. T. L. Sanders, S. B. Howe, Prof. Chas. E. Kingsbury.

Schuyler County: Residence, Watkins — Frederick Davis, Dr. J. W. Thompson, Rev. George Knapp, B. W. Woodward.

St. Lawrence County: Residence, Canton — Geo. Robinson, Rev. James Gardner, H. H. Judd, Dr. J. C. Preston; residence, Ogdensburg — Dr. B. F. Sherman, Prof. R. G. Pettibone, Daniel Magone.

Steuben County: Residence, Bath — Guy A. McMaster, Z. L. Parker, Rev. O. K. Howard, Rev. James M. Platt, Dr. A. H. Cruttenden; residence, Corning — Dr. H. C. May, F. A. Williams.

Suffolk County: Residence, Riverhead — N. W. Foster, Dr. R. H. Benjamin, Thos. Cook, G. O. Wells.

Sullivan County: Residence, Monticello — Charles F. Canedy, Dr. Edward Quinlan, James Strong; residence, Grahamville — Dr. J. M. La Morce.

Tioga County: Residence, Owego — Hon. Wm. Smyth, Rev. J. A. Ostrander, A. Abel, V. N. Russell, Hon. T. I. Chatfield, G. B. Goodrich, A. Coburn, H. D. Pinney.

Tompkins County: Residence, Ithaca — Prof. Ziba H. Potter, Prof. James Law, Prof. William D. Wilson, Marcus Lyon, Orange P. Hyde.

Ulster County: Residence, Kingston — Hon. James G. Lindsley, Mrs. Mary W. Reynolds, Rev. Geo. Waters, D. D., Augustus W. Reynolds, Rev. C. W. Camp; residence, New Paltz — Dr. C. W. Deyo; residence, Whiteport — Edward Dorenius.

Warren County: Residence, Lake George — Samuel R. Archibald, Francis G. Crosby, Elias S. Harris, Dr. W. R. Adamson.

Washington County: Residence, Salem — R. G. Atwood, James Blashfield, C. R. Hawley.

Wayne County: Residence, Lyons — John L. Cole, Wm. Van Master, Charles Emnis; residence, Palmyra — Isaac C. Bronson, Dr. Samuel Ingraham, A. S. Niles, Mrs. Horace Eaton, George G. Jessup; residence, Arcadia — Rev. Park Burgess; residence, Walworth — Hon. Lucien T. Youmans.

Westchester County: Residence, White Plains — Dr. H. E. Schmid, Mrs. J. O. Dyckman, M. Prudhomme, Rev. F. V. Van Kleeck; residence, Sing Sing — Dr. G. J. Fisher, Mrs. Catherine E. Van Cortlandt, L. G. Bostwick, S. G. Howe, Miss E. Roe, Rev. N. T. Everts.

Wyoming County: Residence, Warsaw — Hon. Augustus Frank, Rev. L. E. Nassau.

Yates County: Residence, Penn Yan — Myron Hamlin, Joseph F. Crosby, Wm. F. Van Tuyl, D. A. Ogden.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

December 31, 1882, to December 31, 1883.

Cash balance, December 31, 1882.....	\$119 29
Received from city excise fund.....	675 00
Donations.....	4,386 53
Total.....	\$5,180 82
Expense of Agency in New York city for discharged convicts and persons under arrest.....	\$1,981 35
Expense of State organization.....	3,157 01
Cash balance.....	42 46
Total.....	\$5,180 82

CORNELIUS B. GOLD,

Treasurer.

DONATIONS.

Chapman & Bloomer.....	\$5 00
Michael Crane.....	10 00
George S. Fraser.....	100 00
J. J. Little & Co.....	20 00
Wilkinson Bros.....	5 00
Boorum & Pease.....	5 00
Thomas Denny.....	25 00
Henry W. de Forest.....	100 00
Morris K. Jessup.....	50 00
C. D. Wood.....	50 00
H. C. Swords.....	10 00
Miss P. C. Swords.....	5 00
Mrs. J. R. Swords.....	10 00
Austin B. Wells, Glens Falls, N. Y.....	1 00
Dudley Jardine.....	25 00
Henry K. McHarg.....	500 00
H. H. Frary, Jonesville, Vt.....	2 00
Robert Leiox Belknap.....	25 00
Edward Howard and family, Gasport, Niagara county, N. Y.....	5 00
Geo. G. Lake.....	10 00
Charles B. Waite.....	200 00

W. P. Prentice.....	\$30 00
Miss Catharine L. Wolfe.....	100 00
Woodbury G. Langdon.....	100 00
Bleeker Van Wageningen.....	25 00
"Yonkers subscription," by Lispenard Stewart.....	50 00
William D. Sloane.....	25 00
Frederick D. Thompson.....	25 00
W. C. Schermerhorn.....	50 00
Adrian Iselin.....	150 00
Cornelius Vanderbilt.....	100 00
Anson Phelps Stokes.....	100 00
Bradley Martin.....	25 00
R. T. Wilson.....	25 00
Wm. K. Vanderbilt.....	100 00
Frederick W. Stevens.....	50 00
A. M. Dodge.....	25 00
William Othout.....	25 00
Z. Stiles Ely.....	25 00
J. W. Hammersley.....	25 00
John W. Ellis.....	25 00
Lispenard Stewart.....	100 00
Elliott F. Shepard.....	25 00
Thos. H. Suckley.....	50 00
A. C. Kingsland.....	50 00
Wm. E. Chisolm.....	50 00
George A. Robbins.....	50 00
Wm. Rhinelander.....	25 00
R. J. Dodge.....	25 00
Roswell Smith.....	100 00
Henry Day.....	50 00
Wm. E. Dodge.....	50 00
Edward A. Pearson.....	5 00
Charles H. Kitchel.....	15 00
"Anonymous," by C. H. Kitchel.....	10 00
R. C. Crosby.....	5 00
C. R. Agnew.....	10 00
Thos. Holland.....	20 00
Theo. Gilman.....	15 00
Mrs. A. L. Gilman.....	10 00
M. R. S., by Lispenard Stewart.....	25 00
A. V. Davidson.....	25 00
Friends, through Wm. Whitlock.....	35 00
Miss Laura P. Halstead.....	10 00
J. Woolsey Wright.....	10 00
Henry Willard.....	100 00
A. S. Peet, Hudson, N. Y.....	2 00
W. P. Letchworth.....	100 00
J. G. Grote.....	5 00

Berean Baptist Church, New York city.....	\$13 69
Fourteenth street Presbyterian Church.....	18 44
Centennial Baptist Church, Brooklyn.....	19 00
Stephen D. Horton, White Plains.....	5 00
Wm. H. Keeler, Albany.....	5 00
Second Presbyterian Church, Troy.....	54 40
Thos. Whittaker.....	5 00
Horace Holden.....	5 00
Samuel Sloan.....	50 00
Kilian Van Rensselaer.....	10 00
Elizabeth M. Crosby.....	5 00
Anna Ottendorfer.....	10 00
Dr. S. Willard, Auburn, N. Y.....	25 00
Orlando B. Potter.....	50 00
Alice Ketteltas.....	10 00
W. H. Macy.....	25 00
Henry G. Marquand.....	20 00
Geo. de Forest Lord.....	20 00
George C. Rand.....	100 00
Wm. Alex. Smith.....	10 00
P. S. Halstead.....	10 00
Helen L. Deas.....	5 00
S. T. Gordon.....	5 00
John S. McLean.....	10 00
Cornelius B. Gold.....	100 00
Mrs. Cornelius B. Gold.....	100 00
Lincoln S. Gold.....	50 00
John Taylor Johnston.....	50 00
A. G. Bogert.....	5 00
Charles A. Dana.....	5 00
Trustees Murray Fund, David S. Taber, Treasurer.....	25 00
Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell.....	10 00
Nelson G. Hunt.....	20 00
M. Hamlin, Penn Yan, N. Y.....	10 00
J. W. Winchester.....	1 00
Seth E. Thomas.....	100 00
Mr. George Leavitt.....	5 00
A. C. Kingsland.....	25 00
L. H. Bigelow.....	5 00
S. B. Schiefflin.....	5 00
"K. H.".....	10 00
Charlton T. Lewis.....	100 00
Sinclair Tousey.....	50 00
Total.....	\$4,386 53

A contribution of five dollars annually constitutes a membership in the society.

OTHER DONATIONS.

S. S. Stafford, ink, mullage, twine and wrapping paper.
 L. Prang & Son, Christmas and other fancy cards.
 Bufford's Sons, mats, cards and chronos.
 American Bible Society, for distribution among prisoners, Bibles, Testaments, etc.
 Mrs. L. M. Cockeroff, papers, books and various articles of clothing.
 Howe Scale Company, post-office balance.
 Mrs. A. Avery, various articles of clothing.
 Hon. J. H. Starin, transportation privileges.
 Charlton T. Lewis, a valuable collection of "blue-books" and other English prison reports.
 * "Vorwarts Verein," German books.
 E. C. Homans, magazines and papers.
 Miss M. S. Dart, books and papers.
 Prof. Theo. W. Dwight, reports, periodicals, etc.
 A year's subscription to "The Sanitarium."

CHARTER OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

PASSED May 9, 1846, by a two-thirds vote.

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

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

§ 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

* This collection of German books was extremely valuable and was sent to the library of the State Reformatory.
 Note.—The numerous papers, periodicals and books which were donated were divided and distributed among the jails and penitentiaries.

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, 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 the efforts at reform.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the society shall be a president, vice-presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, a treasurer and an executive committee. There shall be the following standing committees, viz.: A finance committee, a committee on detention, a committee on prison discipline, and a committee on discharged convicts. The number of the executive committee shall consist of not more than thirty-five, of whom not more than ten shall be officers of the society, and not more than twenty-five shall be persons other than officers.

ARTICLE III.

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

ARTICLE IV.

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

ARTICLE V.

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

ARTICLE VI.

Any person contributing annually to the funds of the association not less than five dollars shall, owing to such contribution, be a mem-

ber thereof. A contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute a life patron; a contribution of one hundred dollars shall constitute an honorary member of the association for life; and a contribution of fifty dollars shall constitute a member of the association for life. Honorary and corresponding members may, from time to time, be appointed by the executive committee.

ARTICLE VII.

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

ARTICLE VIII.

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

ARTICLE IX.

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

ARTICLE X.

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

ARTICLE XI.

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

The officers selected 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 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 said 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 almshouse,

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 the 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 the reformation and amendment and future benefit and advantages 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 invested in inspectors of county prisons; * and the duties of the keepers of each prison that they may examine shall be the same in relation to them as in the section aforesaid are imposed on the keepers of such prisons in relation to the inspectors thereof. *Provided*, that no such examination or inspection of any prison shall be made until an order for that purpose, to be granted by the chancellor of this State, or one of the judges of the supreme court, or by a vice-chancellor or circuit judge, or by the first judge of the county in which the prison to be examined shall be situate, shall first have been had and obtained, which order shall specify the

* See section 24 on next page.

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.* }

The bill having been read the third time, two-thirds of all the members elected to the Senate voting in favor thereof,
Resolved, That the bill do pass.

By order of the Senate,
A. GARDINER,
President.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
IN ASSEMBLY, *April 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,
WM. C. CRAIN,
Speaker.

Approved this 9th day of May, 1846.
SILAS WRIGHT.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
Secretary's Office. }

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

ARCH'D CAMPBELL,
Deputy Secretary of State.

(Revised Statutes, Part IV, Chap. 3, Title L.)

§ 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 detention of the persons confined therein, and to render them every facility in their power to enable them to discharge the duties above described. 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.

* Section 20 in last revision.

BY-LAWS OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF
NEW YORK.

I. There shall be a stated meeting of the executive committee on the third Thursday of each month, and special meetings shall be held on the requisition of the chairman or any three members of the executive committee. The call for a special meeting shall, in all cases, state the business to be transacted at said meeting.

II. At every meeting of the executive committee, 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 approval of the minutes of the last preceding meeting.
2. Report of the treasurer.
3. Reports from standing committees.
4. Report from the corresponding secretary.
5. Reports from special committees.
6. Report from the general agent.
7. Miscellaneous business.

At a special meeting, no other business shall be transacted than that for which the said meeting was called.

IV. The chairman shall appoint all special committees; and no person nominated by him shall be excused, unless upon reasons satisfactory to the meeting.

V. The chairman shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal; and the rules of order shall be those embodied in Cushing's Manual, so far as they are applicable.

VI. There shall be four standing committees, namely: A committee on finance, a committee on detention, a committee on discharged convicts, and a committee on prison discipline.

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

1. To devise ways and means for obtaining the funds necessary to carry on the work of the association; and they may, at their discretion, employ an agent to collect the requisite funds.
2. To audit all bills against the association; and no bills shall be paid by the treasurer unless approved by the committee and countersigned by the chairman.
3. To audit and report upon the treasurer's accounts annually.
4. To invest and control the surplus moneys of the association, under the authority of the executive committee.

VIII. It shall be the duty of the committee on detentions:

1. To inquire, as far as may be practicable or necessary, into the causes of commitment of persons in the prisons or houses of detention in the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and to adopt proper

measures for procuring the discharge, or providing for the defense, of such as shall appear to be entitled thereto.

2. To visit frequently the prisons under their charge, and to endeavor to improve both the physical and moral condition of the prisoners in all suitable and practicable ways.

IX. It shall be the duty of the committee on discharged convicts:

1. To correspond with 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.

2. To keep a record of all persons who will employ discharged prisoners, and of their several occupations; to procure such employment for prisoners applying therefor as seems best adapted to the capacity of each; to hold correspondence with the employers; to keep a record of the conduct and prospects of those for whom places have been obtained, that they may be sustained and encouraged with the idea that a continued friendly interest is felt for him.

3. To procure suitable boarding places for discharged prisoners, where they will not be exposed to corrupting influences, taking care not to have more than one in a place where it can be avoided.

4. To see that the prisoners are provided with suitable clothing, of a kind that will not attract particular attention.

X. It shall be the duty of the committee on prison discipline:

To give attention to the internal organization and management of prisons, embracing the physical and moral influences to be exerted on the prisoners during their confinement. This duty shall be comprised under the following heads: health, reformation, correct labor, administration and internal police, comparison of different prison systems, visitation of prisons and houses of reformation, and the whole subject of criminal law and penal justice.

XI. One or more agents may be appointed by the executive committee to assist the standing committees in the performance of their duty.

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

XIII. The corresponding secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the executive committee and of each of the standing committees when required; shall act as the general financial agent of the association, and shall report at each stated meeting of the committee.

XIV. The treasurer shall receive and safely keep all moneys belonging to the association; shall pay over the same as directed by the finance committee; shall report at each stated meeting of the

executive committee, and shall give such security for the faithful discharge of his duty as that committee shall require.

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

XVI. No alteration shall be made in these by-laws, except upon notice of the proposed amendment, given at a previous meeting of the executive committee.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the Executive Committee, Prison Association of New York:

GENTLEMEN — Permit me to offer you my first annual report.

At the beginning of the year 1853, when assuming the corresponding secretaryship, I submitted to you the following memorandum as defining what I understood to be the duties of my office:

First. To arrange for preservation and reference, the mass of correspondences and documents that had accumulated during the several years that there had been a vacancy in the corresponding secretaryship.

Second. To organize and strengthen our local county committees.

Third. To re-establish the relation of the Prison Association of New York with kindred societies, both at home and abroad, and by regular correspondence with them to further an interchange of all latest thoughts and knowledge touching prison management and discipline.

Fourth. To endeavor by frequent public meetings, and through the medium of the press, to create an intelligent public opinion touching our criminal classes and their treatment.

Fifth. To enlarge and arrange the library of the association, so that it might become a center of information in all matters touching the complex science of penology.

Sixth. To visit and inspect all prisons, penitentiaries and county jails of the State, and to prepare a report regarding them.

This memorandum having been approved by you and having been the basis of my work during the year, allow me to follow its order in making my report.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Prison Association of New York had been without an active corresponding secretary since the retirement of Dr. Elisha Harris, and a great mass of correspondence had accumulated. Much of this was of no value, but it was necessary to make a careful examination of the whole mass.

Such as was likely to be useful has been filed and arranged for reference.

How extensive is the correspondence of this office may be gathered from the fact that during the year more than 4,000 letters have been written and nearly 3,000 received.

Inquiries touching prison matters come from all parts of the State and are promptly answered with such information as is at our disposal. There have been during the past year ninety-four requests for documents touching prison affairs.

The newspapers, legislators and public speakers have frequently applied to us for statistics and other information, and our office has come to be regarded as a bureau of latest intelligence by those who have occasion to investigate subjects connected with prisons.

The correspondence with county committees alone has brought some hundreds of letters and has kept us currently informed, so far as necessary, as to the condition of the county jails in all parts of the State.

There has also been a considerable correspondence with prisoners in county jails. Frequent complaints of ill-treatment reaching this office have always been carefully looked into and acted upon.

The following is a good specimen of the letters received from this class :

— JAIL, April 26.

To W. M. F. Round, Esq., *Corresponding Secretary* :

DEAR SIR — I understand that there was one of your agents in this county last week. I would like to see you or one of the association very much. I will give you the particulars of my case. I was arrested last January for burglary; there was no evidence against me, and was refused counsel or witnesses and committed to await the action of the grand jury; they sat this month.

They will not give me a chance to let me know what I am indicted for; they will hold me here for next June; they will not let me have a copy of the indictment, and as I have no money at my command I am afraid I cannot get my witnesses in time to prove me clear. All that I want is *justice* in my case, and I cannot get it without some one interceding for me.

I think it is bad for me to be held here five months for nothing. I wish you would please inform me if I am not entitled to a plea of my indictment, and also if they are not obliged to furnish me a copy of the same.

I am discouraged at the way I am treated. We do not have no chapel or Christian influence in the jail, and it is bad upon a man's morals to hear cursing from morn till night. Please let me know about my case and if I am not entitled to counsel, and I will be under everlasting obligation to you. It will be my fervent prayer for your good.

Yours respectfully,
JOHN THOMPSON,
care Sheriff Booke.

Through our county committee a lawyer was furnished this young man and a second letter appears from him three months later, as follows :

— JAIL, July 20, 188 .

DEAR SIR — I am much obliged for the interest the association took in my case, namely : I was indicted in April for burglary. The particulars of the case are, on the night of — there was a store broken into at — ville and, while drunk, I merely passed my opinion; some one heard me and went and told the store-keeper; he sent for me the next day; I went to his store and while intoxicated told him my idea; he trusted me four or five times and told me to give my idea to the police.

He had a lot of mittens lying loose on his show-case; I took a pair and went up town with him; I was so drunk that he had to lead me part of the way.

I do not remember what story I told the police, but it was not the truth; when they found it was a lie they arrested me for burglary; instead of giving me a fair show the chief of police, knowing my weakness for whiskey, got me a bottle full, and tried to get me to say something that would send me to State prison; I was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury; they found an indictment on the policeman's evidence; the lawyer you furnished me had me plead guilty to simply the mittens; I got sixty days; that makes between six or seven months since I was arrested; my time is up August 2; now I will tell you my situation; I have no friends in this county, and have some friends in —; I have contracted a disease while I have been in jail and am not able to walk far or work; the doctor what the county furnishes receives fifty dollars a year; I sent for him Saturday and he was so drunk that he was not able to attend me till the next Tuesday and he has not given me any relief; he tells me to go to the sheriff for medicine and the sheriff says he gets paid for it.

I have not had a change of blankets since I have been here and have seen one prisoner removed up stairs with a fever and another put in his place without even airing his bedclothes; I think that was the way I caught my disease.

I have been compelled to eat mouldy bread and watery potatoes until I have got the dyspepsia so bad that I cannot rest nights.

Now I want to please know if the association will furnish me with enough money to go to — and I will try and recover my health. What I cannot do without help. Hoping to receive a speedy reply and thanking you for former favors, I remain,

Respectfully yours,
JOHN THOMPSON,
care Sheriff Booke.

Upon investigation we found that this story, though somewhat exaggerated was substantially true, and measures have been taken to prevent further scandal of the nature mentioned in the letter. Letters of this kind are frequently received and promptly attended to, either by an immediate visitation to the jail or by a reference to our county committee.

From the first year of the history of the Prison Association of New York, it has striven by active correspondence with leading penologists and penological societies to keep itself fully informed of the latest thought and action touching crime treatment. By reference to a list of its foreign corresponding membership to be found at the beginning of this report, it will be seen that its correspondents are men who have devoted their lives to the work of prison reform. It may not be amiss in this connection to give a few extracts upon prison subjects of current interest, from gentlemen who are recognized the world over as experts in this department of social science.

The Hon. Frederick Hill who first proposed the indefinite sentence plan, upon receipt of our thirty-seventh annual report, wrote: "Especially I have been pleased with the information about the Elmira Reformatory. It is now more than thirty years since, in my book on crime (in which I incorporated much of the experience I had acquired as an inspector of prisons), I recommended the substitution of indefinite for definite periods of imprisonment.

* * * * *

I am glad to have lived long enough to have witnessed the adoption of the principle, and to have received good news of its successful working." * * * "I am sorry that the state of your county prisons should continue to be so bad; and am surprised that no one of your States makes such a reform in this matter, as to present an example the adoption of which public opinion would force on all other States."

In regard to the Centralization Act of 1877 by which the English prisons came under the control of the Home Office, and which is not without a suggestion to us in our management of the county jail system, the same gentleman writes under date of December 21, 1883, as follows:

"You are right in supposing that, substantially, the object of the Act of 1877 was to place all the prisons of this country under the direction of the Home Office.

"I think the principle sound (indeed I recommended it many years ago) inasmuch as the whole country is equally interested in the suppression of crime, and it does not seem fair to tax the particular locality in which a crime is committed with the cost of the offender's apprehension, prosecution and imprisonment.

"Moreover a general direction of the prisons is a security against an unnecessary multiplicity of them; and affords facilities for distributing prisoners according to the occupations in which it is desirable that they should be engaged, and for having a few prisons for hardened criminals who are likely to act as ringleaders in any attempted prison revolt."

With the Howard Association of London, through its accomplished and zealous secretary, Mr. Wm. Tallack, correspondence has been renewed, and useful information obtained from the society.

The following extract touching the contract system I venture to quote, that the sentiment of the last clause may have the weight of his name:

"As to the contract system, there seems to be a division of opinion even amongst wise and good men. The system is undoubtedly wrong wherever the contractors are allowed to control the officers or prisoners, or to introduce free workers. The latter is abominable."

The Rev. J. W. Horsley, chaplain of Her Majesty's Prison at Clerkenwell, writes upon the same subject as follows:

"We have not and are never likely to have the system in England, so I know nothing about it. Labor is never likely to be scarce with us, and trades would make a tremendous row if prison labor were allowed thus to be used in competition with free labor. They make enough fuss as it is, if we teach our prisoners a trade and sell their works, so that we are obliged, as far as possible, to confine all handicraft to the manufacture of goods required in prisons, and to a certain extent in other government departments, of clothes and shoes for the police, baskets for the parcels post, etc.

* * * * *

"I am glad to hear on the whole, that your contract system is thrown out in New York, though better have that, perhaps, than no labor at all, as is remarkably the case in so many of your smaller prisons. I am afraid politicians on both sides of the Atlantic suffer from the same disease — a disinclination to look at any thing out of which political capital or rather party capital cannot be made."

Through our correspondents in England we have not only been kept informed of all changes in prison management and discipline there, but have received the latest printed discussions touching these subjects; these have made a valuable addition to our scrap-books and library. Our list of French correspondents, for many years headed with the name of the venerable and honored M. Chas. Lucas, has been increased by several names, as its secretary, our affiliation with the *Société des Prisons de France* has been much strengthened. The letters thus far exchanged with the French societies and prison reformers have been mainly of a routine character; among the exceptions we may name those received from M. Bonneville de Marsigny, who for more than half a century has been a leader in the higher legal circles of France.

Touching upon a subject of ever recurring interest in this country, he writes:

"Most of our codes are simply catalogues of penalties, without any philosophical bearings, without any elevated thought of humanity, without a thought about the amendment of criminals. None of these aim seriously at meeting the evil in advance — *malis obviando*, by anticipating crime, and striving, by the nature and

degree of the penalty, to repress the tendency to relapse. Our criminal legislation *punishes*, but does not *cure*. It strikes the body, but does not reach the soul—repression that is materialistic, atheistic, and consequently radically inefficacious. In this nineteenth century, this age of progress, criminal legislation is still in the state of barbarism, is what it was in the infancy of the arts. Repression is but cold and brutal cruelty unless it be fecundated and sanctified by a system of *preventive and curative* measures applied to the disease we call criminality.

"Toward both of these ends—prevention and cure of crime—all large-hearted associations like that of New York should bend their energies. The country that has endowed the world with so many wonderful scientific inventions ought to assume the task of providing for our old world an example of progress in the moral and social order. Now is not the *redemption of malefactors* the first great end of moral and social progress?"

To turn from our foreign file to our home correspondence, we find letters touching many important phases of prison organization and discipline. None, perhaps, are more interesting than those written by Z. R. Brockway, Esq., the superintendent of the Elmira Reformatory, in reference to the important institution under his charge.

As all the world is looking to this reformatory prison for a solution of some of the most involved problems of crime treatment, it may not be amiss to quote somewhat at length from Mr. Brockway's letters. Touching the question of "short time" allowance to prisoners transferred from the Elmira Reformatory to the State prison, he says:

"We do not remove to State prison any man until it is quite sure no effort of ours can reclaim or restrain him from criminal practices when released. He is thus, as the rule, hastening to resume crimes against the property of citizens and should not recover his liberty and a chance for laudencies sooner than the limit of his sentence compels. "But in case any man, after his transfer to State prison, impresses the officers of the State prison where he is confined that he might with reasonable safety be released, then, on their certificate to that effect, he can be returned to this reformatory and released sooner than he might be by the 'good time' law as applicable to prisoners sentenced by the courts directly to the State prisons. The fact is, the men having been transferred away from here were mostly old convicts and all criminals not to be rescued during a maximum possible period of their detention. I personally saw all our transfers at Auburn recently (forty-one) and found but one that could by any possibility of propriety be returned here; the observation of them after transfer confirmed the judgment previously had in relation to them. It is thus clear that no consideration growing out of the interest of society or of the criminal himself should hasten his release by abatement of possible maximum.

"But the effect of releasing confirmed criminals sooner by reason

of their transfer than would be if they remained incorrigible here is, or would be, a reward for incorrigibility for all that remain here who have not, as yet, given up their criminal intentions and begun the better progress. The motive we wield to induce men to voluntarily enter upon the at first painful effort at self-improvement, and to break away from old habits and associations is the love of liberty and that nature is strong or weak in proportion to the certainty or uncertainty that liberty can be gained *only* by the progress and effort we urge.

"We object then to giving transfers the good time privilege, for the following reasons:

"1st. If worthy they can obtain their release without it, and sooner than with it, while if unworthy they should not be released. They, therefore, suffer no injustice so long as of criminal intent, and society is protected by their detention.

"2d. As already explained, it would weaken the force of our chief motive here and do incalculable damage to the reformatory as at present organized and working. You very well know that our system is a unified one, and no tinkering can be had with any one feature of it without jeopardizing its general usefulness."

In reply to a letter of inquiry touching some phases of the contract labor system, Mr. Brockway writes as follows:

"I find that only about fifty per cent of the inmates of this reformatory (on the contract plan) are engaged at pursuits that can possibly be of service to them as training for industry after their release and not twenty-five per cent will ever follow the work they now do * * * thus failing to receive during imprisonment the preparatory training for free life in this fundamental regard."

As it is frequently the custom to find fault with an existing institution without being ready to substitute any thing in its place, it is refreshing to find Mr. Brockway in another letter offering a substitute for the present contract system of prison labor. He says:

"The incubus of true prison reform is three-fold: the vindictive or retributive spirit of the criminal laws, political control of prisons, and the contract system of employment, whereby the labor of the prisoners is farmed out, instead of the product of their labor, as it should and may be.

"The three evils should be removed simultaneously, but let us not lose the present opportunity to remove one, the contract system. Prisoners must labor and at mechanical work chiefly, but their labor should be a part of the training to make them good, self-supporting citizens, and be conducted for that purpose—the matter of income to the State and profits to the contractor being made always subservient thereto. There are contracts and contractors where the evils of the system are reduced to their minimum, and my opposition to it is not based upon any specific abuse which may exist under it, but upon the fact that its spirit and practice is opposed to the real and high purpose for which the State maintains the penitentiaries, namely, protection from crimes through the reformation,

of offenders, and because another and better system is now found, one promotive of that purpose.

"This is the 'piece price plan'—that is to say, the State retaining full control of the prisoners, sells the *labor-product*, at a given price per piece or process, instead of selling the labor by the day. In this system, the State need invest no capital in machinery or commercial risks, the prison governors are constantly engaged with the prisoners rather than with buying and selling, as under the public account plan, and this without interference, for the purchaser of the product of the labor has no interest in the daily performance of the prisoners; he buys only what is produced, the amount of it and the quality of it to be determined by the prison authorities and the prisoner alone. The prisoner could and should be interested in the earnings by having for himself, under proper regulations, any portion remaining after paying for his keep, thus putting him on a basis of industry analogous to that of free citizens, and furnishing the most thorough and practical test of his disposition and ability to earn an honest living.

"Arbitrators, representing all the interests affected by prison labor, could determine, with the concurrence of the State and the contractor, the price to be paid and the quality or grade of work turned out, thus, to the nearest possible point, equalizing the valuation of prison and free labor. Contractors will accept it, and the system can be introduced without disturbance to the present prison industries, and without pecuniary loss to the State.

"The time is now ripe for a real forward movement in prison reform, and I look upon the present agitation of the contract labor question, whether from good or bad motives, as affording a favorable occasion to inaugurate the movement."

COUNTY COMMITTEES.

A most efficient part of the machinery of the association has always been its local committees for correspondence and counsel in the different counties of the State. These have been largely reorganized during the past year, vacancies filled and new names added, where it was thought they would be a source of strength. The association now has in every county of the State a committee of prominent and influential citizens—many of these visiting the county jails frequently and reporting on their condition and requirements, or working for the moral welfare of the inmates by furnishing religious services to them, or supplying them with suitable reading.

During the coming year a thorough canvass of the State will be made by your corresponding secretary, who will, with the co-operation of these local committees, prepare a list of manufacturers and farmers and other employers of skilled and unskilled labor that are willing to give work to discharged convicts whose prison record has been good and who have given evidence of a determination to return

to a law-abiding life. Like this, much of the work of the Prison Association would be impossible unless it had its interested agents covering every part of the State and ready and willing to furnish information and other assistance as occasion may require. These local committees are entitled to much credit for the philanthropic zeal with which they have done their work.

PUBLIC MEETINGS, ETC.

With me you have felt that the work of the Prison Association has not been fully understood by the public at large. There has been a popular idea that its main work, and almost its only work, was to afford succor to discharged convicts in that trying time between their leaving prison and securing a place in the ranks of labor. This has indeed been a conspicuous part of our work and an important part, as the report of our general agent will show. But it has not been an easy task to make the public understand that we look to a deeper work, namely: the reformation of criminals by the reformation of our prisons. It has been necessary to explain to people over and over that prison discipline was as much a study with us as how to aid discharged prisoners. To do this we have appealed, and not in vain, to the press of the country, issued circulars and other documents, and held a considerable number of public meetings. Mass meetings, in which churches of all religious denominations have joined, have been held in Elmira, in New York, and in Troy. Other public meetings have been held in Syracuse, Bath, Brooklyn, Watkins, Goshen; and meetings of county committees and others specially interested in the work have been held in nearly every county in the Commonwealth; wherever these meetings have been held a new interest and, I trust, a more intelligent interest in prison reform has been awakened.

THE LIBRARY.

It is highly desirable that there should be in the State some library where any subject pertaining to prison management and discipline can be exhaustively studied. The Prison Association in its aim to supply such a library has gathered some hundreds of books and many thousand pamphlets. During the year past it has entered into correspondence with all State governments, all prison associations and prisoners' aid societies, and with all the general governments in the civilized world, asking an exchange of documents relating to prison affairs. The response has been so general that two hundred and eleven reports have been added to our files, not including the valuable set of prison reports which Mr. Charlton T. Lewis procured for us in England, and which, aside from those in the government library at Washington, do not exist as a complete set elsewhere in this country.

The set of reports of this association are now being carefully indexed, and, as soon as the funds of the society will permit, a complete catalogue of the entire library will be prepared.

INSPECTION.

An important duty of this association imposed by its charter, and conscientiously followed from year to year, has been the inspection of the jails and prisons. As your representative I have not been unmindful of this, and have personally visited nearly all of our penal institutions.

It is not my purpose here to fabulate all the information thus gained, or to repeat to you in detail the reports that I have made to you from month to month. It will be quite sufficient if I recall to your minds, and ask you to present to the public, a few strikingly illustrative cases bearing upon the defects and needs of our penal system:

Let us begin with the county jails which are to-day, as they have always been, the training schools from which our criminal class is largely recruited. The same melancholy facts present themselves — jails over-crowded, illy-ventilated, badly drained, young and old offenders herded together in idleness, living at the public expense, and costing the tax payers of the State something more than \$300,000 a year for the item of sustenance alone. They have been rightly called "boarding-houses run in the interest of the sheriff." They are generally the center about which gather the most corrupt practices of partisan spoliation. Their tendency is to perpetrate the worst class of political pliancy, no less than the lowest class of criminals. They are, however, no worse than they have been for years past — are probably a little better; but the system that keeps them in existence is a bad one, and must be radically changed before they cease to be any thing but a disgrace to our boasted civilization. Let me quote here the notes made upon visiting several of the county jails, and leave it to the intelligence and humanity of any honest reader if the yearly protest made by this society against them is at all unwarranted.

Broome County.

The jail is at Binghamton, in an open space near the court-house; visited it at 8:30 in the morning in February; twenty prisoners; twenty dirty cells full of vermin; rubbish in the corners and stairways; men in corridors; some eating breakfast which looked unwholesome; prevailing smell of liquor in the jail and odor of closets perceptible; no labor of any kind; and the reading matter that I saw lying about of a low and flashy order; packs of dirty cards in two cells; cells 5x7x7 badly ventilated; no facilities for bathing; no very young prisoners; women imprisoned separately.

Cattaraugus County.

A well-situated, well-built jail of brick at Little Valley; erected in 1880; forty cells each 8x5x7-6 and ventilated by pipes running to roof; cells of boiler iron; strap-iron bedsteads, clean ticks filled with straw; windows 4x7 feet, with light steel grating — and on the outside a wire screen to prevent articles being passed in; modern Yale locks to cells and doors; one unsuccessful attempt to escape last year; would be clean if there was not so much tobacco juice; heated by stoves in corridor; lighted by kerosene lamps; bad drainage; closets damp and sloppy and require all efforts of sheriff to keep them clean; separation of sexes perfect but no separation of old and young; *sheriff has men work on garden, and last year they saved and split one hundred cords of wood*; the moral and physical condition of men in this jail seemed better than in any other that I have visited.

Clinton County.

Jail at Plattsburgh; a miserable old jail that has been condemned again and again; dark, overcrowded; no separation of old and young offenders; no labor; food abundant; jail well kept; separation of sexes perfect.

Columbia County.

Jail attached to court-house in Hudson; insecure; several escapes within the year; dirt covered with frequent white wash; diet good; no labor.

Chautauque County.

Mayville; small jail near court-house, built of brick in 1833; twelve cells, nine prisoners; not secure; clean; surrounded by wooden buildings — light and easily fired; sink in corner of corridor with cistern water furnishes only bathing facilities; buckets in cells that are emptied in large iron trough in corner of corridor, this empties into vault ten feet away; heated by red hot wood stove in corridor; separation of sexes complete — but no separation of old and young offenders; thirty-day men required to work; three meals a day and plenty to eat; no religious services.

Errie County.

Buffalo: visited in October early in the day and without warning to the keeper; this has been considered a model jail, and yet frequent complaints have been made against it; it is a lofty, stone building containing 115 cells each 6x8x8, twenty-five on a corridor and six corridors high; there are two dark cells and six cells for condemned prisoners, these latter entirely apart and more comfortable in their appointments than the other cells, with good facilities for watch-

ing; the cells are fronted with boiler iron latticed work with doors of the same; the corridors are built round a central court lighted by a sky-light; there are ample ventilating shafts; bathing required, and hot and cold water on each corridor; set wash-bowls in each cell; patent "closets" in cells; heaters in cellar; lighted by gas, ignited by electricity — so that in case of revolt or trouble, the gas can be instantly lighted in all parts of the prison; the jail is connected with court-house by tunnel under the street; there were forty prisoners at the time of my visit—a hard-looking set, who had just been subdued from a revolt; every thing clean; no smell; separation of sexes and of old and young provided for and enforced; food examined of good quality; no labor.

Fulton County.

Old jail at Johnstown, attached to Sheriff's residence; eight cells, wooden partitions between them; double wood doors, carved and hacked; two dark cells with double doors, without light or ventilation; stoves in cells; very dirty; water in corner of corridor; buckets; walls covered with "*Police News* pictures," and some obscene drawings; on the wall a large scrawl of a ballet dancer executing a most extraordinary *pas*, was pointed out with pride, by the one lonely prisoner who was my guide; he told me it was the work of "an artist," who had been confined there; no labor; not secure; wooden staircase, and constant danger from fire.

Greene County.

Jail adjoining sheriff's residence at Catskill; built in 1807; brick; four cells, 12x14x9½ feet; very dark, could not read print in them; so cold that they struck a chill to one upon entering them; windows 2x2x6 with heavy strap iron gratings; buckets in cells; heated by stoves in cell and lighted by gas; when the sexes are separated, it is done by crowding all the men into three cells; two prisoners only at time of visit, but jail is sometimes full; a barbarous old place, dark, damp and demoralizing; the county owns ample property for an extension of the jail, and it is extremely culpable that it remains as it is. No labor in the jail, and none would be possible with present construction.

Herkimer County.

Jail at Herkimer on the main street; I visited this jail on the 10th of July at noon; it was a sunny day, but the gloom and dampness of the lightest part of the jail corridors gave me a chill; there are fourteen cells in one central block with double corridors; the cells vary in size, 4-6x8 to 10x10, some are furnished to keep six prisoners; cell partitions of stone two feet thick; doors with small openings, heavily grated; windows triple grated and so situated that little light strikes into cell; found five prisoners in one cell sitting

round a table with a kerosene lamp, and engaged in a game of cards; stench horrible; their language was vile beyond description; I never saw a more depraved set of men; the keeper told me there were several notorious horse thieves among them. There were also one or two youngsters sentenced for first offenses; they were more blasphemous, and obscene in their talk than the older prisoners. To go into this jail was like going into a cave; the cells were like recesses in a mine; no religious services; no labor; no moral instruction; separation of sexes — but not of old and young; an atrocious place; which should make every decent inhabitant of Herkimer county hang his head with shame.

Kings County.

Known as the "Raymond street jail" in Brooklyn, visited May 30th and found that reports of its ill-kept condition are not exaggerated. There were two hundred and seventy-five prisoners, of which number sixty-eight were females. Ages varied from fourteen to seventy-five years; seventy-two of these were awaiting trial and there were two witnesses. Fourteen thousand prisoners pass through this jail annually.

The air was full of foul smells and the moral atmosphere full of wickedness. There is ample separation for women, they are in a cellar-like series of cells across the yard from the men's prison. Here they are huddled together like cattle in a market-pen; they are literally packed like sardines in a box to sleep; there is no classification as to age or previous condition; the most abandoned woman of the town, snuken to the level of the gutter, and unable to breathe, much less speak without corrupting the air of heaven, lays down to sleep side by side with the young woman who has for the first time turned aside from the path of virtue. There is no work — nothing but long days and nights of corrupting idleness, no hour when there is not contamination for the young and deeper depths of sin for the old offender. The food is coarse, perhaps good enough, but not so plenty but that there is an inducement for every prisoner to find an avenue of trade with the outside world, or bribe an attendant to raise the standard of quality and quantity in his rations. There are religious services held here, but no labor whatever.

New York County.

The Ludlow Street Jail is too well known to require description. It is a part of our political system, which with the rest will soon have a thorough ventilation. In regard to the administration of the present sheriff, the following correspondence has been exchanged, frequent complaints having been made to us of the scandalous procession of young scamps and old criminals that were marched daily from the Court of General Sessions to the Tombs.

[Sen. Doc. No. 51.]

PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK,
OFFICE OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, 65 BIBLE HOUSE, }
NEW YORK, July 25, 1883.

To A. V. DAVIDSON, Sheriff of New York County :

MY DEAR SIR — The attention of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York has been repeatedly called to the fact, that the transportation of prisoners to and from the Court of General Sessions to the Tombs is effected by marching them through the streets with an escort of such toughs and street loafers as are always attracted by any criminal spectacle.

Can you not do something to remedy this state of things? It will be a step in the direction of law and order if you can.

Yours sincerely,

W. M. F. ROUND,

Cor. Sec. P. A. N. Y.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, COUNTY COURT HOUSE,
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, }
August 8, 1883.

W. M. F. ROUND, Esq.:

DEAR SIR — I have complied with suggestions of Prison Association to me in relation to transportation of prisoners from General Sessions to the Tombs. My van now transports all prisoners to and from the Tombs.

I wish, however, that you would personally inspect Chambers street while my van stands in front of General Sessions Court.

I wish you would favor me with a personal call at the office.

Yours,

A. V. DAVIDSON.

In compliance with Sheriff Davidson's request, I personally inspected Chambers street while the van was waiting for the prisoners. Though two stalwart policemen, a city and a park officer stood there, a crowd gathered that blocked the sidewalk from side to side. Not a movement was made by the policemen to prevent this, and the suggestion that they ask the crowd to move on was promptly resented in a manner "becoming to an officer." I wrote at once to Superintendent Walling (September 10, 1883), calling his attention to this neglect of the police to break up the crowd. I am still awaiting a reply, and have seen no evidence that he has paid any attention to my note. I suppose it is due to the police force of New York to say that it could break up a sidewalk crowd if it chose, but it has evidently not thought it worth while to interfere with this gratuitous spectacle of crime so delicious to the *gamin* and the corner loafer.

Montgomery County.

On the 10th of July, at 7 in the evening, visited the jail at Fonda; as I approached the building I could hear the inmates singing their evening song, the refrain of which was:

"We'll all drink stone blind
When we get out ag'in."

which speaks volumes for the corrective value of this and kindred institutions. Within the building I found a cheerful set of men who assured me they were innocent, the unfortunate victims of circumstance. This is a new jail, only occupied for a few months. It is of brick lined with boiler iron and incloses ample corridor and twenty-four cells. The cells are 7-6 in each dimension. There are two bunks in each cell, one above the other. The partition between cells is of boiler iron one-fourth inch thick; locks, modern; windows, eight feet by one foot six; stone floor; ventilators in corridor, none in cells. There is a large tank in the attic which furnishes running water in sink; buckets, of wood, emptied in the morning, often twice a day; buckets are emptied into a large iron box in corner of corridor, communicating with vault thirty yards away; heated by stoves; complete separation of sexes, but none of young and old offenders; no labor in jail; separate apartment for witnesses; the jail was clean and the quality of food good, and said by prisoners to be ample.

Orange County.

This county has suffered the reputation of having two of the worst jails in the State — one at Newburgh and one at Goshen. That at Newburgh remains unchanged, and is a disgrace to the town and the State. All the features of a horrible jail described in reports from the other counties are to be found here, except that the jail is kept in as cleanly a condition as it can possibly be under the circumstances.

At Goshen there is a new jail, built upon plans suggested by this association, and in all respects reflecting credit upon the committee having the matter in charge. The building is substantially on the plan of the jail in Tioga county, described elsewhere. It is to be hoped that a board of supervisors who have acted so intelligently and earnestly in providing a model jail for their county will lose no time in providing a system of labor that will at once promote the welfare of the prisoners, and relieve the county in some measure of their support.

Rensselaer County.

This jail, situated at Troy, described in our last year's report, has been twice visited, and while many minor improvements have been made, the fact of the unsafety of the building still remains. The low pictures have been torn from the walls; but cells still remain crowded; the corridor dark and ill ventilated; the staircase a fire trap; the cellar still a cess-pool, and the surrounding of light frame

buildings are so close and so combustible, that it remains only a question of time whether the prisoners are roasted by a fire from without or from within. The jail had not been on fire since the visit reported in the thirty-eighth report, but as it has been on fire once in every two years since the incumbency of the present keeper, it is quite likely that we shall hear of a similar catastrophe before another report is issued. The keeper informed me that he made a great effort to separate the young from the old and hardened offenders, but the arrangement of the interior and the overcrowding made it impossible. There were not more than six occupants to any cell at the time of my visit; but these were generally men of the lowest type. There is no labor in the jail, and upon asking a boy of sixteen, how he and his four older companions in captivity passed the time, he replied, "We sleep and eat and tell stories;" religious services weekly; sexes confined separately.

Sherben County.

Visited the jail at Bath on the 24th of April; this is a new jail with thirty-six cells in one block made of boiler iron, badly arranged, and where I found a keeper on excellent terms with the prisoners but not disposed to give me any information; the sheriff was ill, may be some excuse for the dirty condition of the building; although this jail had been occupied but a few months its walls were marked and pictures from the police and sporting papers posted up; the cells are large but badly lighted and ventilated; there is no bath-room; the privy is of the most primitive description and most conspicuously situated in one corner of the corridor; there are no traps but an open vault built up out of the ground and passing through the cellar, where it is just beside the brick-work of the heater—thus a current of warm air carries the stench and disease germs to every part of the building; there was no part of the jail where the air was not poisonous—and there have been, I am informed, several cases of typhoid fever already; the architectural arrangement of the building is inconvenient, full of corners and escape places, and no way of taking women prisoners to their quarters except through the men's department; there was some complaint about the food, but from what I saw in preparation, it was of excellent quality, and the men did not look as if under fed; there is no labor in the jail; separate rooms for female prisoners, and witnesses; and the sheriff endeavors, as far as possible, to keep young and old offenders apart.

Tioga County.

The old jail at Owego was one of the worst in the State, the new jail is one of the best; it is a building of stone, 45x40, a part of which is devoted to the sheriff's office; it is not quite as large as was designed by the architect, and in making it smaller a great mistake has been made; every jail should be built larger than its immediate need; the cells are sixteen in number and 5x8x8 in size,

built of boiler iron, facing an open space in the center—and with a passage-way all around between the cell block and the outside walls; the front of the cell is of strap iron lattice work, and door of the same, and a large window of the same at the back of the cell faces the window in the outer wall; thus the keeper can walk entirely around the cell and see every part of it from any point; in addition to the light coming from the windows in the walls which are more for ventilation than for light, there is a large skylight in the roof and a rose window at the end; the galleries are of iron, and practically the building is fire-proof; there is one dark cell, in which is placed a bath tub; as punishments are infrequent it is proposed to use this room for a double purpose; there is an ample water supply and closets in each cell—there are ventilating shafts from the heating apparatus in the cellar to the roof, and each cell connecting therewith; there is steam heat, and the jail lighted by gas; the kitchen is close at hand, but so situated that there can be no odor from the cooking; there is ample room in the corridor, cells and jail yard to carry on some industry, and it is to be hoped that work of some kind will be introduced at once; at present there is no labor in the jail; the separation of the sexes is ample—and for witnesses comfortable quarters are provided.

From these few cases of jail inspections and from the others on file in this office, it is to be learned that a considerable improvement has taken place as regards the separation of the sexes. There is not, to my knowledge, a jail in the State where an effort is not made to keep the male and female prisoners apart; *i. e.*, not only in separate apartments, but beyond the possibility of communicating to each other; where this is not accomplished it is due to the construction of the jail, which in times of overcrowding renders it necessary to put males and females into galleries communicating with each other. Practically the sexes are kept apart in most other jails and at most times.

But there is little effort made to keep apart old and young offenders.

NO LABOR IN OUR JAILS.

It will be seen that in but two of the cases cited is there any labor in the county jails, and these two form the exceptions for the entire State. In one of these the labor is represented by a garden kept in order and a hundred cords of wood sawed—in the other case a few thirty-day men are made to work on a small garden.

Here is one of the abominable facts in our jail system, that eighteen hundred prisoners in our county jails are living at the expense of their respective counties in demoralizing idleness! No criminal was ever reformed in idleness! There is no question but that when a man is idle day after day, he is either doing harm to himself or to some one else. The excuse is made in the different counties that suitable work cannot be found for the prisoners in our jails. If that is a fact, then it at once condemns the whole system. Any system by which men are congregated together in idleness is false. But let us look at this question at a lower but more popular standpoint.

Let us see just where the matter touches the public pocket. I have had prepared a table based on the returns made by the sheriffs in twenty-five counties. Blanks were sent to sixty sheriffs but only thirty replied. The twenty-five chosen as the basis of our calculations are average counties, and it will be seen do not include Kings county or New York county, from both of which it is difficult to get reliable returns upon any matter touching expenditures.

	Cost of prisoner per week to county.	Average age.	Youngest prisoner.	Oldest prisoner.	How many sent to jail have been in jail or prison before.	Average length of sentence.	Number of convicted prisoners in county jail from January 1 to June, 1881.
Broome	\$3 50	30	6	78	120	7 days.	180
Chenango	4 20	30	14	75	150	15 "	250
Cattaraugus	4 08	30	17	70	150	19 "	40
Essex	4 00	30	17	70	147	48 "	30
Greene	4 00	34	17	69	147	10 "	186
LeWitt	4 00	34	53	25	.....	2 years.	5
Montgomery	3 00	29	10	81	45	90 days.	200
Niagara	3 00	29	8	74	392	25 "	612
Ontario	3 00	30	14	64	107	10 "	125
Oran	3 25	29	15	65	60	30 "	200
Onondaga	3 00	30	19	60	19	30 "	570
Oswego	2 00	30	12	62	10	20 "	35
Putnam	4 00	30	12	70	32	30 "	414
Queens	3 00	30	12	62	1	120 "	450
Sullivan	3 50	30	12	62	8	30 "	189
Schenectady	3 00	30	14	70	10	45 "	164
Schuyler	3 00	32	14	70	10	45 "	189
Saratoga	3 00	30	14	70	10	45 "	164
St. Lawrence	3 00	30	14	64	46	50 "	314
Tioga	3 25	34	14	60	171	30 "	1,200
Washington	3 00	30	14	70	24	30 days.	31
Wayne	3 50	30	14	60	10	15 "	210
Warren	3 00	31	14	72	60	15 "	28
Yates	3 25	33	16	.....	.....	.....	6,174
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,145	.....	.....
Average	\$3 81	30 17-85	14 2-5	65 1-5	.....	143 19-23 days.	.....

From this table it will be seen that the average length of sentence is nearly five months, quite time enough for the prisoner to "get his hand in" if set to work at some of the coarser occupations. Men can learn to break stones in a day, to cut carpet rags in half an hour, or to turn a spade by a few minutes' practice. But it will also be seen that many of these men are old offenders. Though it does not appear in the table, some of them have been in the jails or prisons of the State half a dozen times. If a few simple industries were to be introduced into all the jails, any of these men returning to the jail would be fitted to enter at once upon the employment they had previously followed.

There are 1,800 prisoners always in the county jails of the State. These men are supported by the tax-paying portion of the community at an expense of \$3.31 each per week — forty-seven cents a

day (more than treble what it costs to feed the inmates of the average State prison in the country), or \$309,816 a year; this, let it be borne in mind, is merely the cost of sustentation. This sum of \$309,816 is respectfully submitted to the attention of those "labor reformers" who say that for the men to work in the State prisons at fifty cents a day is taking the bread out of the mouth of honest labor. Let them furnish a solution to the following simple problem: If 3,000 men in the State prisons earning their living at fifty cents a day rob the honest laborer of his bread, how shall it affect him if 1,800 men in the county jails are living in idleness at an expense to the working public of fifty cents a day for each man?

In this connection it might also be worth the while of tax payers to ask the county supervisors why it should cost three times as much to board their county prisoners as it does to board State prisoners who are employed at hard labor.

If a system of labor was introduced into our jails it would at once reduce the jail population; when a man realizes the fact that with the unpleasant environments of a jail he has to work ten hours a day at hard labor, he will, if he has a grain of sense, immediately wake up his mind that it will be better for him to exert the same amount of force with the more agreeable surroundings of freedom. The subject is one that commends itself to the consideration of both the philanthropist and the economist, and is one that should command the attention of legislators.

STATE PRISONS.

Clinton and Sing Sing Prisons.

Visited on the fourth of July. This prison has been frequently described. It was found in excellent condition, scrupulously clean, and the moral atmosphere of the place far better than could be expected in an institution to which is sent the worst class of criminals, those that are morally and physically weakest, or most deformed.

There is a large new prison here built by the State several years ago at a cost of nearly \$300,000. It has never been occupied. It would accommodate, under the best sanitary conditions something like four hundred men. I mention this fact in connection with the following report of a visit to Sing Sing prison. The report was made at my request. Several complaints of the bad sanitary condition of Sing Sing having come to this office, it seemed best to put the inspection in the hands of an expert.

NEW YORK, November 9, 1883.

To the Executive Committee of the Prison Association, New York:

GENTLEMEN — Pursuant to a request made by your secretary, Mr. Wm. M. F. Round, under date of September 24, 1883, that I

should visit Sing Sing prison and report to your committee upon its sanitary condition, I beg herewith to append the results of such investigation, and trust it will meet whatever end you had in view.

Prison — The Cells.

This building was the first examined. It is four hundred and fifty feet long, about fifty feet high and thirty feet wide. It contains twelve hundred (1200) cells, arranged in twenty-four galleries, each gallery containing fifty cells — four galleries to each floor. The cells are each three feet eight inches wide, six feet long, and seven feet high. One hundred and eighty-two (182) of these cells have two iron cots, one swung above the other on the wall; the remaining cells one cot each. The doors are of iron and barred at the upper half, freely admitting the air from the corridors. In the ceiling, at the back of each cell, is a hole, four by three inches, communicating with the roof. The bedding was fairly clean.

Ventilation.—The air, between the hours of two and three in the afternoon, was pure and fresh — the men being at their work, windows and doors were opened and the cells well ventilated. About 8:15 p. m. again visited this building and found the only ventilation to be through the roof by an opening of five inches on either side and running the length of the building — every window and door closed — no circulation of air whatsoever. *Thirteen hundred and eighty-two* (1382) men were lying in these cells, smoking, reading and sleeping; the atmosphere was foul; to be better satisfied made several tests which disclosed the fact that the air was surcharged with carbonic acid gas; the test used was the well-known action of carbonic acid on lime water; on the eighth and ninth fillings the lime water became cloudy, but on the tenth filling so turbid that the mark on test tube became illegible; carbonate of lime being largely precipitated. It was noticeable that quite a number of the prisoners were suffering from throat or bronchial trouble. The men, though well nourished, with but few exceptions, were decidedly anæmic; sleeping in such contracted, *over-crowded* cells and breathing impure air will account for this condition. The windows should be twice as large and arranged in such manner that free circulation of air should exist from floor to roof.

Drainage.—The drainage here cannot be improved upon; it is simple and direct; the water, after washing floors and cells, is carried by gutters (cut in the stone floor) into an outside, underground drain. In the center of the corridors are two open drains which receive some of the water; they are supplied with traps, and were perfectly clean and pure and discharged their contents into the river at or just above high-water mark, by one sewer; except on rare occasions it cannot be tide-locked. It would be in place to state here that this applies to all the drains.

Punishment Cells — The Jail.

This consists of a large room about thirty-five feet by twenty-five feet, in the center of which are ten cells built back to back; *i. e.* five cells facing each side corridor; each cell is five feet wide, six feet long and seven feet high; light, airy, with a four-inch square vent hole in ceiling; stationary wash basin and trapped closet with running water in one corner. The doors are of a fair size and admit plenty of air; they have, also, an outer wooden door perforated by about dozen one-inch holes; these doors should not be used; holes are so arranged that the air cannot pass freely through them; (I was informed that they were put on last year during a riot, to subjugate some very refractory prisoners, but are not used now); they had better be removed. The cells are clean and sweet; the floors of stone, raised about three inches above the floor of building, rendering it impossible in the event of an accident to the water-pipes for a prisoner to have more than the soles of his boots wet.

Ventilation.—To room very good, as also to cells when "dark" doors are not used.

Drainage.—Very good.

Mess-room.

Is very large, enabling the majority of the prisoners to have their meals at one time; clean and fairly well ventilated; ceiling rather low.

Kitchen.

Adjoins the mess-room; was in good order as were also the utensils. The

Food,

consisting of bread (of very good quality), good meat and one vegetable, was of very good quality, well cooked and in sufficient quantity. Croton water only is used.

Drainage.—The sewerage from this department is emptied by a twelve inch drain into the river.

Dumping-room.

In this room are large iron basins with running water into which all the refuse is dumped. The men are marched in single file past the basins, dumping their pails in the first and washing them in the second. If not already adopted, this plan of getting rid of all foul matter should be introduced into every prison of the State—a better could not be devised.

Drainage.—These basins empty into an eight (8) inch drain which discharges into the river, and is not connected with any other sewer. By the above process the pails are as thoroughly cleansed as

possible, but being of wood, must of necessity absorb more or less impure matter, which no washing will entirely remove. I would suggest that the present pails be washed, scraped and well coated on the inside with tar, and any new ones issued, be porcelain lined. The tar on the old ones will prevent further absorption of deleterious matter, and the porcelain being impervious can be more easily kept clean.

Shops.

Store and shoe.—Large, well-ventilated buildings, supplied with closets and abundant water. *Drainage*, good.

Hospital.

Consists of one large ward, drug store, doctor's office and reception-room. Examination of register showed that per diem about one hundred and twenty (120) applications for relief were received and treated. The ward contained on an average twenty patients a day, including convalescents, who were able to act as attendants. The death-rate was a trifle over one per cent. The ventilation and drainage were good.

Remarks.

The roll of the prison on the 26th of October called for 1,486 men; these were distributed as follows:

"The cells"	1,382 men.
Female prison	84 "
Hospital	20 "
	1,486 "

There can be no doubt as to the overcrowding of this prison. Provision should be made for this surplusage, or they should be removed to one of the other prisons where room exists.

The *ventilation* of "the cells" could be somewhat improved by reducing the number to one man per cell, and still further by the use of a little management on the part of the officials; a few windows on either side and at each end of lower corridors could be opened for half an hour or so at intervals during the night, thereby insuring a complete change of air.

The system of *drainage* at this prison, as a whole, is unquestionably good.

ALLEN H. OLIVER, M. D.

By this report of Dr. Oliver, it will be seen that the prison at Sing Sing is overcrowded to an outrageous extent, while at Clinton there is an empty prison. Is it not an argument against the contract system, that in order to turn the labor of the prisoners to the best account in a monetary way, it is necessary to so congregate them as

to prevent the employment of the best reformatory influences and discipline? When the State fills up its new prison at Clinton upon which it is now losing the interest on its cost, there will be no longer any of overcrowding at Sing Sing, nor will a new wing be asked for at Blackwell's island, where one hundred and twenty felons are now boarded at a cost to the State of \$1.50 per week each, and whose presence where they do not belong renders "doubling up" necessary for more than one hundred men.

It has been said that our State prisons, under the present system, have been run at a profit to the State. It is true that the actual receipts for labor in the three State prisons proper do exceed by a few thousand dollars (\$9,106.23) the actual expenditures. But the State prisons at Dannemora, Auburn and Sing Sing do not by any means constitute the entire prison system of the State. We must take also into consideration the various reformatories, houses of refuge, jails, penitentiaries and work-houses, to all of which wrong-doers are sentenced by the courts of law. If we do this we shall find that there has been an increase in the criminal class largely in advance of the increase of population. I have obtained from a most reliable source a census of the institutions named and submit it herewith:

There are in	
Three State prisons	2,900
Six penitentiaries	3,500
Houses of refuge	1,350
Reformatories	3,000
State reformatory	500
County jails	1,800
Work-houses	2,500
State asylum for insane convicts	140
Total	15,690

It is estimated that the proportion of the criminal population, at present in custody of the State, is one-fifth of the entire class, which gives us the appalling showing, in a population of 5,000,000, of 15,000 persons, directly or indirectly interested in the success of criminal practices, preying upon property, endangering human life, and contaminating society. There has been an increase in the criminal population of the State of thirty-three per cent over the highest estimate of 1870 (which I cannot find stated at more than 50,000), while the population of the State has increased only twenty per cent. In the meanwhile we have kept in motion a vast and expensive machinery of criminal law and punishment, and have sometimes imagined that it has been profitable to the State, because our three State prisons show a paltry profit of a few thousands of dollars. This money profit actually sinks out of sight when we remember that nearly, or quite, one thousand felons are boarded by the State, in the

various county penitentiaries, at an annual cost of \$30,000. With the best possible showing our prisons do not accomplish the object for which they are established, namely: a reduction of the criminal class; and if we are to estimate the value of our penal institutions by their money profits we should surely base our estimate upon the entire system, and not upon two or three institutions that form but a small part of it.

The Elmira Reformatory.

Nothing has shown us the importance of this institution more emphatically than the closeness with which its growth is watched by the most intelligent prison reformers throughout the world; your corresponding secretary has visited the Reformatory twice during the year, and wishes to confirm all the statements made by a special committee in last year's report; in order that a better view of the inside workings of this institution might be obtained, a man recently discharged from its keeping has been asked to write out his experience while there; he has done so in the following interesting narrative:

"Entering a transfer coach of the Erie railway at the Center street entrance to the toms in company with six individuals bound on the same journey, the whole party in custody of Mr. Hugh Brockway, I was soon carried over to Jersey City and into a smoking car bound for Elmira Reformatory.—Mr. Brockway instructed us all to use up our tobacco as we would have none in a year at least, as they do not distribute it in that institution—the trip would have been a very pleasant one under different circumstances, but going to prison for an indefinite period, away from the loved ones at home, was not very agreeable to say the least.

"We arrived at the Reformatory a little after dusk and immediately went to the dressing room, there we were first of all compelled to take a hot bath then we were examined carefully to see if our bodies had any Indian ink, or other marks, next we had our hair 'cropped' closely, were weighed and our heights measured; after each of us had been furnished with a suit of ordinary citizens' clothes and a sailor's cap we were placed in cells separately and left to enjoy our supper which consisted of bread, molasses and a strange decoction which I afterward learned was designated tea, it was a nauseating mixture and the 'coffee' in the morning was a trifle worse; I was never able to ascertain what was used in making these drinks, but am very positive that they were as free from the articles they were named from, as pure water; the bread was very good, in fact much better than is sold in many bakeries in New York; the molasses was also of good quality.

"Three strokes of a gong awoke us in the morning, and a pan of good hash was given me for breakfast together with a quantity of bread and coffee. The librarian, a first grade man, gave me a copy of Lever's works which gave me a good opinion of the library immediately; later I was conducted to Mr. Brockway, the superintendent,

ent, who submitted me to a searching examination as to my past character, parentage, associates, habits, education, and in fact every thing pertaining to myself and family that I could possibly think of.

"Next morning I was taken to the shoe shop and instructed as to the rules, which are very stringent, but I found that the officer was a very reasonable man and willing to make every allowance for my awkwardness in my new position; I violated several of the smaller rules without being aware of it, but instead of reporting me to the office he called me to the stand and cautioned me not to repeat the offenses.

I was placed at a bench and told that I would be taught how to "last" boots, I followed my instructions to the best of my ability with very poor success. After I had worked four days, the shoe shop was closed for repairs and I was put in the yard at light labor, when I went back to work in the shop again I was in better health than I had been before in years, and on weighing myself found I had gained ten pounds, thanks to the pure air of the Chemung Valley. It was found that I was not adapted to the lasting department so I was placed in charge of a machine, this work I did to the satisfaction of my superiors, and in the time that I was in the shop I did six weeks' work over and above my task; this benefited the contractors but I received no remuneration whatever, this I consider an injustice, as men in the hollow ware company's employ are all paid for overwork. The work in the foundry is too hard in my opinion for the men sent to the Reformatory, the ladles of melted iron which they are obliged to carry are very heavy and many men are severely burned around the feet and limbs through carelessness on the part of themselves and others, they must accomplish a certain task daily in order to gain the full number of marks for labor. I think from observation that of the whole number of men paroled in one year from date of entering, that two men come from the shoe shop to one from the foundry. The quality of the food given to second grade men is hardly substantial enough to work on, and I noticed on several occasions that more second grade men went to see the doctor than any other grade.

I gained my marks in the second grade without any great trouble for three reasons. 1. My labor was not very hard and I was able to do it without trouble—this insured me three marks. 2. The class I was placed in at the school was no higher than I had attended when young; that gained me three marks more. I was in "B" class under the tuition of Prof. James R. Monks of the Elmira Free Academy. He is an admirable teacher and a perfect gentleman. The studies were mathematics and United States history. Examinations were made every month, each man being required to write his examination paper. All examinations are written in full; and in order to pass successfully and obtain perfect marking in this department a man must have seventy-five per cent of his answers correct. 3. I was as near to perfect in my department as I could be, and what offenses were registered against me were excused by

the superintendent without any solicitation on my part; this gained for me three more marks, making nine in all.

While in the second grade I wrote home once a month and kept my family fully informed as to my progress. Many men in the institution cause Mr. Brockway considerable trouble by refusing to write and let their relatives know how they are. The correspondence is all supervised by an officer, and all objectionable matter, such as criminal news, etc., is not allowed.

I overcame all obstacles in the second grade in the shortest possible time—six months from date of entering, and was promoted to the first grade.

On entering the first grade I was placed in the larger cell with spring bed, hair mattress and pillow. The uniforms were of cadet blue color with navy blue cap similar to those used by naval officers; the uniform was trimmed with nickel plate buttons and had a boarding school rather than a prison look, but the officials are more strict with a first grade man than with the others for the reason that they (the first grade men) are expected to set an example for the other men.

I had been in this grade but a short time when I was placed in the position of a patrolman in the third grade convicts block. I had in my charge some of the very worst men in the institution, ex-convicts, incorrigibles, mischievous boys and some who were unfortunate in labor or study; the ex-convicts know that it is of little use for them to try to gain marks because they were sent to the Reformatory through their own false statements, and they know that it is very probable that they will be obliged to serve the maximum time of their sentence, therefore they are a reckless "devil-may-care" lot who can only be kept in order by the most harsh and severe treatment.

They are continually saying "that they wish Mr. Brockway would have them transferred to Auburn," but how sincere they are in making these statements I cannot say.

After these men have been reported a certain number of times for misconduct they are warned by Mr. Brockway to stop; if this fails to subdue them, he resorts to corporal punishment; they are sent to a part of the prison known as the Solitary and "paddled;" they have described the punishment to me as being very painful. I have seen their backs after the punishment, but in no instance have I seen a case where the flesh was more than badly bruised.

Other men on my tier were impossible to keep in order because they wanted to impress every one with whom they came in contact that they were hard and tough; these men do not last however; they soon get tired of this sort of posing and settle down to business. Still another class of third grade convicts are the mischievous boys; they do not break rules with any malicious intent, but it is impossible for them to restrain the spirit of mischief which all boys have to a certain extent; some are in the grade because they have been unable to keep up in study or labor, but they soon work out and back to the second grade.

The whole building is extremely clean, being washed every day, and I never saw any vermin while there. Every man is compelled to bathe every week and there is always a good supply of hot and cold water, together with all necessary material for perfect cleanliness; the bath-rooms are attached to the work-shops so that very little time is lost.

The first grade manner of marching through the yards is four abreast, the second grade two abreast, and the third grade single file with the State prison "lock step;" the latter men are distinguished from the first and second grades by their uniform, which is of a bright red color with a turban to match; their hair is kept closely cropped, and they are marched to and from work by officers who watch them very closely. The first and second grades are marched by trusted men selected from the first grade; these captains are required to keep the men in good order, see that they march in step, and above all to report all men who communicate with others by talking, signs or notes. The captain who allows his men to break the rules, and is detected by a State officer, is reported and loses three marks.

At meal times all first grade men, excepting those under the doctor's care, are marched to the dining-room and take their regular seats, remaining silent until the men are all seated and quiet, then the officer in charge says "ready?" and all the men begin to talk; the tables are of oak and each one has from fourteen to eighteen men around it; the man at the head of the table has charge of the meat which is in one large piece, he carves it and divides it the best he can, but is generally cursed at, by some one who thinks he is not being treated fairly; this habit of swearing and using unclean language is common, but is always done when the officer is looking in some other direction; he could hardly hear it if he was within three feet of the table, so great is the confusion when two hundred are talking at one time. There should be a monitor at every table to prevent the men from throwing food around and wasting it; when a man breaks dining-room rules, he is punished by being debarred from the dining-room privilege; thus he has to eat in his cell and has no opportunity to converse; the length of time is usually ten days. There are no table-cloths on the tables; and this I think makes the men less careful. The tables used by the patrolmen are always covered with clean white table-cloths which are kept so, there is never any wasting or throwing around food, and the deportment of these men at meals would suit the most fastidious. I think if all the first grade men had the same accommodations in the dining-room that the patrolmen have, and were properly supervised, their behavior would be much better; table discipline is of as much importance in my way of thinking as any other element of reformation. The news of the day is read at times to those assembled in the dining-room, but there is no regularity about it, and the news read is generally of such an uninteresting nature that little attention is paid to it. The reason that the men do not care for this news is

that a large number of them know just as much about the news of the day as Mr. Brockway does — having the privilege of conversation in the dining-room they communicate to the others, and all the news is quickly disseminated through the whole institution. I can account for this as I heard on several occasions how the newspapers were brought in. There are many citizens employed within the walls of the reformatory during the day, and they have, of course, some pity for the men when they see them and hear their stories; the men tell them where to hide a paper, and then when the officer is busy the prisoner conceals it about his clothes, usually in his coat lining as patrolman I have taken papers away from many men and on one occasion a copy of the *Police Gazette*; it is impossible to get any man to say where he got forbidden articles, he will stand punishment and not give in. Tobacco is forbidden, and the rules in regard to it are extremely severe; it is sometimes brought in in the same manner as newspapers and any prisoner detected using it is reduced to the third grade and required to maintain a perfect record for three months.

The library is a very good one, but novels and fiction predominate; there are quite a large number of magazines in it as well. I was always able to get the kind of books I wanted after finding fault and complaining for a few weeks; the librarian classed me as a "chronic growler," but soon learned that I did not want boys' books, Indian tales, etc.

I found the best way to get along was to raise an objection when any thing went wrong and keep on with objections until it was righted, the hall keeper would let me wear socks so ragged as to be almost without feet if I did not "kick" as he termed it. All this business is done by means of notes, every man in the place has a pad and pencil, and when he wants any thing he must write for it and leave the note at the door as he goes out. At times the hall keeper is careless about attending to his share of the notes, which contain requests for clothing, shoes, cell furniture, etc. The way to have your note answered promptly is to address it to the general superintendent.

I had but little trouble in the first grade, worked my way to parole in six months more and was released. I was furnished with a good suit of clothes, underwear, shoes and felt derby hat and ten dollars in money, the fare to New York being seven dollars and a quarter. I arrived safely and went to work, and in eighteen months from the date of entering received from the board of managers my full and absolute release. I was always treated with great kindness by Mr. Brockway and the officers under him; by careful attention to my study, labor and deportment I soon earned their good will and was very careful to keep it."

THE ENGLISH PRISONS.

Mr. Charlton T. Lewis, chairman of the executive committee, made an informal report from the special committee, consisting of

himself and Mr. Richard A. McCurdy, appointed to investigate the present prison system of Great Britain, with especial reference to the practical working of the act of Parliament of 1877, which centralized in the Home office the inspection and supervision of all the prisons of the kingdom. Through the kind offices of the Earl of Carnarvon, Mr. Lewis obtained from the Home Secretary a special order of admission to all the prisons of the kingdom, with every facility for examining their construction, management and discipline; and with the advice and aid of some of the directors of convict prisons and of the inspector of local prisons, and accompanied by Mr. McCurdy, made a tour of inspection; studying with care, as illustrations of the entire system, especially the great convict prisons of Millbank and Wormwood, Scrubbs, and the local prisons of Wansworth, Newgate and Westminster. The special committee intend to submit to the association in some detail, reports of their observations in those parts of the British system which differ from our own; in view of the fact that the present British system is the most extensive and thorough attempt yet made to reform the conduct of prisoners in accordance with a wise and comprehensive statesmanship; and that its results already attained are of great value and importance. Statistics recently collected by Sir Edmund P. Duane, the chairman of the board of directors, show that a progressive diminution in the numbers of the criminal class in the population of the kingdom has steadily taken place for a series of years; and the percentage of recommitments has constantly decreased. Yet it is certain that the police and the machinery of justice are more efficient than before; and the change must mainly be ascribed to the deterrent and reformatory influence of the prison system. It is scarcely too much to say that the prisons as a whole, which a generation or more ago were largely schools of crime, and turned out upon the community each year a class quite as dangerous as they took in, or more so, have now become a real and substantial moral agency for rescuing large numbers from a criminal life as well as in deterring many from crime. The system of labor practiced in these institutions deserves the closest study. It is known as the public account system, and is surrounded by law, and by the inspection of the home office, with such checks and safeguards as effectually prevent any flagrant abuses. While the direct return in money toward the expense of supporting the prisons is not so large as it has sometimes been under a system of contracts, the economy of the plan in the end is demonstrated by its results on a large scale. There is no more striking contrast than that between the treatment of short term prisoners at Wansworth and Winchester and the treatment of similar prisoners in the penitentiaries and county jails of New York. In England, the time, capacity and strength of every man sentenced to labor are utilized; he is, as far as possible, disciplined to work, and accustomed to the daily and hourly consciousness that his own comfort depends upon his faithfulness in his work. The efficiency of this system largely depends, of course, on the wis-

dom and character of those who administer it, and the governors of the prisons in England, as far as the committee were able to see them, are men of very superior qualifications. In several instances it was surprising to see the comprehensive and minute acquaintance of the governor with every detail of the institution, his knowledge of the history, character and needs of individual prisoners, and his patient attention to complaints and appeals received from them. It is, of course, impossible to hope for an organization of the administrative authority in our own prisons which shall be in all respects equal to this, until the reform of the civil service in New York shall have been extended and made thorough in our prison system.

In the belief that the study of the great reform which the British government has accomplished in this direction might prove instructive here, Mr. Lewis made an earnest effort to secure for the association a complete documentary history of its progress, including all the statutes on the subject, the reports of parliamentary committees and commissioners, the reports of directors and inspectors, the official statistics, and the books and pamphlets on prison construction, administration and discipline, whether from official or from private hands, which have at any time exercised an influence on public opinion or on legislation. He was aided in the search by several of the most intelligent gentlemen connected with the administration of the prisons, and has brought home the collection as a present to the library of the association.

With this abstract of a most important report, I beg leave to close my contribution to the thirty ninth annual report of the society. Let me in closing express to you my heartiest gratitude for the patience with which you have responded to my frequent appeals for counsel and help, and make the public acknowledgment, that whatever has been accomplished by me during the year past has been rather due to your wisdom in laying plans than to my zeal in carrying them out.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. M. F. ROUND,

Corresponding Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT OF GENERAL AGENT.

GENTLEMEN — It again becomes my duty, as General Agent of the Prison Association, to submit to you the annual report of my labors for the year ending December 31, 1883.

It has been the daily effort of your agent to carry out the requirements of the two important committees, viz.: Detentions and Discharged convicts, as expressed in its by-laws.

VIII. It shall be the duty of the committee on detentions:

1. To inquire, as far as may be practicable or necessary, into the causes of commitment of persons in the prisons or houses of detention in the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and to adopt proper measures for procuring the discharge or providing for the defense of such as shall appear to be entitled thereto.

2. To visit frequently the prisons under their charge, and to endeavor to improve both the physical and moral condition of the prisoners in all suitable and practicable ways.

IX. It shall be the duty of the committee on discharged convicts:

1. To correspond with 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.

2. To keep a record of all persons who will employ discharged prisoners, and of their several occupations; to procure such employment for prisoners applying therefor as seems best adapted to the capacity of each; to hold correspondence with employers; to keep a record of the conduct and prospects of those for whom places have been obtained, that they may be sustained and encouraged with the idea that a continued friendly interest is felt for him.

3. To procure suitable boarding places for discharged prisoners, where they will not be exposed to corrupting influences, taking care not to have more than one in a place, where it can be avoided.

4. To see that the prisoners are provided with suitable clothing, of a kind that will not attract particular attention.

Nine hundred and sixty-nine discharged prisoners have called at the office, have been registered and carefully examined and cared for to the best of our ability. We believe that every man who has served out his sentence should have a new chance to do right and to lead a new life if he so desires. It is not right that a man who has

suffered the penalty meted out in full measure for his crime should be driven back to a life of sin from which he would gladly escape if he could. It is noble and Christ-like to provide for all an opportunity to reform and to come up out of the ways of sin into the brighter and sunny paths of business integrity, social standing and Christian fellowship.

We hope yet to have an industrial home attached to our association, where these men will have improved means to meet every necessity presented by their peculiar condition.

DETENTION DEPARTMENT

The total number of cases which have been called to the agent's attention, principally in the great detention prison, the "Tombs," are seven hundred and twenty-eight.

We carefully select those who are inexperienced in crime, their first arrest, strangers to prison life, and especially the young.

The detention department of our work presents a very important field, sometimes we felt it to be the most important of the two committees. There are so many inveigled into crime for the first time, entirely ignorant of their rights, a prey to the arts used by an unscrupulous class who infest an honorable profession for purposes as dishonorable as the highwayman.

They are friendless; they know not whom to trust; they need the kindly interposition of your agent; many of them need to be saved from the contaminating influences of a prison, and in a majority of cases would be saved from a life of crime. Besides, we save these unfortunate people hundreds of dollars, and much more to the city of New York also, by our work in the Tombs and courts alone.

The following case will serve to show the importance of our work in the detention prison and the courts:

The German, Wm. M. —, referred to, was endeavored, on his plea of guilty, to have discharged on his own recognizance and sent back to his father, a farmer in Germany.

He is the person now waiting trial in Elmira for murder in the first degree — murdering the girl he engaged to marry.

This is the record we made at our first interview:

William M. —, a German, twenty-two years old, arrested for burglary, December 16, 1879, admits he is guilty. He has been in this country about two years and has worked faithfully until about two or three months before committing this crime. He was out of work and one who had been associate clerk with him in — restaurant, in the Bowery, persuaded him to attempt the burglary. M. — has a brother in this city who would send him back to his father, a farmer in Germany, where he would be out of the way of temptation.

This German was put into cell 43, in which was J. H., a man who has been "crooked" many years and been here four months on suspicion, because he was known to be a criminal by the detectives. J. H. soon learned the history of M. — and took a deep interest in

him, believing that it was his first offense, and greatly desired that he might be saved from prison. It was he who called the attention of the agent to M. — on Saturday. In the afternoon of that day he heard that M. — was to be tried on Monday following, and fearing that I should not hear of it, wrote the letter annexed:

Tombs, December 21, 1879.

Sir — I am forced to intrude on you by the fact that the young man, Wm. M. —, whom you were so kind as to interest yourself in, goes to court to-morrow (Monday). Fearing this may be without your knowledge, and being unfortunately too well acquainted with the consequences that must attend him if unrepresented, I hasten to communicate the fact, through the kindness of the chaplain, that you may save him. I am assured, from my own experience, that if he is saved there will be one good man and one villain less in the world. In Germany, with his father and mother, he will be more likely to do right than if thrown out into society from a prison.

My effort for this young man may seem like an affectation of goodness on my part. I do not profess to be a philanthropist; I do not claim to be good; but I do feel for any young man in such a position

This man is an entire stranger to me; I never saw or heard of him before and never will again probably; but he is in great trouble and in greater danger. He has learned now all that the law can teach him; he has not learned all that association with criminals can teach him.

Oh, sir! if when I was first arrested for embezzling from my employer some one had stepped up and saved me from that "school" I would not have been a *beast of prey* for the last ten years. I came out with a hardened heart, a dead conscience and my hand raised against every man, for I had been taught, among other things, that every man's hand was raised against me. Pardon me for speaking of myself. I would like to see this young man sent back to Germany and saved from being what I have been.

I trust this will reach you in time to enable you to save him so that "thieving" may not be thrust upon him, for I have often thought such can be the case and that the lines might be transposed to read:

"Some are born thieves;
Some achieve to be thieves.
And some have thieving thrust upon them."

J. H.

A case could not be made against J. H., and he was soon after released from prison. We have been in communication with him over a year and knew of his noble efforts to make an honest living after leaving prison. He was desirous to earn some money to clothe himself with, and then go home to his Christian parents.

The following table gives the number of convicts from the several prisons at this office for each month:

MONTH.	FROM STATE PRISONS.				FROM PENITENTIALS AND REFORMATORIES.												FROM DETENTION PRISONS.				1909
	State Sing.	Suburn.	Clinton.	Of other States.	Hawthorn's Island penitentiary.	Wicks county penitentiary.	Albany penitentiary.	Eliz. county penitentiary.	Rochester.	Syracuse.	Waters reformatory.	Blackwell's Island workhouse.	City prison.	Landow street jail.	Raymond street jail.	Other jails.					
January	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
February	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
March	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
April	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
May	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
June	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
July	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
August	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
September	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
October	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
November	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				
December	122	11	10	9	19	72	22	22	16	11	11	107	43	5	1	14	609				

We append hereto a few selected cases to still further illustrate the character and methods of the work of the association.

No. 1 is a young man with a wife and one child, was working in a gas-house at \$2.50 per day and living comfortably. On New Year's night he went home to get his supper, then took a stroll along West street, went into a saloon, not to drink, but to light his pipe. The bar keeper threw a banana skin in his face because he would not buy any drinks, this set the fellows in the place upon him, they pitched him into the street, broke his pipe and in the fight that ensued somebody got hurt and proffered a charge of felonious assault.

The complainant could not be found and before we could satisfy the district attorney that it was a hopeless case to find him, nearly four weeks had expired. The result was he has lost his situation, his health impaired and nothing for his family but what his wife can earn with a little child to care for. We have seen her several times and always excites our sympathy.

No. 2 was found September 1st in the Tombs prison charged with larceny from the person, had been in prison nearly two months or since July 12th, and had not been indicted. The complainant, who professes to be an engineer in an uptown brewery, could not be found.

The prisoner confesses he was in the City Hall park at midnight sitting on one of the seats and the complainant also, and most likely has no abiding place.

We thought the prisoner had been punished sufficiently by being kept in the Tombs during two of the hottest months in the year; solicited and obtained his discharge. This prisoner professed to have a place where he is regularly employed in Jersey City, by the affidavit of probably a worthless fellow that could not be found after he made it, is the means of locking a man up two months in prison, showing one of the hardships resting upon prisoners by doing away with the house of detention.

No. 3 is young and prepossessing, he is in cell 131 charged with burglary and larceny.

He declares he is not guilty of any *intention* of doing wrong, that it is not in his nature, but at the time he is charged with doing this crime he had been drinking and does not remember what he did.

He says he is greatly troubled when he reflects upon what he has been, the character he once possessed with means to be comfortable, and now finds himself in a felon's cell; he is heart broken and at times almost insane, get him out of this, he says, and he will never taste liquor again, and will strive manfully to regain what he has lost. In our efforts to find out his antecedents, he refers us to a merchant in Murray street for whom he had worked; this person speaks well of him, but it is so long ago that it avails nothing for him now; he was then a boy. We found he had already plead to an indictment of burglary second degree. We assured the court he had never been in prison before and no one to advise him; had plead

without due consideration. All we could do for him was to have his plea reduced to an attempt at burglary and he was sentenced to the penitentiary one year and three months.

No. 4 is a young man of twenty-three years of age, accused of larceny from, and by his father. The father called on the agent and said he had in his anger and inconsiderate haste made the above charge against his son, but on reflection desires very much to withdraw the complaint but finds he cannot. Some one advised him to call upon the agent and get his help.

The father is a respectable mechanic, in good circumstances; his statement in regard to his son and what moved him to act so hastily and what now leads him to forgive and wish to save him from a felon's prison, with the penitence shown by the son, was quite proper and forcible. When the young man was called to the bar, we explained the case to the judge, and appealed to him to regard the father's wishes and let him take the penitent son home with him, as he promises to sin no more. The court nobly acquiesced and the two walked out of court very happy.

No. 5 is a young man only eighteen years, and a prisoner in the ten-day house. He was with some of his companions last night, they got him drunk, rifled his pockets of three or four dollars and left him by the wayside for the watchman.

Edward is a waiter, belongs on a steamer that sails for New Orleans to-morrow; unless he can get out to-day and show up he will lose his place.

The magistrate, who had kindly given him three days to meditate in the Tombs, was informed how important it was for Edward to go to his ship to-day, signed his discharge. Edward said he was not in the habit of getting intoxicated, and promised he would drink no more of the miserable stuff and be more careful of his company, thus he started for his ship with ten cents in his pocket, wiser we hope for his experience.

No. 6 is a specimen of many people who make their calculations on false notions of honesty. This poor woman, who did washing for a living, with a sick husband to maintain, was likely to be turned into the street because she could not pay her rent, which was due.

Among the many things brought to her to renew with soap and water was a pair of lace curtains; they were called for sooner than she expected; the owner, finding her curtains were in pawn, made a charge of larceny and the prisoner was arrested.

In two days more she would have obtained the money, redeemed the curtains and all her calculations would have been accomplished.

While we condemn the conduct of the prisoner, for she was technically guilty, yet a little investigation and forbearance on the part of the complainant would have saved this poor woman *struggling against poverty and sickness* all the time she lost while in prison, and its unpleasant consequences.

We made known to the court the above facts in this case, and

sympathizing with the prisoner, who had already redeemed the curtains, they gave her, on her plea of guilty, only one day City Prison.

No. 7 was sent to prison the last of July on a charge of burglary. After two months of confinement in the Tombs his wife called on the agent and said her husband had been to court a great many times without being tried. He had been urged to plead guilty, but conscious of his innocence would not.

We also found his lawyer was principally the cause of delay. He was hoping his wife or some friend would come to the front and furnish some money for him. We went to see the prisoner charged with burglary, heard his story and believed he told the truth. We asked for a speedy trial which was accorded him, and the jury acquitted him. This long imprisonment was a great wrong, not only to the prisoner, but to his wife who had a small and sickly child to care for during those weary months.

No. 8 is a man of middle age found in the Tombs August 3, charged with grand larceny and admits his guilt.

He had recently come from Ohio where he worked at shoe-making in a large establishment, but was forced to leave as he could not comply with the rules although a member of the society; as he could get work nowhere else he was led to seek it in New York.

Here he looked for work day after day till he was on the borders of starvation, and then in his desperation went into a jeweler's store, took some jewelry openly and walked out and was arrested.

We read a letter from his wife from which we learned her prayer to, and faith in God, which led us to intercede for the prisoner and get him a plea of petit larceny. On this plea the court sentenced him to six months in the penitentiary.

He served his time out and came to this office a wiser and, we hope, a better man. He had no friend here to help him, so we gave him a ticket to his home in Ohio.

No. 9, a lad of seventeen years, was an office boy for a physician in Thirty-fifth street, who placed so much confidence in him that he was sent to collect bills. It was soon discovered that Charley did not account for all the money he collected. A charge of petit larceny was made and we found him in the Tombs.

There were parties who knew Charley and believed he was trustworthy until this peculiar temptation overtook him and that this was his first offense, and were anxious to save him from the demoralizing influence of a prison. His complainant was not anxious to press the charge, and when told we could place him in Massachusetts with a good mechanic, he said he would much rather aid in sending him there than to prison.

With this information the court, on his plea of guilty, gave him one day City Prison. At four o'clock of the same day he was on his way to the boat for Boston.

We have received a letter from Charley and will make a few extracts.

March 27, 1883.

DEAR SIR — I am yet at the carriage business and am learning the business first rate. I can paint any carriage that there is and build a wheel barrow of any sort. I go to Sunday school and church every Sunday. I should rather suffer any torture than do such a thing as I have done, and shall try and keep the path of righteousness. I am living with the gentleman I work for and have a nice home.

Yours truly,

CHARLEY.

No. 10 is also a lad of seventeen, his mother is dead and he has a drunken father, but does not live with him, he pays no attention to his children. This lad is accused of petit larceny. He had a good situation in a restaurant as a waiter, receiving his food at the restaurant and lodging with his aunt, who being also a drunkard took all the boys' wages till his clothes were so worn and dirty he lost his place. Then he traveled the streets with no one to help him till he was starving and finally stole a pair of shoes to get food. He appeared frank and truthful. We told the court we did not think he was a bad boy, that if he had a chance he would earn his living and be honest. We also promised the court to get him a situation in the country, for in July the farmers wanted boys. The court responded to our request and gave him one day City Prison, when at four o'clock he gained his freedom he came direct to our office, we cared for him a few days, when in answer to our letter a farmer came from Orange county and took our boy with him, promising if he will be a good boy, he will make a man of him.

No. 11 is fifteen years of age, was arrested with another boy for stealing six watches which they divided between them. As soon as Edward was arrested he frankly admitted his guilt and did all he could to recover the watches and restore them to the owner. Edward's father was greatly grieved and said he had always been a good obedient boy till within a short time he had made acquaintance with bad boys and became disobedient and careless.

Edward promised, however, if he could be forgiven he would live a different life and never do wrong again. The complainant had received his property and was willing the court should act with leniency.

These facts were placed before the court and his discharge recommended, which the court kindly granted, and after warning him of the danger of doing wrong again, allowed him to go home with his father. This being his first experience with violated law, we have faith in Edward's promises.

No. 12 is a young German girl sixteen and a half years, our attention was called to her August 29 by the matron at the Tombs. She was arrested on Sunday evening for disorderly conduct in Stanton street, and sentenced to ten days on the Island. She was well dressed and appeared modest. The matron believing her

to be a virtuous girl, and this her first offense had kept her from going up to the island till the agent could see her, hoping he could do something to keep this young girl from the evil associations at the work-house.

We heard the girl's story, she was in company with another girl, there were a good many people in the streets, they were invited (by an officer she says) to go in and take some punch, which they did.

We examined the papers which simply said this girl with her companion were disorderly and when spoken to "laughed at the officer."

We called on the mother and when told her daughter was in the Tombs she showed great distress, but we comforted her by informing her we would call in the morning, go with her and endeavor to get the daughter. We were enabled, through the kindness of the magistrate, to get her discharge, and at the Tombs we put the daughter in the mother's hands, to go home with her.

No. 13 is a middle-aged man. On the last of August our attention was called to him behind the bars and found he was charged with grand larceny; he plead not guilty.

He said he was in a liquor store in Water street; a stranger came in with three coats on his arm; trying to sell them. He offered them to the bar-keeper, but he did not want them. He then turned to the prisoner and asked if there was a pawn broker's shop near. I went out to show him, but noticed we were followed by a gang of young loafers who finally took the coats from him and ran away with them. The man, being partially intoxicated, may have thought I took them; he had me arrested and made this charge against me.

He referred the agent to two gentlemen and Officer Sommers of the thirteenth precinct, who knew the prisoner to be an honest man and would not be guilty of such a crime. We hurried his case before the court for trial and the jury acquitted him.

No. 14 we found in the Tombs early in March, charged with grand larceny, a delicate young woman. In relating her case, she impressed us with a desire to save her from prison.

She lost her mother when only five years of age and her father at fourteen. Since that time she had had a hard struggle but lived respectably. She married young, and when her child was a year old her husband left her; she had not seen him since. She loved her child and bent all her energies to care for herself and her boy, and being a good dressmaker could make a fair living, but her health gave out. Then poverty and the fear of losing her child stared her in the face. She was tempted to take some of the valuable trimmings she was using and sold them, which soon brought her to prison. She seemed penitent and deeply mortified at her terrible fall and said she did not know why she was tempted to do such a thing, except to save her child from being taken from her.

We saw the complainant, she did not want her sent to prison, she

thought she had suffered enough already, and willingly signed a paper withdrawing the charge and recommending her to such clemency as the court and district attorney may see fit to show. We also obtained a good letter from a former employer. With these facts and satisfactory evidence it was her first offense the court kindly suspended sentence and let her go on her own recognizance.

No. 15 is a "long shoreman," has a wife and three children; work with him has been dull, and his family were in a suffering condition; between Christmas and New Year he was on the dock not far from the foot of Montgomery street, he saw some drift wood in the river, with a desire to secure it he took a row boat and put out for that purpose, he was not entirely sober, and in his efforts with the boat lost his oars and drifted down some distance, but finally landed and was immediately arrested by an officer. The owner made his appearance and told the officer he did not believe the man intended to steal the boat and refused to make complaint until urged to do so by the officer.

When the prisoner came into court the complainant said he did not know the prisoner, but did not believe he intended to steal the boat, the misfortune of losing the oars overboard was the reason he did not return the boat to the place he took it from.

He believed the story of the prisoner that he only wanted to secure the drift wood and therefore he desired to withdraw the charge. The court discharged the prisoner without calling the officer.

No. 16 is a dressmaker, has been able to support herself well, and had on hand a good supply of clothes, but for two or three months work had been dull and she has had nothing to do, she pawned all her clothes but one good dress to wear, which she hoped to save. Finally she was obliged to pawn that for ten dollars. When this was gone she knew not what to do. Then came the temptation. She went to a store in sixth avenue and stole a piece of silk worth about eleven dollars, for which she was arrested by the detective in the store, the silk taken from her and she committed for trial. We called on Mr. Simpson and informed him of the circumstances of the prisoner; he generously said he was willing the court should act with all the leniency their judgment should dictate. We ascertained the character of the prisoner from those who had employed her and without injuring her reputation became satisfied she was a good dressmaker whose word could be depended upon among her customers. The above facts were laid before the court, which gave her, on her plea of guilty, one day City Prison.

No. 17 came from Sing Sing prison April 12, had served a term of one and a half years. He called to get his trunk and valise which we had secured for him after he had gone to prison.

He is a sailor and with two other sailors came to this city. They hired a room together and he retired early, the other two went out to see *New York*, came in very late and while in a surly mood next day made a charge against the prisoner of stealing clothes.

When he was called to the bar to plead, he answered he was guilty of sleeping in the room, but not guilty of taking the clothes, and this it seems was taken for a plea of guilty, and on this plea he was sentenced one and a half years to Sing Sing prison. He did not ask for assistance, says he can work his way up again, though this is a severe blow to him. We believe he speaks the truth and with the push he has will soon retrieve his loss.

No. 18 is a native of a Western State, was sent to Albany penitentiary three years for counterfeiting, this being his first offense. He seems deeply anxious not only to keep out of prison, to be an honest man and not only so, but to lead a Christian life. He has been in this city over two months, finds but little to do, though a good mechanic, and now in much need of help calls at the office of the Prison Association; after being satisfied of his sincerity we sent him in the country where he got a situation at first with small pay, but determined to carry out his resolution.

We have received letters from him and make an extract from one.

MR. CUTLER:

DEAR SIR— Your very kind and welcome letter at hand. Thanks be to God and to yourself and Mr. Dunn I am here and still intent up the slow and sometimes discouraging labor of redeeming a mis-spent life. The work is so discouraging at times that were it not for strength from above I could not endure it. Your letter so full of friendly counsel and the spirit of Christian kindness which came to me at the darkest period of experience, it was so opportune and appropriate for my condition that I knew to have been God's providence in my behalf. Only those who have experienced it can imagine how much good a few kind and encouraging words sometimes effect, in a case like mine, and I am grateful to you for your remembrance of me.

I am working steadily every day, have lost but one hour in four weeks. I am economizing in every way possible and with God's help am bound to retrieve the unfortunate past.

Yours very truly,

We again feel it to be a privilege to acknowledge, which we do with gratitude for the kindness and the great assistance extended to us in the prosecution of our work by the judges and officers connected with the various criminal courts, the district attorney's office and all the prison officials.

STEPHEN CUTLER,
General Agent.

POLICE MATRONS BILL — REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

To the Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York :

The special committee appointed to investigate as to the propriety and necessity of employing matrons in the station-houses in the city of New York to take charge of the female prisoners present the following report :

The position of matron in a station-house is one that it would be found peculiarly difficult to fill worthily, and the duties of the office would doubtless be extremely trying to a woman of pure character. A glance at the station-houses and at the situation in which the matron would there be placed will show the severity of the ordeal to which she would be subjected. The females arrested and taken, in the first instance, to the station-houses are for the most part vagrants and street walkers charged with intoxication and disorderly conduct. It appears from the statistics that nine-tenths of the women arrested come under this category. They are, perhaps, the most abandoned and degraded persons with whom the criminal law has to deal. Brought into the station-house frequently in a state of violent intoxication, they are locked up in cells — a measure which it requires the strength of able-bodied men to accomplish. These women are blatant with profanity, foul abuse and obscenity, which the male prisoners are wholly unable to rival. The most shameless talk and conduct in the station-house proceed from the women and not from the men confined there. A virtuous woman in the capacity of matron or otherwise ought not to be subjected to this atmosphere unless there are urgent reasons demanding her presence.

The females arrested are brought in mostly during the night time, and it would be necessary for the matron to live in the station house. The policemen of each precinct are also required to sleep in the station-house, that they may be ready at all hours for duty. The matron would thus be brought into the closest domestic contact with the policemen of her precinct. The social influence of such a collection of men upon a matron living under the same roof and in necessarily intimate association with them could not be advantageous.

It is doubtless true that a high-minded woman, sustained by earnest Christian philanthropy, might be able to withstand all these demoralizing influences; but it is unreasonable to expect that the office of matron would in fact be filled by women of this exceptional type. The matrons would be selected by the same authorities and in the same manner as now control the appointment of policemen, and they would come from substantially the same social class. The offices would not be sought by disinterested women eager to engage in philanthropic work, but by women seeking employment and the means of gaining a livelihood, and, however honest and worthy the matron might be at the time of her appointment, there is reason to fear that it would be only in exceptional cases that she would pass through the ordeal of service with her womanly character and purity unimpaired.

These considerations so far raise a presumption against the institution of matrons in the station-houses as to make it necessary to scrutinize very closely the reasons that are alleged in support of the measure. In what respect would an advantage be gained by substituting a matron for the female prisoners in the place of the existing doormen?

It is alleged that the searching of females arrested should be conducted by a woman, and that this reason alone justifies and demands the employment of a matron. If it were customary to search women when arrested, and this office were performed by policemen, the door would be opened for abuses which would imperatively demand correction. But we are gratified to learn upon careful inquiry that females arrested are never searched by policemen. It is customary for the policemen of a precinct to raise a fund by contributions for the employment of a woman to make up the beds and do the housework at each station-house, and whenever it is thought necessary to search a female arrested the search is always conducted by the woman thus employed. The cases are not of very frequent occurrence where an arrested female is subjected to personal search at the station-house, but whenever such search is made it is now invariably intrusted to a woman and not conducted by the policemen themselves.

It has been intimated that female prisoners at the station-houses are liable to suffer indignities at the hands of policemen which the presence of a matron might tend to restrain. If such abuses existed it is not apparent how a matron would be able to prevent them. But on this point, too, we are assured by a gentleman who has held official connection with the police board for many years, that he has never known of any instance in which a policeman has been charged with wanton insult or licentious abuse toward a female prisoner, and he justly adds that were there true foundation for such a charge there are abundant sources from which the charge would be preferred.

The suggestion has also been made that females at their arrest may sometimes be suffering from sickness or some physical ill

demanding a female attendant. Such cases seem to be amply provided for under the existing organization, which requires the immediate transfer of sick or suffering prisoners to a hospital, where alone proper treatment can be administered.

The movement in favor of the appointment of matrons in station-houses has received its impulse from a vague and not altogether un sentimental idea that the tone and morale of the station-house will be in some way improved by the refining influence of a female officer. The movement has been sustained by the analogy between a station-house and a city prison, the argument being, that, as a matron is essential to a city prison she is no less indispensable in a station-house. We are convinced that the general idea referred to is erroneous and that the analogy is fallacious.

A station-house is simply a place of temporary detention; a city prison contains convicted or arraigned offenders undergoing a more or less prolonged imprisonment. The females arrested and brought to the station-house are taken immediately into court for trial if the court is in session; if the court is not sitting they are lodged in a cell in the station-house until the opening of the court. The abode of these prisoners in the station-house is generally of a few hours' duration only, and very rarely, if ever, exceeds a period of twenty-four hours. The female during these few hours of preliminary restraint is in the most unrefreshing and abusive frame, generally heated with the fumes of liquor, under the most intense and wholly uncontrollable excitement and agitation. The idea that a matron can exert a refining or reformatory influence over such a raging subject at such a time seems to us unpractical and visionary. But when that same prisoner has been committed to the City Prison and has undergone the chastening and subduing influence of even one week's confinement, her passion cooled and a rational sense of her situation awakened, she may then become amenable to a matron's influence. The reformation of a prisoner (at the best a forlorn hope) is a work of time and discipline. Its best preliminary is a somewhat protracted period of solitary confinement (as is the established custom in the prisons of England and Ireland and of some of the States of the Union), when reason and conscience may have an opportunity to assert their supremacy through the processes of silent meditation. That these processes may be materially aided by a matron in the few hours of preliminary confinement in a station-house we have little faith to believe.

The position of a matron in a prison is far less trying than it would be (in the particulars already indicated) in a station-house. From the more fixed character of its population, the discipline and decorum of the prison can be rigidly preserved, its inmates are kept quiet and orderly and there is no reason why a matron of dignity should suffer any disrespectful treatment from the prisoners under her charge. In a station house this decorum cannot be maintained. The prisoners there are in the first paroxysm of rage at their detec-

tion and arrest, and would repulse the matron with foul abuse and insult; their detention is so temporary that it is wholly impracticable to apply any efficient check or discipline.

For these reasons we regard the employment of matrons in the station-houses as unnecessary and unwise, and we believe that the debasing effects of the situation on the character of the matron herself would far more than counterbalance any possible good she could accomplish.

Aside from these general considerations, there are in our judgment some grave objections of a specific kind to the bill now pending in the Legislature known as Senate bill No. 194: "For the appointment of police matrons in the several cities of this State."

This bill provides, in effect, for the appointment of two matrons in each of the station-houses in New York and Brooklyn. Most of the female arrests in the city of New York are made within a half dozen of its thirty-two precincts. Thus it appears from the last published quarterly report of the police department, covering the quarter ending January 1, 1882, that there was no female arrested within those three months in the twenty-fourth precinct; in eight other precincts the number of females arrested during the same period were, respectively, as follows: 15, 11, 8, 10, 4, 11, 8 and 1. During the entire year 1881 there was but one female arrested in the twenty-fourth precinct, and yet the proposed bill makes compulsory the appointment of two matrons in each and every station-house alike. In more than one-half of the station-houses in this city the office would be a sinecure. The bill is too sweeping in its provisions, and if such a measure is to be adopted, it should, at least, be confined to the six or ten station-houses where the office could be attended with some active duty on the part of the incumbent.

2. The bill further provides that the matrons shall receive "the same pay as doormen or station-house keepers." This would impose on the tax payers of the city of New York an additional annual charge approximating \$60,000. The amount seems to us excessive and wholly disproportional to any possible benefit that could result from so large an expenditure.

3. The bill provides that "every police matron shall be triable and removable in the same manner as a doorman or station house keeper," that is, after a public trial and condemnation. If a matron should prove to be an unfit person, she could not be removed from office without the scandal of an open trial and without legal proof of misconduct; the offenses most to be feared would be of secret commission, and, from the nature of the case, most difficult to establish by technical legal evidence. It is imperatively necessary, we think, if matrons are to be appointed, that there should be vested somewhere the power of summary dismissal without subjecting them and the public to the scandalous detail of an open trial.

The city station-houses in many particulars demand improvement and reform. This is especially true in regard to their plan of court-
[Sen. Doc. No. 51.]