

**EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT**

(for 1852)

OF THE

**NEW-YORK PRISON ASSOCIATION**

TO THE

**LEGISLATURE**

OF THE

**STATE OF NEW-YORK,**

INCLUDING A LIST OF

**OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.**

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ALBANY:

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**State of New-York.**

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**No. 108.**

**IN ASSEMBLY, APR. 14, 1853.**

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**Of the New-York Prison Association.**

*NEW-YORK, April, 1853.*

To the HON. SPEAKER,

*Of the House of Assembly of the State of New-York:*

SIR—In compliance with the sixth section of the charter of the New-York Prison Association, I herewith transmit the eighth annual report of its operations, and request that you will, in behalf of the Association, submit the same to the Legislature.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN D. RUSS,

*Corresponding Secretary Prison Association.*

1852

## OFFICERS

\* OF THE

PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW-YORK FOR 1853.

*President,*

Hon. WILLIAM T. McCOUN,  
Justice Supreme Court.

*Vice Presidents,*

ABRAHAM VAN NESS, Esq.,  
Merchant.

Hon. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER,

Hon. JOHN W. EDMONDS,  
Justice of Supreme Court.

Hon. JOHN DUER,  
Judge of Superior Court.

*Treasurer,*

WILLIAM C. GILMAN, Esq.,  
Merchant.

*Recording Secretary,*

ISAAC LEWIS YEET,  
Professor Deaf and Dumb Institution.

*Corresponding Secretary,*

JOHN D. RUSS, M. D.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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Dr. E. PARMLEY,

FREEMAN HUNT,

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WILLIAM C. ROGERS,  
B. B. ATTEBURY,  
JOHN W. C. LEVERIDGE,

ISAAC LEWIS PEET,  
OLIVER H. WELLINGTON,  
HENRY POOR,  
MARCUS MITCHEL.

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

BY PAYMENT OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS OR UPWARDS  
AT ONE TIME.

*City of New-York.*

JAMES BOORMAN,  
JAMES BROWN,  
WILLIAM B. CROSBY,  
JAS. WARREN DELANO,  
S. F. B. MORSE,

ROBERT B. MINTURN,  
CHARLES PARKER,  
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*Troy, N. Y.*

REV. WM. ANDREWS,

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*Meriden, Connecticut.*  
REV. G. W. PERKINS.

**REPORT.**

In compliance with the requirements of its charter, the Prison Association of New York, presents to the Legislature of the State, this its

**EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.**

A retrospect of the past—although not without its regrets—affords numerous evidences of duty performed, and of good accomplished. In no former year, has the Association been more active in the discharge of its duties; in no year have so many claims upon its charity, from discharged prisoners, been presented, and in no year so many situations provided for them—much time, and attention, has also been devoted, both in this city and Brooklyn, to those under arrest. The whole number that has received aid and advice from this Association, during the past year, amounts to 708, viz :

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Men,.....          | 160        |
| Women,.....        | 269        |
| Boys,.....         | 216        |
| Girls,.....        | 63         |
| <b>Total,.....</b> | <b>708</b> |

The receipts of the Institution, during the same period, as presented in the Treasurer's report, are \$4,254.81, viz :

|                                          |                   |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash on hand, Jan. 1st, 1852,.....       | \$58 25           |
| Collections for prison Association,..... | 2,279 52          |
| Collections for F. department,.....      | 992 00            |
| Sale of Insurance stock,.....            | 510 00            |
| Interest on Stock,.....                  | 86 00             |
| Sales of rags and barrels, &c.,.....     | 5 48              |
| Proceeds of work,.....                   | 323 56            |
| <b>Total,.....</b>                       | <b>\$4,254 81</b> |

**HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION.**

OSCAR 1st., King of Sweden and Norway.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.**

- A. DE TOCQUEVILLE, } Membres de l'Academie Francaise, Paris.
- G. DE BEAUMONT, }
- M. CH. LUCAS, }
- M. DEMETZ, Membre du Conseil Gen'l du Departement du Siens-et-Oise, etc., Paris.
- M. G. BLOUET, Architecte du Gouvernement.
- W. CRAWFORD, Esq., } Inspectors of Prisons of Great Britain.
- Rev. W. RUSSELL, }
- J. G. PERRY, Esq., }
- MAJOR JEBB, }
- EDWIN CHADWICK, Esq., London.
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- Dr. N. H. JULIUS, Berlin.
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- Dr. VERDELL, Member of the Great Council, Vice President of the Council of Health, at Lausanne, Switzerland.
- COUNT PETITTI DI FORETO, Turin, Italy.
- Dr. GOSSE, Geneva, Switzerland.
- JACOB POST, Esq., London.
- Rev. L. DWIGHT, Secretary of Prison Discipline Society.
- Dr. FRANCIS LIEBER, Professor of History and Belles Lettres.
- WILLIAM P. FOULKE, Esq., Philadelphia.
- M. MOREAU CHRISTOPHE, Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, France.
- Dr. VARRENTRAP, Germany.
- S. G. HOWE, M. D., Boston.
- Miss D. L. DIX, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Mrs. E. W. FARNHAM, New-York.
- JOHN GRISCOM, LL. D., New-Jersey.
- Professor NATHAN DAVID, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- CHARLES SUMNER, Esq., Boston.

N. B. The Physician and Warden or Keeper of each Penitentiary are, ex-officio, Corresponding Members of the Executive Committee.

|                                                                                                                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Of which has been expended, for support of "the home," and for board, tools, clothing, and for discharged convicts, . . . \$3,403 40 |                   |
| Financial agent, . . . . .                                                                                                           | 150 00            |
| W. Sheppard, for counsel fees, . . . . .                                                                                             | 100 00            |
| Clerk hire, . . . . .                                                                                                                | 261 61            |
| Carried to Building fund, . . . . .                                                                                                  | 260 00            |
| Balance on hand, Jan. 13th, 1853, . . . . .                                                                                          | 79 80             |
| Total, . . . . .                                                                                                                     | <u>\$4,254 81</u> |

This exposition of the pecuniary affairs of the Association, although more encouraging than that of last year, still indicates either a lack of effort on the part of the Association, or of interest in the community, in relation to the great object in which it is engaged. The importance of our labors, we fear, has not been brought home to the hearts of the people. We are persuaded, they do not duly appreciate how much they are dependent for the security of their property, and even their lives, upon the proper punishment of crime. Heretofore, the idea has been to punish, without a sufficient regard to the object of punishment. A detestation for criminals, has been too often substituted for a detestation of crime, and so it happens that a man, once convicted, becomes the embodiment of all crime. Believing, as we do, that the perpetration of one crime does not necessarily imply an endless progression in that direction, we would treat it as a disease which, though dangerous, offers with a proper remedy a fair prospect of cure. This remedy is proper punishment, and to this end the Association labor; and though they incidentally occupy themselves in restoring the convict to society, after his discharge, it is but a means to that grand end. The proper punishment of crime asks not severity, prompts not lenity, demands no terms for vice, but yields all to penitence. In this labor we have spent much time, money, and personal effort, without an adequate consideration from the community. Our efforts have not been directed to the pleasing objects of philanthropic exertion, but to the degraded, vile, down-trodden outcast, to those with whom none sympathise, upon whom few bestow their alms. From the very nature of the case our effort must always be unpopular, and thus it is that our Association, for lack of adequate pecuniary support,

is compelled to leave important duties unperformed. A subscription of \$5,000 per annum is absolutely necessary to carry on the operations of the Association, successfully, upon its present foundation. But the difficulty experienced in obtaining places for discharged prisoners, and the importance of providing them with work, before the good habits they acquired while in confinement have worn off, and they have sought out their old acquaintance—make it extremely desirable that a building should be erected, and placed under suitable surveillance, where labor should be provided for all those that ask our aid. We would, also, suggest that in connection with this, but distinct from it, the Legislature should authorize the Association to construct a prison for boys, between the ages of 16 and 20, to which all those who show evident signs of contrition, and are imprisoned on their first offence, might be sent so as to avoid the contaminating influences incident to a residence in the penitentiary, and being herded with veterans in crime. The establishment of such a prison seems to be demanded by a proper regard for that class, who, past the ordinary age of pupillage, have been driven by stern necessity, or some untoward circumstance, to the commission of a first offence. To accomplish such a labor, we should not only require a large increase of voluntary aid, but permanent assistance from the city, and Legislature.

#### DETENTIONS.

Our labors in this department have been confined to repeated examinations of the prisons in this county, King's and Richmond, seven in all, viz: The City prison, the first and second District prisons, and the Elridge street prison, in the city of New-York. The Penitentiary, on Blackwell's Island; the King's County Prison, Brooklyn, and the Richmond County Prison, at Richmond, Staten Island. We regret that a faithful discharge of our duties, will not allow us to spend many words of commendation on these establishments. The Penitentiary, however, has visibly improved within the last three years, in point of neatness, order, and systematic management. The old shanty, formerly so famous a portion of the female department of this establishment, has been destroyed, and the workshop it contained transferred to the old hospital, which has

been fitted up for this use, and a new and commodious hospital built, the grounds highly improved, and many striking contrasts with its former condition are manifest—but notwithstanding these evidences of improvement, the cost of the prison for support appears unnecessarily large, as will more fully appear from the following comparison with the other institutions, under the care of the ten Governors, viz.:

|                                               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Annual cost of support per head in Alms House | \$27 00 |
| Annual cost per head Bellvue Hospital         | 70 18   |
| City Prison                                   | 74 00   |
| Lunatic Asylum                                | 55 20   |
| Nurseries, Randell's Island                   | 45 67   |
| Penitentiary                                  | 90 35   |

Making an expenditure of \$1.74 cents per head, per week. The enquiry naturally arises what makes this marked difference in the cost of support in these different institutions, all under the care of the ten Governors, and especially why does this prison stand thus in advance of all. It cannot be accounted for by attributing it to our increased expenditure, for salaries in the Penitentiary is only 22 per cent. of the whole expense. But while the expenditures of the prison appear unusually large, the credits of the prison are astonishingly small. In looking over the last reports of the various institutions, under charge of the ten Governors, we find that with an average of 844 inmates, only \$3,757.26 credited as receipts from the Penitentiary, while the work-house, with an average of 230 inmates, has \$54,819.27 credited to that account. Can it be possible, that with so large an average of inmates, the most of whom are able-bodied, the earnings of the institution have been no greater. Such a supposition would be a reflection upon the Board of Governors, as well as the officers of the Penitentiary, alike unworthy their character and position. The difficulty arises probably from the very loose manner in which their accounts are kept, as well as a want of arrangement and distinctiveness in the manner they are presented, in fact, they are so much mixed up in their report, that it is doubtful whether the Governors themselves could unravel them, and give a distinct account of the receipts and their sources,

and the disbursements of the several institutions separately. We would exempt from this remark the accounts of the work-house, which are presented with a clearness and accuracy which is truly refreshing. From these statistics, we learn that the work-house department has earned \$93,268.05, or a daily average for each inmate of 112 cents, but that we may do no injustice to the Penitentiary, estimating the earnings only by what has been turned into the store-house, viz., \$54,869.77, it is 47 cents per day. A truly satisfactory statement, in which we have only to regret that the salaries of the officers and servants are not presented.

The City Prison though less expensive than the Penitentiary, lacks many of its redeeming features. Progress in this institution has been less decided, improvements less marked, and instead of neatness and order we have dirt and confusion. We would not charge this state of things as reflections upon the government of the institution, as it is mostly mainly owing to the construction of the prison, the character of its inmates, and the nature of its uses. Although the grand receptacle for all the filth and vice of this great city, this prison is mainly a house of detention, where the inmates are constantly going and coming, and where in most instances the prisoners are only kept till trial. Under such circumstances it becomes exceedingly difficult to establish and maintain such discipline as shall keep the prison at all times cleanly and in order. There are, however, a few simple rules which, if rigidly enforced, would add very much to the appearance of the institution, and the comfort and happiness of many of its inmates; these are—First, compelling every prisoner to clean his cell before ten o'clock in the morning. Second, to refrain from smoking or chewing on the galleries or in the cells. These two simple rules, if enforced, would alter the entire character and appearance of our City Prison, and do much to counteract its present demoralizing tendencies. The habit of using tobacco is here so freely indulged, that it becomes as it were contagious, and frequently children who enter the prisons without any inclination to the habit, have become confirmed smokers in a week. Several cases of this character can be found in the diary of our agent. Aside from the filthiness of the habit, it has injurious tendencies which should be at once arrested. Its excessive use prod

*Cost per head of support in different institutions*

*Tobacco & chewing pipe*

degree of excitement entirely inconsistent with the calm reflection which a first arrest for crime so urgently requires, both as a preparation for trial and an opportunity for reformation. With the inebriate it keeps alive his desire for drink, and with the teetotaler it often lays the foundation of intemperance. We therefore would particularly urge that tobacco in any and every shape should be prohibited in our houses of detention. The Brooklyn county prison is more redolent with the fumes of tobacco than even the Tombs. And these remarks will apply with almost equal force to all the prisons inspected by us.

#### JEFFERSON MARKET, OR THE SECOND DISTRICT PRISON.

This prison calls loudly for interference from some quarter; besides being badly ventilated, it has only 23 cells, 4 of which are constantly occupied as store rooms, leaving only 19 for the occupation of the prisoners. The average monthly commitments for the year is about 420, or 14 commitments daily. The average time each prisoner remains at the prison is about 2½ days; so that the cells are necessarily over crowded at all times. Another glaring defect in this prison is the putting men and women, boys and girls all upon the same corridor. It thus happens that young girls and unoffending witnesses have their minds corrupted by the foul language and indecent exposure of those hardened in crime. The keeper related to the inspectors several revolting instances of this kind. The prison should be increased at once to treble its present dimensions, and the present prison appropriated to females solely. There is land enough belonging to the corporation in the immediate vicinity.

*Essex Market Prison* is in good order and cleanly. The keeper, however, complains that it is too small, and that it is rendered foul and unwholesome by the manner in which the soil pipes are constructed. He says, that in the morning, before the prisoners that have been brought in during the night, are disposed of, the prison is most loathsome. That, to purify the air, it is necessary to let on the croton water in large quantities, to carry off all matters accumulated in the soil pipes, and that, as these soil pipes empty into a reservoir that has no outlet, it is constantly overflowing, and creating a nuisance to the whole neighborhood.

The *Kings County Jail*, at Brooklyn, surpasses even the New-York city prison in its distinguishing characteristics. It is damper, dirtier and more noisy. The cells are larger, but more crowded; the ventilation less perfect, and greater opportunities offered for corruption. Instead of two or three in a cell, we sometimes find five or six. Instead of a keeper on each corridor, we find the prisoners all locked into cells, which communicate with the gallery by a small door, and the gallery left without an officer, so that communication can, at all times, be carried on from one end of the prison to another, and such scenes of blasphemy and obscenity as are sometimes witnessed there, can better be imagined than described. The female departments in both prisons are cleaner, drier and warmer, but the Kings county needs a matron constantly in the corridor, to subdue that boisterous mirth or vociferous wrangling which makes this prison occasionally a perfect bedlam. The difference between the female department of the city prison and Kings county jail is, that in the city prison it is barely possible that a person might remain some days without corruption, but in the Kings county it seems impossible. The following account of the Richmond county jail, extracted from the diary of our agent, presents the present condition of that prison:

*Richmond County Prison* was in a filthy condition at the time of our examination. The prison is attached to the new court house, and contains eight cells, four on each floor, with a hall between them. The lower floor has never been finished, and, therefore, remains unoccupied. A hall separates the cells, so that there are two on each side, about 12 by 14 feet in area. They are ventilated and lighted by a small window near the top of each cell, and heated by a stove in the hall, which renders the heat exceedingly uncomfortable to visitors, but which cannot, by any possibility, warm the cells, as their doors shut remarkably tight, and the only opening in them is a small orifice not a foot square, near the top, through which the prisoners can converse with each other. The soil pipes are so constructed that it is difficult for what passes into them to be carried off, and the result is, that the prison is filled with a most disagreeable and unhealthy odor. The keeper told us that it was in contemplation to take down the



present prison and construct another on a better plan. This perhaps, is a wise decision, but we fear it will be a long time before it is accomplished. In the meantime, a small expense for providing night tubs, and putting in grated doors, would do much towards rendering the prison habitable. Had our examinations been extended to other parts of the State, we should, undoubtedly, have found a similar condition of things existing almost every where. Formerly these prisons were occasionally inspected by the county judges, but, by the act of 1847, it was made the duty of the prison inspectors to examine them and report their condition annually to the Legislature. This service they once performed, but, on presenting their bills to the Legislature, they were dishonored, and ever since these prisons have, we believe, been suffered to take care of themselves. Previous to that period this Association had commenced a series of examinations, both of our county prisons and State penitentiaries, which had resulted in the collection of a large amount of statistical and other information, and the results reported to the Legislature, which, had they been continued, might have resulted in important improvements in the prison discipline of our State and county. These examinations, however, were arrested by the appointment of the inspectors, who have hitherto strenuously opposed the examinations of our Association under its charter. Within the last year, a better feeling has been manifest, and, we believe, that permission would now be freely accorded us by the inspectors to examine our county prisons, although they are not yet prepared to admit us into the State prison. The Association would very gladly assume this responsibility, but the Legislature, in imposing the duty upon us, forgot to designate the fund by which it should be accomplished. We should not, however, wait to be assisted by the State, if voluntary contributions would enable us to effect the object, but our most strenuous exertions in this department can little more than procure us the necessary means to take care of the prisons in our own county and the convicts from time to time discharged from our State's prison. The duty of inspecting our county prisons, however, is one which demands the immediate, deliberate and earnest attention of the Legislature. Can it be that these persons are to be left to the management or misman-

agement of pensioned officers, without any one legally qualified, or permitted even to investigate their condition? If there is anything important in relation to our whole prison system it is, that our houses of detention should be such as to preserve the inmates from contamination and corruption. These are not prisons simply for hardened offenders, but oftentimes are tenanted by those whose characters are as spotless as our own, and must such be subjected to the contaminating influence of veterans in crime? We may make our State prison as disciplinary, reformatory and productive as possible, without remedying the evil; but if we would prevent contamination; or arrest the criminal in his first faltering steps to crime, we must pay prompt and early attention to our county jails. The gallows has just terminated, at the age of twenty-one, the life of an interesting young man, who, six years ago, was first brought to our city prison for a slight misdemeanor, and whose education, while there, undoubtedly contributed, in no small degree, to the fatal denouement. He himself said, while standing on the brink of a felon's grave, "only for the acquaintance I made here, I should never have come to this." The importance of the subject seems to demand the immediate attention of the Legislature, and, in connection with it, we respectfully suggest the propriety of making all our houses of detention strictly separate prisons. Who can visit our county prison and not be forcibly impressed with the fact, that, as at present governed, they are great seminaries of crime? Behold them mingling vice and virtue in one cauldron. The man who is to be hung for murder, the incorrigible thief, the innocent witness, and the merely suspected, are all thrown into one heap, and left to seethe and ferment together. And this must always be the case, to a greater or less extent, while our houses of detention are on the congregate system. Nothing but separate confinement seems at all suited for persons of this character. Nothing else promises adequately to prevent further contamination of the guilty and protect the innocent. This, we are persuaded, must be the policy of the State so soon as it shall examine closely into the results of our present system. The rapid increase of commitments to our city prison during the last five years, so disproportioned to the increase of population in our city, may undoubtedly be accounted for in [Assembly, No. 108.] 2

(Trans. of the Convention of the American Free

other ways, but we cannot but regard as among the prominent causes, the demoralization which has been the result of imprisonment in this prison. Hardly a session of the court passes in which one or more cases of those who were, on former occasions, arrested for disorderly conduct, assault and battery, or some misdemeanor, are not returned for larceny, many of whom attribute their ruin to associations formed in prison. The following is a comparative view of the statistics of the city prison, for the last five years:

## COMPARATIVE VIEW

*Of the Statistics of the New-York City Prison for the last five years:*

|                                  | YEARS, |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                  | 1848.  | 1849. | 1850. | 1851. | 1852. |
| Intoxication,.....               | 4,876  | 6,505 | 7,246 | 7,691 | 8,624 |
| Petit larceny,.....              | 2,029  | 1,955 | 2,970 | 2,806 | 2,977 |
| Vagrancy,.....                   | 1,855  | 2,172 | 3,352 | 3,530 | 5,193 |
| Assault and battery,.....        | 1,186  | 1,745 | 2,400 | 2,043 | 2,451 |
| Disorderly conduct,.....         | 702    | 1,283 | 2,723 | 2,214 | 2,660 |
| Grand larceny,.....              | 455    | 373   | 660   | 578   | 631   |
| Burglary,.....                   | 98     | 149   | 215   | 199   | 221   |
| Misdemeanor,.....                | 94     | 78    | 53    | 35    | 12    |
| Insanity,.....                   | 245    | 245   | 427   | 441   | 621   |
| Abandonment,.....                | 45     | 90    | 104   | 92    | 116   |
| False pretences,.....            | 49     | 33    | 40    | 53    | 53    |
| Bastardy,.....                   | 42     | 34    | 62    | 77    | 60    |
| Robbery,.....                    | 36     | 43    | 46    | 34    | 65    |
| Witness,.....                    | 66     | 20    | 27    | 14    | 39    |
| Riot,.....                       | 16     | 122   | 72    | 4     | 71    |
| Disorderly house,.....           | 7      | 15    | 44    | 65    | 62    |
| Desertion,.....                  | 24     | 14    | 8     | ..    | ..    |
| Receiving stolen goods,.....     | 16     | 22    | 27    | 27    | 50    |
| Bigamy,.....                     | 12     | 10    | 12    | 14    | 9     |
| Arson attempt,.....              | 17     | 15    | 9     | 6     | 10    |
| Forgery,.....                    | 41     | 29    | 59    | 109   | 109   |
| A't and b'y with intent to kill, | 25     | 13    | 58    | 61    | 76    |
| Attempt burglary,.....           | 7      | 3     | 3     | 8     | 3     |

|                                 | YEARS. |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                 | 1848.  | 1849. | 1850. | 1851. | 1852. |
| Attempt petit larceny,.....     | 13     | 10    | ..    | 21    | 14    |
| Disorderly apprentice,.....     | 5      | ..    | 17    | 64    | 34    |
| Murder,.....                    | 9      | 9     | 15    | 21    | 56    |
| Embezzlement,.....              | 11     | 10    | 40    | 22    | 19    |
| Illegal voting,.....            | 4      | 9     | 6     | 6     | 14    |
| Rape attempt,.....              | 7      | 14    | 34    | 13    | 27    |
| Incest,.....                    | 2      | ..    | 1     | 1     | 2     |
| Felony and accessory,.....      | 14     | 18    | 14    | 18    | 39    |
| Manslaughter,.....              | 3      | 4     | 6     | 16    | 11    |
| Perjury,.....                   | 4      | 16    | 3     | 5     | 7     |
| Conspiracy,.....                | 2      | 5     | 14    | 2     | 5     |
| Fraud,.....                     | 1      | 10    | 1     | 12    | 7     |
| Indecent exposure of person,... | ..     | 6     | 6     | 9     | 18    |
| Offences against nature,.....   | ..     | 5     | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| Attempt to break prison,.....   | ..     | 4     | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| Assault,.....                   | ..     | 5     | 18    | 39    | 51    |
| Carrying slung shot,.....       | ..     | 5     | 8     | 1     | 2     |
| Aiding prisoner to escape,....  | ..     | 9     | 3     | 2     | ..    |
| Malicious mischief,.....        | ..     | 3     | 22    | 86    | 58    |
| Mayhem,.....                    | ..     | 2     | 6     | 5     | 1     |
| Selling obscene books,.....     | ..     | 2     | 2     | 7     | 3     |
| Selling lottery policies,.....  | ..     | 1     | 3     | 10    | 2     |
| Abduction,.....                 | ..     | 3     | 1     | 6     | 2     |
| Soliciting emigrant passengers, | ..     | 1     | 11    | 1     | 1     |
| Cruelty to animals,.....        | ..     | 1     | ..    | 2     | 4     |
| Selling without license,.....   | ..     | 1     | ..    | ..    | 5     |
| Seduction,.....                 | ..     | 4     | 1     | 12    | 8     |
| Violating corpor'n ordinances,  | ..     | 49    | 125   | 246   | 263   |
| Larceny,.....                   | ..     | 67    | 106   | 99    | 106   |
| Suspicion of larceny,.....      | ..     | 110   | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| Contempt of court,.....         | ..     | 2     | 3     | 1     | ..    |
| Stabbing,.....                  | ..     | 7     | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| Counterfeit, passing,.....      | ..     | 9     | ..    | 21    | 18    |
| Shooting,.....                  | ..     | 3     | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| Clipping coin,.....             | ..     | 1     | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| U. S. prisoners,.....           | 56     | 36    | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| Sodomy and attempt,.....        | 2      | ..    | ..    | 4     | 2     |

|                                   | YEARS. |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                   | 1848.  | 1849. | 1850. | 1851. | 1852. |
| Attempt larceny,.....             | 3      | ..    | 12    | ..    | 14    |
| Poison attempt,.....              | 2      | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| Prostitution,.....                | 2      | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    |
| Driving over,.....                | ..     | ..    | 2     | 2     | ..    |
| Interfering with officers,.....   | ..     | ..    | 1     | 1     | 10    |
| Marrying girl under 14 years,     | ..     | 0     | 1     | ..    | ..    |
| Ass. to murder,.....              | ..     | ..    | 1     | ..    | 1     |
| Sending torpedo box,.....         | ..     | ..    | 1     | ..    | ..    |
| Pickpockets,.....                 | ..     | ..    | 3     | ..    | ..    |
| Libel,.....                       | ..     | ..    | 4     | 4     | ..    |
| Abortion,.....                    | ..     | ..    | ..    | 1     | ..    |
| Assault with slung shot,.....     | ..     | ..    | ..    | 6     | 9     |
| Create revolt,.....               | ..     | ..    | ..    | 10    | 17    |
| Attempt robbery,.....             | ..     | ..    | ..    | 2     | 1     |
| Obtain'g letters false pretences, | ..     | ..    | ..    | 1     | ..    |
| Mutiny,.....                      | ..     | ..    | ..    | 3     | 13    |
| Cruelty to children,.....         | ..     | ..    | ..    | ..    | 2     |

*All Others.*

|                                              |      |
|----------------------------------------------|------|
| Subornation perjury,.....                    | 2    |
| Attempt infanticide,.....                    | 2    |
| Detaining emigrant baggage,.....             | 1    |
| Body snatching,.....                         | 2    |
| Defrauding commissioners of emigration,..... | 2    |
| Personating an officer,.....                 | 3    |
| Destitution,.....                            | 8    |
| Gross indecency,.....                        | 4    |
| Alms house,.....                             | 198  |
| Discharged on examination.....               | 2170 |
| Offences not specified,.....                 | 457  |
| Misdemeanor,.....                            | 35   |
| Sickness,.....                               | 7    |
| Concealment,.....                            | 3    |
| Suspicious person,.....                      | 1    |
| Malicious trespass,.....                     | 6    |
| Marrying a girl under 14 years of age,.....  | 1    |

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| Selling unwholesome meat,.....                  | 3  |
| Peddling without license,.....                  | 1  |
| Opening letters,.....                           | 2  |
| Fugitive from service,.....                     | 1  |
| Bribery,.....                                   | 1  |
| Foreign convicts,.....                          | 27 |
| Fugitive from justice,.....                     | 16 |
| Escaped convicts,.....                          | 26 |
| Gambling,.....                                  | 8  |
| Deserting seamen,.....                          | 25 |
| Deserting soldiers,.....                        | 1  |
| Rescuing prisoners and resisting officers,..... | 8  |

These statistics present many interesting facts in relation to the progress of crime. The first we shall notice is that in the city of New-York, since 1848, disorderly conduct in almost every instance, the result of rum, has notwithstanding the efforts of temperance and philanthropy, increased from 703 to 2,660 or 278 per cent., that intoxication has increased about 75 per cent., and the two together from 5,579 to 11,280. It appears, further, that crimes against property have increased only about 50 per cent.; while crimes against the person have increased 129 per cent., or from 1,300 in 1848, to 2,920 in 1852. An alarming feature of this truly appalling fact is, that the increase seems to be regular year, by year.

Another cause of alarm may be found in the fact that the increase has been greatest in the highest crimes. Thus we find under the head assault to kill, 25 in 1848, 13 in 1849, 58 in 1850, 61 in 1851, and 76 in 1852, or an increase of over 200 per cent. in five years. In 1848, there were nine murders only, in 1849, 9, in 1850, 15, in 1851, 21, and in 1852, 56, or an increase of more than five hundred per cent. in five years. This rapid and fearful increase in the most heinous crimes, demands the serious consideration of the statesman, the philanthropist, and the Christian. To what can it be attributed; will the fact that 90 per cent. of the whole number committed to the prison during the past year were intemperate, satisfactorily explain it?

Crime per facts

The following table represents the progress of those crimes, which are almost entirely the result of rum selling, viz., intoxication, disorderly conduct, and vagrancy :

|                       | 1848.        | 1849.        | 1850.         | 1851.         | 1852.         |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Intoxication, . . . . | 4,893        | 6,505        | 7,246         | 7,691         | 8,624         |
| Disorderly conduct    | 702          | 1,283        | 2,723         | 2,214         | 2,660         |
| Vagrancy . . . . .    | 1,855        | 2,172        | 3,352         | 3,530         | 5,193         |
| Total . . . . .       | <u>7,450</u> | <u>9,960</u> | <u>13,221</u> | <u>13,435</u> | <u>16,477</u> |

### PRISON DISCIPLINE.

The embarrassments growing out of our recent contest with the State Prison Inspectors, and the fact already alluded to, that the Legislature in imposing upon us the duty of examination and inspection, appropriated no funds for its accomplishment, has prevented the Committee on Prison Discipline, from rendering those active services to the cause in which it is engaged which, under other circumstances, it would have felt it a privilege and a duty to have performed ; nor are our relations with the Inspectors such at present, that we should be permitted to exercise the full power conferred upon us by the 6th section of the eleventh article of our charter, which is in the following words : The said Executive Committee, 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, they shall possess all the powers and authority that by the 24th section of title 1st, chapter 3, part fourth, of the Revised Statutes, are vested in the inspectors of county prisons ; and the duties of the keepers of each prison, that they may examine, shall be the same in relation to them, as in the section aforesaid, are imposed on the keepers of such prisons, in relation to the inspectors thereof ; which section is in words as follows, viz. : 24. It shall be the duty of the keepers of each of the said prisons, to admit the said Inspectors, or any one of them into every part of such

prison, to exhibit to them on demand all the books, papers, documents, and accounts pertaining to the prison, or to the persons confined therein, and to render them every facility in their power to enable them to discharge the duties above prescribed ; and for the purpose of obtaining the necessary information, to enable them to make such reports as is above required, the said inspectors shall have power to examine on oath, to be administered by either of 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 one of them. The Legislature, aware of the importance and the difficulty in the way of the exercise of the power conferred upon the Association, granted almost unlimited powers of inspection, not only of our State, but our county prisons. These powers the Association exercised for nearly two years, without other injury to the prisons, than the exposition of several cases of undue severity on the part of the officers ; the frequent supply of unsound food, a gross negligence in regard to articles purchased for the use of the Institutions. These examinations, had they been continued, must have led to a more careful and honest discharge of the duties imposed, and would have undoubtedly tended materially to a higher discipline, and a more conscientious discharge of duties.

### *The Douche and the Yoke as instruments of Punishment.*

The cat was, formerly, almost the only instrument of terror, and torture, used in our prisons to insure order and subdue the refractory. It was in daily requisition ; and, ten years ago, twelve hundred lashes a month was no uncommon occurrence. Since 1847, its use has been prohibited, but hoping to evade the law, and still gratify the same evil propensities, those monster instruments of torture, the douche and the yoke, have been introduced. These, we are happy to say, are alike prohibited by law ; and it is some consolation to know that every prison keeper, who inflicts either punishment on a convict, may be prosecuted when that convict regains his liberty ; and it is fortunate for prison keepers that when convicts are liberated they generally feel too grateful for their liberty, to harbor feelings of resentment, or are too destitute of friends or means to prosecute. Even if they do prosecute,

their oaths will not be taken in a court of justice, and, perhaps, every witness, but the parties themselves, is in a like position; so that they have but little hope of redress. But allowing some of them not only the opportunity, but the enjoyment of redress, what becomes of that long catalogue of insanity and death, which is produced directly by this treatment? Hear what the physician at Auburn says of the douche:—"I am an advocate for cold water, if properly applied, but to confine a convict in the stocks tight and firm, with his head thrown back, and then douche the water upon him, is decidedly more dangerous and evil than the cat. The muscles, involuntarily, shrink upon the application of cold. But here they must bear the shock, in all its severity. The first effect is strangulation, to a most painful degree. The next is aberration of mind, convulsions, congestion of the brain, liver and bowels. The blood, receding from the surface, is thrown suddenly and violently upon the organs, and, the above result is inevitable." Dr. Fosgate bears testimony, in his examination by the legislative committee, to the same facts in still stronger language: "To convey a just idea of the shower bath as a means of punishment, as well as to disabuse the community in regard to it, it will be necessary to describe as well as may be, the instrument itself, so that it can be compared with the bath in common use as a means of luxury. The form of the machine is that of the common stocks, with a reservoir of water above it, having a head fifty-four inches, measuring from the surface of the water to the perforated plate at the end of the discharging tube. The offender, being stripped of his clothing, is placed in a sitting posture in the stocks, with feet and hands securely fastened, and his head contained in a sort of hopper, the bottom of which encircles his neck so closely that the water will not run off as fast as it can be let on, the water being under the control of the keeper by means of a chord attached to a valve in the bottom of the reservoir.—From the perforated plate the water falls about eighteen inches, when it strikes the head of the convict, immovably fixed, thence passing over the whole surface of the body. When the reservoir is full, the force of the blow upon the head is nearly equal to a column of water seventy-two inches in height. This force is somewhat reduced by the intervention of the perforated plate, a late modification in the instrument. To the mechanic, who cal-

culates the influence of mere matter upon matter, the power of this column of water must possess considerable importance. But to the physiologist, who can alone judge with any degree of correctness of the influence of a stream, generally at 32 Fahrenheit, falling upon the head and thence covering the whole body, the suffering induced, and danger incurred must appear momentous in the extreme, as the following examples illustrate. Convict number 5066, aged about thirty years, of sanguine nervous temperament, was brought to the hospital in a perfectly unconscious state, and with convulsive twitchings of the muscles. His mouth filled with frothy saliva, no perceptible pulsations in the radical artery, but little external heat, and very imperfect respiration. He had been showered, as I was credibly informed, with about two pails of cold water. His body was rubbed with stimulants and warmly covered with blankets. In about two hours deglutition was partially restored, when brandy, and other stimulants, were administered. In four hours, after entering the hospital, his consciousness returned. This individual was so nearly destroyed that he had passed into that calm, quiet, mental state that immediately precedes death by drowning. He said that at last he had the delightful sensation of sailing, and then it was all over. He suffered from cramps, in his lower extremities, for about three months after.

"Convict number 4959, was showered previous to my connection with the prison. He told me that, while in the stocks, "his head ached as though it would certainly split open, when, all at once, it suddenly stopped, and he felt no more pain." He came out of the stocks an insane man, hopelessly incurable, though, at times, he converses understandingly about the punishment.

"Convict number 5669, was showered with six pails of water, discharged on his head, in a half inch stream. Shortly after he fell into convulsions, from which he emerged with a mind totally destroyed. He was pardoned in about three months afterwards, and a report subsequently reached the prison, that he did not long survive.

"The kind of punishment next in frequency, inflicted in this prison, is yoking. The yoke is formed of a flat bar of iron, four

Punishment - neck stocks  
Yoke

or five inches wide, and from five to six feet in length, with a moveable staple in the centre to encircle the neck, and a smaller one at each end to surround the wrists. All these staples are so arranged that by turning screws on their protruding ends, on the back of the iron bar, they can be tightened to any degree deemed expedient. The weight of the lightest yoke is thirty four pounds avoirdupois, and some of them, I believe, weigh forty. The principal objection to this punishment is, that the yoke bears too heavily on the cervical vertebra. Most persons are aware of the unpleasant, and in fact unsupportable sensation produced even by the weight of the unbuttoned coat and vest pressing upon the back of the neck. Under the weight of this instrument, the convict cannot retain the erect posture for even a few minutes consecutively, but is forced to bend forward in his continual writhing, which brings the entire weight of the bar upon the lower cervical vertebra. The arms are generally stretched to their full length, and from steady tension of the nerves, are benumbed while the hands turn purple, and at times become much swollen. In several instances I have placed my fingers beneath the yoke, and found the pressure so great that it was actually painful to me.\* Both as an instrument of torture and of death, it is, confessedly, more dangerous in the hands of uneducated men, than the lash. Unlike those beasts of prey, whose appetites are whetted by the smell of blood, man generally recoils from its sight. So that, as the lacerated backs of the convicts begin to drip with gore, his heated passions begin to subside, and further cruelty be thus arrested.

"The douche and the yoke possess not even such doubtful advantage, and should at once be forbid by law. The Executive of the State has already, officially, declared that there is no law for their use, but, notwithstanding this, the yoke and the douche are ever ready instruments of punishment and torture, in all our State Prisons. We might tolerate, perhaps excuse such violations of the law if they subserved any good purpose, but experience daily teaches us that if not entirely useless, they are, at least, of doubtful efficacy. The experience of the State Prison of Maine, is to the point. That institution was governed, for twenty months, without any other punishment than solitary confinement, with an

average loss of two and a half days to each convict, and during the past year, the Warden states that the punishments have not averaged the loss of one day to each prisoner, and still it is considered by all that the discipline never was better. Under these circumstances we invite particular attention to this subject, and ask the passage of a law restraining the use of the yoke, and the douche, or any other punishment except solitary confinement on bread and water, and thus the number of punishments and the duration of each shall be published, annually, under oath of the Warden, in his annual report.

#### WITNESSES.

We have so often called the attention of the Legislature to the consideration of this subject, that we do it on the present occasion even at the risk of being considered importunate. We should not, however, consider ourselves as faithful stewards of the trust confided to us by our charter did we not struggle earnestly, constantly and fearlessly, to obtain those meliorations in our prison system which an enlightened benevolence and a just sense of duty seem to require. In our fourth annual report we directed the attention of the Legislature to the subject of imprisoning witnesses in the following language: "The moral right to imprison witnesses is very questionable. Their testimony may be required, and it is their duty to give it when called on; but until they refuse to give it they are entitled to their liberty. The law provides that witnesses not residing in the city may be examined de bene esse and discharged. The question arises, therefore, only in relation to our own citizens, and as to them the statute gives the magistrate the power, if he is satisfied by the proof, that there is reason to believe that they will not appear at the trial, to require their recognizances, with such sureties as he shall deem meet, or to commit them." But the law has no right to presume that a man will not do his duty before he has refused to do it. The true presumption is the other way, and it is unjust to make a man suffer upon a belief that otherwise he will not do what he ought. But no such consideration is necessary. It is as easy to examine one of our own citizens de bene esse as any other person; and if there is reason to suppose that he will not be forthcoming at the

trial, this course ought to be adopted, and a legislative enactment should make it obligatory upon the District Attorney. The attention of our agent has been, within a few days, particularly called to this subject by a case that occurred at the city prison. A woman had been induced to purchase what is called a lottery policy, under which she was cheated. Smarting under her losses she applied to the police. A warrant was issued, the policy dealer arrested and brought to the city prison, examined, and held to bail, which he procured, and was set at liberty. The injured witness who came for redress, was also held to bail for her appearance to prosecute, but not having amassed wealth by crime, she was not as fortunate as the accused in finding a friend to bail her, and she was cast into prison and made to expiate the crime of daring to enforce a law of the State by an imprisonment of 57 days. At the end of this time the trial of the policy dealer came on. He confessed his guilt, was fined \$10, which he immediately paid, and was discharged. The law having no further use for the poor woman, she also was discharged, but without one cent compensation for her loss of time and the derangement of her affairs, and probably taught by her sufferings never again to seek redress from the law on a similar occasion."

Is there no remedy for this perversion of legislation? Must the accuser thus suffer for the criminal? Shall the unwholesome operations of the law be thus converted into instruments of torture to those whom they were intended to protect? This is by no means a solitary example. The evil is so common that it has passed into a proverb, that a rich policy dealer or gambler cannot be convicted.

#### FINES.

The subject of fines as a part of criminal sentences, was also presented in our fourth report in the following language: We feel it a duty, at this time more particularly, to urge legislative attention to the subject of fines as a part of criminal sentences. The law as it now stands, operates most oppressively and injuriously upon the poor man, subjecting him to protracted periods of imprisonment, and perhaps a family to want and suffering, while

the rich man, who has no claims upon his daily exertions, may buy his liberty at once. It would seem, therefore, to be the dictate both of justice and humanity to provide for the poor some means of escape from the severity of this sentence other than the discretionary power of judges who are liable to the same frailties, and are influenced by the passions and feelings with other men. No plan, perhaps, can be suggested which will more effectually and more satisfactorily answer this object than affixing to every day's imprisonment a determinate value, and making it an equivalent for a part of the fine, and thus prescribing the term of imprisonment in case of inability to pay, and, at the same time, affording an opportunity to those more fortunate to regain their liberty at once. The attention of our agent is frequently called to cases of protracted imprisonment on account of fines of a very trifling character, which, had the individual been rich or had wealthy friends, would have been settled at once, but on account of the limited means of the individual are continued until the time spent in prison becomes a very serious loss. Instances are reported of eight or ten weeks imprisonment for the paltry sum of five dollars; and almost constantly cases occur in which fines of ten or fifteen dollars only are satisfied by an imprisonment of five and six weeks.

#### DISTRICT PRISONS.

In our third report we urged the establishment of district prisons in the following language:

"If we may ever hope to reform criminals, it certainly must be at that period when, with trembling footsteps, they first enter the paths of transgression. Then it is that advice, reproof, admonition, and reflection may produce their intended results. Then, and for such, it is that our prisons should have a perfect organization. The general principles of such an organization may be easily pointed out; but in the details and management there are greater difficulties. One thing appears to us evident: that our county prisons never can be what society demands until they afford opportunities of instruction, reflection, the inculcation of religious principles and the formation of habits of industry."

The small number of convicts, however, in most of our county jails precludes the possibility of introducing successfully into these prisons any of those necessary requisitions; it has, therefore, suggested itself to us whether the laws in relation to county prisons might not be so modified as to divide the State into several penal districts, according to its population, in a central position in each of which a prison should be erected after the most approved plan, in which labor, instruction, and all the appliances for health and reformation should be introduced. This, we believe, might be effected without (when the labor of the convict is taken into consideration) any considerable increase of expense, and even should the expense be increased, reformation is of too much importance to be sacrificed to a paltry consideration of dollars and cents."

Every day's experience has confirmed the opinion thus expressed, and though at that period the idea had never been practically illustrated, we are now happy to learn that Albany and the adjoining counties have thus united, and that the Albany Penitentiary has been conducted on this plan for the last four or five years with the most eminent success; not only is it one of the best ordered prisons in the United States, but it is also one of the most productive, when the character of its population and the terms of sentence are taken into consideration. From the last report of that institution, we learn that during the preceding year it not only paid its expenses, but earned, over and above expenses, the handsome sum of \$1,013.07. The inspectors, after announcing this fact, remark, "*that it challenges admiration, and more than this, a competitor.*" If the Legislature would adopt this policy for the State, and divide it into ten or more districts, in which a central prison should be erected after the most approved models, and order that all prisoners sentenced to more than ten days imprisonment should be there sent, we have no doubt but the several counties of the State would be entirely relieved from the support of adjudged crime, and the number of crimes be materially diminished. The experience of Albany county in this particular is so satisfactory and encouraging that it becomes a duty for this Association to urge its consideration upon the

Legislature in the strongest manner, not merely as an important suggestion, but as an accomplished fact. The establishment of district prisons, as thus recommended, would afford ample opportunities for making our houses of detention completely separate prisons, where no two individuals under arrest could ever see or converse together. Is it not time that so important a feature in prison discipline should be not only recommended on our statute book, but absolutely enforced in practice. A vast responsibility rests with our law makers, and they should see to it that the hundreds of youths that are every year incarcerated are no longer exposed to the corrupting influences of congregate imprisonment.

#### DETENTION FOR TRIAL.

The good order and well being of the community may require that individuals under suspicious circumstances, shall be arrested and detained until an investigation as to their guilt or innocence can be had, and in case of proved guilt, this preliminary confinement becomes very justly a part of the punishment, but when the individual is proved innocent, it seems an extremely hard case that he should have his character injured by groundless suspicions, be thrown out of his business, subjected to personal expenses, and shut up in prison, leaving his family to provide for itself, or to suffer the pangs or miseries of starvation, and then after six or perhaps eight weeks of confinement, turned a beggar upon the world, not from any fault of his perhaps, but some fortuitous circumstances over which he had no control. We have on former occasions directed attention to this subject, but it has been more forcibly brought home to our attention, by the application of a poor colored man, whose family had been turned into the street, and the savings of years exhausted, in the attempt to provide counsel for him and his son, while in prison, and to support the family, while those on whom they depended for support, were locked up for the benefit of the State. This man and his son had been detained five weeks when, after an investigation of their charge, they were honorably discharged. Who pays for their loss of character—their loss of time, and of money? One would suppose it to be a sufficient sacrifice for the good of society, for an innocent man to be incarcerated for so long a time, even if



he was paid the ordinary price of a day's labor, but to compel him to suffer the loss of liberty, and the loss of money at the same time, is a sacrifice too great to be borne patiently. This detention falls almost exclusively, where it is the least able to be borne. It is the poor man suffers. He it is that is made to pay the tax for the security of the rich man's property. The rich can at any time provide bail, and are therefore never the sufferers. Shall not some provision be made, which shall protect the innocent poor man while under arrest.

### PRISON ARCHITECTURE.

We ask attention to the following extract, from the appendix to our fifth report, as presenting important suggestions for the improvement of prison architecture, and especially for the construction of prisons, with a view to classification. We propose that our prisons should in future be constructed on the radiating plan, so that each wing shall diverge from and open into a common centre, which, if kept in view in regulating the internal construction of the building, becomes a point of observation, commanding a view of the whole, and from which access in all directions is afforded. The wings may vary in number, from two to six—four, perhaps, would be a better limit, and may be constructed from two to four stories high. These wings shall in part be adapted to separate, and in part to congregate government, excepting in houses of detention, where entire separation is in our opinion, alone admissible. The centre building, besides serving as a point of access and observatory, should provide accommodations underneath for a kitchen, and overhead for a hospital. The ground underneath the central building should be deeply excavated, and such excavation should extend to a considerable distance over the adjoining grounds, and adjacent to each wing, to give air and light to the basement; better perhaps to have the basement entirely above ground. The arrangements for the basement of the prison should be such as to provide bath rooms, cleansing rooms, store-rooms, &c., as well as the most ample accommodations for cooking, and the easiest method of distributing the food to the different portions of the prison in which it is required. The kitchen should be immediately connected with the store-

rooms, bathing, and reception cells, wash room, clothes room, drying rooms, coal bins, heating apparatus, &c., &c., so as to economise the labor and fuel of the establishment. The wings are to be constructed, so as to permit a general inspection and supervision of the whole building from one point, embracing not only the cells, but the dining hall, workshops, and perhaps chapel; for this purpose, on each side of each corridor near the central observatory, tables and seats are to be provided for feeding the prisoners; beyond these are the cells opening inwards towards a central hall, and in the congregate portion of the prison beyond the cells, the workshops are placed. The cells are to be made sufficiently large to admit of separate confinement, if it should be deemed advisable, to introduce it now or to fall back on it at some future period, and by a division when it becomes necessary, effected by the means of corrugated iron plates, as in Portland prison, England, or by a temporary brick wall, they can each be divided at trifling expense into two cells of ample capacity for congregate imprisonment.

These are each supplied with water and all necessary appliances; to be lighted by two windows, and heated by warm air thrown in at the top of the room and drawn off at the bottom. It is proposed to introduce the Pentonville method of warming and ventilating, with such improvements as experience has suggested. The part of the wing beyond the cells in which the workshops are to be placed, is to be completely floored over, and divided in the centre by a board partition, about five feet high, running from the point nearest the cells back towards the wall, leaving between it and the wall sufficient space for the desk and seat and keeper in charge, and the whole to be enclosed from the other parts of the wing by glass doors, which can be opened or closed at pleasure, thus shutting off the noise, but allowing a central inspection. The windows in the work shops must be large, admitting both light and air, but protected by gratings, and in front of the work shops there must be a tackle and fall, by which the raw material or manufactured goods can be raised from or lowered to the store-rooms in the basement, as may be required. At the hours for eating, the prisoners, at a given signal in each work shop, quit their employment and march along the corridor

in single file to the dumb waiter on their gallery, where they find a server, with their plates, knives and forks, spoons, pepper, salt, vinegar, &c., which they carry to their seats, eat what they choose, and, after sufficient time, another signal is given, when the prisoners rise, and, in reversed order, carry their servers, containing their plates, &c., and re-deposit them on the waiter, then wheel and pass along the gallery, back again to the work shops. In this manner no time is lost, either in setting or clearing away the table, and no persons engaged especially for that business. In the wings, which are devoted to separate confinement, the hall and galleries run the whole length of the wing, as will be seen in the diagram, and the whole of it will be occupied by cells, and the prisoners, instead of feeding together, will be supplied from the dumb waiter with their servers by a person or persons expressly provided for the purpose, and they will, in a similar manner, be supplied with raw material for their work, &c. In the central observatory there will be an elevated platform, of greater or less height, according to the height of the wing, in which will be a stand point of observation, at which all the prisoners can be seen by simply turning the head. This may also be used as a position from which the prisoners may be addressed while at their meals. The hospital of the prison is placed in an additional story, directly over this part of the building, and is intended to occupy the entire floor of the upper part. It will have two entrances from nearly opposite wings, and will be so arranged as to have each bed separated, by a partition, from every other, so as to offer a distinct room for each patient, looking into the centre of the building through a grated door, controlled by the attendants. The centre room is provided with a light in the dome, and each bed-room is to have a small window for ventilation. A chapel, for those in separate confinement, may be constructed by a prolongation of the hospital over one of the wings, and so arranged as to prevent prisoners even becoming personally known to each other. This may be done by adopting the plans and precautions used at Pentonville, England, and if it is desired to assemble all the population of the prison in the chapel at the same time, it may be done by providing separate and distinct departments for each class. The plan, which we herewith present, has not been artistically drawn, and will, therefore, but

imperfectly present our idea. It can only be considered as the great outline of a plan which must be filled up hereafter.

The plan thus proposed possesses the advantage, first, of providing a prison equally well calculated for either separate or congregate imprisonment. It places the two systems in juxtaposition, and enables us to form an accurate comparison of their merits. It enables us to adopt or discard either, as the one or the other shall be decided to be superior, thus holding ourselves in a constant state of progress. In proposing separate confinement for first sentences, it offers the most undoubted advantages of the separate system, while, in retaining congregate imprisonment for a large portion of the inmates, and superadding a minute, and attainable classification, it presents the congregate system in an improved shape. By the means it affords for dispensing with a crowd of hall boys and waiters, who are at present unproductive, for increasing and equalizing the hours of labor during the hours of labor during the whole year, and for allowing the productive advantages of congregation, it admits of the greatest economy in its management. It enables the prisoners to be constantly engaged, either in work, study, instruction, sleeping, feeding, or other necessary occupations, and thus preventing the ennui and the diseases created by idleness. In its introduction of more order and system—in its facility for supervision—in opportunities for a complete and constant separation of classes—in its preventing the exposure of the prisoners to the changes of the weather, thereby promoting health—in its increased facilities for carrying on the operations of the prisoners, &c., &c., it seems to excel all other known plans. This is a brief summary of the advantages we expect to derive from prisons fashioned after the manner here sketched. If we have succeeded in presenting an intelligible view of our own conception, we hope to have impressed those who may have examined our plan with the idea that it is, at least, worthy of an experiment, especially as the experiment will cost but little, and the prison, afterwards, will be of the first order, and, by a trifling expense, may be converted into either a congregate prison of the largest capacity, or into a separate prison, unsurpassed in its appliances for health and the ordinary operations of the prison. This advantage alone, we

trust, will be sufficient to recommend the general features of our plan to the authorities of those new States where they are about to construct prisons and introduce systems of prison government, and to those where prisons are already established, which may be found insufficient in size, or so dilapidated by age as to make a new erection desirable. Prisons erected on this plan will possess the important advantage of having the convict in congregate imprisonment under the constant watch and guardianship of the keeper. His whole prison life will be so adjusted as to be equitably distributed between labor, study, religious instruction, out door exercise, feeding and sleeping. By the use of the fat and the other oleaginous materials, which accumulate from the meats used by the prisoners, the prison may be lighted at a trifling expense, with gas, and as the prisoners never need, and, indeed, are never expected to go off their galleries, except for yard exercise, they can be mustered at the same hour during all seasons of the year, and work the same number of hours. Their hours of study, a great desideratum, impossible to be attained under ordinary systems, can also be equally well arranged, so that the convicts need not, as at present, be left, in the winter season, more than half their time unemployed, shut up in a dark cell, with no one to control them and nothing to employ them.

#### STATISTICS.

We have in former reports directed attention to the manner of reporting prison statistics, and although some improvement has been made in our own State in this particular, nevertheless even here we are deficient in that systematic arrangement and minute detail which gives such value to European statistics on this subject. The sections of the law making it obligatory on the several officers of the State prisons to report annually the statistics of their several departments was drawn by this Association, and it was supposed at the time, provided for a complete uniformity in the manner of reports, and was sufficiently explicit to leave no reasonable doubt in the minds of intelligent men of its meaning; nevertheless we find that almost every year different facts are presented, or the same facts in such different shapes as to render them utterly worthless for the purpose of comparison. Some

times little regard is paid to the requirements of the law but such facts as fancy or caprice dictates supply the place of those which are made incumbent by the statute. If such difficulty exists in our own State where we have a law in relation to this matter, it is not to be expected that in States where no legal requirement exists we should find any improvement; nevertheless we are compelled to admit that Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, and perhaps two or three other States have set an example in this direction worthy of our warmest approbation. What we would ask is the object in presenting year after year a mass of statistics differing from each other and all others? When indeed they embrace, as is sometimes the case, a series of years, they become valuable; but a simple report that such a number were imprisoned during the year for such a crime, or that such a disease prevailed, unless coupled with preceding or succeeding reports of the same character may indeed be an astonishing announcement, but possesses no intrinsic worth except to excite the wonder or admiration of the reader. If we would give any value to such statistics they must be continuous, and yearly present the same facts. In previous reports we have presented a form for reporting statistics of our State prisons which we would particularly urge the wardens and keepers of such prisons to adopt, not because it possesses any peculiar merit, but that if adopted by all it will make the statistics of all valuable. We take the liberty to again present it with a modification which, although it detracts materially from the value of the original design, preserves its principal features, and at the same time diminishes the labor of its preparation nearly one-half.





| STATE PRISONS.            | CHARGES AGAINST THE PERSON. |                                          |               |                   |           |          |          |             |         |          |          | Total. |                          |         |          |                |          |                   |                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|----------|--------|--------------------------|---------|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|
|                           | Murder.                     | Assault and battery with intent to kill. | Manslaughter. | Rape and attempt. | Adultery. | Dignity. | Perjury. | All others. | Native. | Foreign. | Females. |        | Whole number of colored. | Deaths. | Pardons. | Recommitments. | Escapes. | Productive labor. | Unproductive labor. |
|                           | Maine.....                  | 4                                        | 2             | 1                 | 2         | 1        | 1        | 6           | 2       | 68       | 19       |        | 3                        | 2       | 13       | 1              | 1        | 1                 | 72                  |
| Massachusetts.....        | 4                           | 15                                       | 10            | 9                 | 3         | 2        | 10       | 10          | 306     | 166      | 14       | 4      | 5                        | 1       | 1        | 1              | 569      | 103               |                     |
| Rhode Island.....         | 4                           | 7                                        | 2             | 3                 | 3         | 1        | 7        | 1           | 10      | 35       | 10       | 35     | 7                        | 10      | 10       | 1              | 103      | 54                |                     |
| Connecticut.....          | 4                           | 4                                        | 2             | 3                 | 3         | 3        | 6        | 4           | 437     | 20       | 10       | 10     | 10                       | 10      | 10       | 1              | 103      | 54                |                     |
| New York.....             | 6                           | 42                                       | 25            | 21                | 8         | 13       | 6        | 4           | 581     | 210      | 75       | 29     | 12                       | 23      | 23       | 1              | 702      | 182               |                     |
| Illinois.....             | 2                           | 12                                       | 4             | 6                 | 1         | 6        | 4        | 4           | 72      | 41       | 10       | 10     | 10                       | 10      | 10       | 1              | 103      | 54                |                     |
| Indiana.....              | 1                           | 10                                       | 4             | 6                 | 1         | 2        | 3        | 3           | 123     | 54       | 10       | 10     | 10                       | 10      | 10       | 1              | 103      | 54                |                     |
| Ohio.....                 | 6                           | 6                                        | 6             | 4                 | 2         | 3        | 3        | 3           | 123     | 51       | 3        | 3      | 3                        | 3       | 3        | 1              | 207      | 30                |                     |
| Eastern Penitentiary..... | 10                          | 5                                        | 3             | 6                 | 7         | 3        | 3        | 3           | 219     | 63       | 21       | 181    | 4                        | 13      | 15       | 1              | 592      | 123               |                     |
| Western Penitentiary..... | 21                          | 25                                       | 15            | 7                 | 4         | 1        | 1        | 1           | 155     | 19       | 4        | 68     | 10                       | 20      | 20       | 1              | 192      | 15                |                     |
| Maryland.....             | 8                           | 8                                        | 19            | 9                 | 8         | 1        | 4        | 4           | 379     | 60       | 1        | 15     | 5                        | 1       | 1        | 1              | 444      | 32                |                     |
| Virginia.....             | 3                           | 2                                        | 3             | 4                 | 1         | 1        | 2        | 2           | 152     | 40       | 2        | 17     | 7                        | 16      | 16       | 1              | 192      | 15                |                     |
| North Carolina.....       | 14                          | 6                                        | 6             | 1                 | 1         | 1        | 1        | 1           | 130     | 46       | 1        | 1      | 1                        | 1       | 1        | 1              | 192      | 15                |                     |
| Mississippi.....          | 14                          | 6                                        | 6             | 1                 | 1         | 1        | 1        | 1           | 130     | 46       | 1        | 1      | 1                        | 1       | 1        | 1              | 192      | 15                |                     |
| Alabama.....              | 14                          | 6                                        | 6             | 1                 | 1         | 1        | 1        | 1           | 130     | 46       | 1        | 1      | 1                        | 1       | 1        | 1              | 192      | 15                |                     |
| Louisiana.....            | 14                          | 6                                        | 6             | 1                 | 1         | 1        | 1        | 1           | 130     | 46       | 1        | 1      | 1                        | 1       | 1        | 1              | 192      | 15                |                     |
| Iowa.....                 | 14                          | 6                                        | 6             | 1                 | 1         | 1        | 1        | 1           | 130     | 46       | 1        | 1      | 1                        | 1       | 1        | 1              | 192      | 15                |                     |
| Total.....                | 140                         | 173                                      | 124           | 141               | 12        | 24       | 55       | 114         | 3004    | 1228     | 151      | 664    | 124                      | 387     | 193      | 32             | 3927     | 452               |                     |

NOTES EXPLANATORY OF THE FOREGOING TABLE.

- a. Of all others—1 for incest, 1 for polygamy.
- b. 12 for horse stealing.
- c. d. Notorious thief, 18; incest, 2; receiving stolen goods, 10; poisoning, 1; sending threatening letters, 3; breaking vessel, 2; polygamy, 1; sodomy, 1; pickpocket, 1; receiving stolen money, 1; destroying property, 1; gross lewdness, 2.
- d. Embezzlement, 1; escaping from prison, 1; incendiaries, 5; rescuing prisoners, 1.
- e. Incest, 1; breaking jail, 1; burning jail, 12; opening grave, 1; burning, 1.
- f. For poisoning, 4; mayhem, 3; maiming, 1; mutiny, 9; assault with and carrying slung shot, 5; incest, 2; sodomy, 1; seduction, 1; abduction, 2; receiving stolen goods, 9; breaking jail, 1.
- g. Seduction, 2; as't and battery with intent to rob, 2; crime against nature, 1; assault and battery with slung shot, 1.
- h. Breaking jail, 1; aiding prisoners to escape, 1; attempt to ravish, 3; attempt to rescue from a public officer, 4.
- i. For misdemeanor, 17; riot, 2; sodomy, 1; keeping disorderly house, 2; atrocious assault and battery, 6; assault and battery and rape, 1.
- j. For conspiracy, 3; receiving stolen goods, 2; horse stealing, 13; felony, 1; kidnapping, 2; mayhem, 2; revolt at sea, 1.
- k. Conspiracy, 1; mayhem, 1; misdemeanor, 1; riot, 1; keeping a bawdy and tipping house, 1.

4. For felony, 65; stealing, 68, enticing slaves to run away, 6; horse stealing, 6; receiving stolen goods, 5; stealing a watch and assisting a slave to run away, 1; stealing horse buggy, 1; shooting with intent to kill, 1.
- m. For carrying off slaves, 6; aiding slaves to abscond, 3; for slave stealing, 3; for horse stealing, 21; for giving register to slaves, 1; for malicious cutting and maiming, 4; for extorting money by threats, 1; for embezzlement, 1; receiving stolen horse, 1; receiving stolen goods, 1; felony, 1.
- n. For concealing thief, 1; horse stealing, 19; receiving stolen goods, 2; incest, 3.
- v. For incest, 1; retaken, 1.
- p. For receiving stolen goods, 1.
- q. Kidnapping, 3; receiving stolen goods, 1; violating and robbing the mail, 3; cutting telegraph polls, 1.

By the foregoing table it will be perceived, that in twenty-one States from which we have returns, there is a grand total of 5,500 prisoners for the year 1851; and on looking over the statistics for these several prisons, the only remarkable facts that present themselves are, that in the State of New-York alone, there are a greater number of cases of bigamy and perjury, than in all the other twenty-one States; there being twenty-one cases of bigamy in New-York, and only thirteen in the other States, and seventeen cases of perjury to there in all the other States. The average period of confinement in the several States has diminished within a few years. At present, Connecticut seems to administer the longest period of imprisonment. The average period being six years, eight months, one day, and the eastern penitentiary of Pennsylvania, the shortest, it being only two years, six months, nine days. There are in all these prisons 151 females, and 604 colored persons.

Illustrative of the reformatory influences of our prisons, we have prepared the following table of recommitments for a series

of years. It is to be regretted, that so few prisons have thought it important to make a record of these matters; and to present them to their legislature. If we are ever to understand the advantages of our prison system, it must be we should suppose through such means.





DISCHARGED CONVICTS.

The committee, in giving an account of their labors for the past year, have to regret the loss of their late agent and associate, the venerable Isaac T. Hopper, full of years and full of usefulness. He has been called to another and, we trust, higher state of happiness and being. Those who knew him best deplore him most. With a heart ever ready to sympathize with distress, he was not only the friend of the widow and the fatherless, but especially of the slave and the discharged convict. His philanthropy was as boundless as distress. For seven years he discharged the duties of agent of this Association, and, although, on assuming them, he was long passed the period ordinarily allotted to man, he still performed the task with an energy and a discrimination worthy of all praise. To us, who were his immediate associates, to the beneficiaries of this committee, who were guided by his counsel, and were the recipients of his favor, to those for whom he especially labored, his loss is more particularly felt. But the influence of a good man is not confined to the narrow circle of his immediate acquaintance, but is like a light placed upon a hill and sheds its lustre all around. In our last report, we proposed that our several State prisons should furnish us quarterly with the names, ages, sentences, duration of imprisonment, occupations in and out of prison, capacity as workmen, manifest tempers or disposition, previous habits, number of times punished in prison, number of times convicted, and date of discharge, of all those whose sentences will expire during the quarter, and to facilitate this object, the Association had tabular forms prepared, and submitted to the wardens of the several prisons, with a request that they should fill them up and return them to the Association. The object of this request was to afford, in advance, such information in regard to a prisoner, about to be discharged, as would enable the Association to find him a place, if possible, even before he should leave the walls of the prison. This request was very kindly met by the warden of Sing Sing prison, who furnished and has continued to furnish, regular quarterly returns, which have been of great use in enabling us to procure places, and many of our beneficiaries, with their prison characters in their hands and a letter of recommendation from our agent, have been enabled, without

other reference, to obtain places of trust and emolument. It is to be regretted that the wardens of Auburn and Clinton have not been willing to oblige us in this particular, as, at certain seasons of the year, we might easily provide, in advance, for almost every mechanic that would be discharged, at remunerating wages. The whole number of applicants for aid from the committee charged with this department of our labors, has been

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Males, .....   | 126 |
| Females, ..... | 95  |
| Total, .....   | 221 |

Of these, as nearly as can be ascertained, 140 are doing well, 71 doubtful and 10 have been returned to prison. The average expense of providing for these, all told, has fallen short of \$5 each. In this we include board, tools, passage money, clothing, rent of office, clerk hire, and other incidental expenses. The males have generally been provided with places, established in business, or sent to their friends. About 40 females have been sent to the Home, and the remainder aided in various ways. The female department, as more fully appears in the annexed report, have received, within the year, 136 beneficiaries, which, added to those who have applied to this committee, make a grand total of 315 discharged prisoners, which have come under the supervision of the Association during the past year. As an evidence of the success which has attended the past efforts of this committee, we beg attention to the following cases, which have been extracted from the diary of our agent, from among many others, as showing, in a very striking light, the benefits resulting from our Association:

## CASE NO. 290.

Jan. 25th, 1847.—No. 290, twenty-nine years of age, a native of this city, was convicted of grand larceny at the early age of 16 years, and sent to Sing Sing for five years; served out his time and was at liberty about eight months, when he was again convicted of a similar crime, and again sent to Sing Sing for five years. At the expiration of his second sentence he went to Philadelphia, where he engaged in selling stolen goods, and continued

in that business about one month when he was again arrested and sent to Moyamensing prison for two years, from which (his time having fully expired) he was discharged on the 13th inst., having spent twelve out of the last thirteen years in prison. He now resides with his mother, in Water-st., who appears to be an industrious woman, and has been engaged for the last thirty years in selling fruit, candies, &c., in the streets. He is, by trade, a shoemaker and possesses a determination to reform, and says; if we will give him a start in the world, he will strive to keep his poor aged mother from breaking the Sabbath by following her calling. I have given him an order for tools, to an amount not to exceed six dollars, and advanced him fifty cents to help pay his board.

*March 12th, 1847.*—No. 290 has procured a situation with a shoemaker where he is employed as a cutter, and as he has no immediate use for the tools we gave him, has deposited them in our office until he shall have occasion to use them, and I lent him a dollar and a half to purchase articles better suited to his present occupation.

*April 22d, 1847.*—No. 290 called—says he has left his place with the shoemaker, and is now engaged on board a canal boat belonging to Wadsworth & Franklin.

*June 4th, 1847.*—I have this day received a letter from No. 290, dated Oswego June 1st, enclosing seven dollars for his mother, which I handed to her. The poor old woman was much pleased that her son remembered her, and expressed a hope that he was going to do well.

*June 18th, 1847.*—No. 290 called at the office; his appearance bespeaks sobriety and industry; within the last two months, he has contributed twenty-three dollars towards the support of his aged mother.

*Sept. 9th, 1847.*—Received a letter from No. 290, enclosing ten dollars for his mother, which I gave her.

*Oct. 10th, 1849.*—No. 290, called; says he, is employed in driving an omnibus in the Bowery line, and that he abstains entirely

from intoxicating drinks; he was very well dressed, and looks respectable.

*August 30th, 1850.*—I received a letter from 290, enclosing five dollars for the use of his mother, which was immediately forwarded to her.

*June 25th, 1851.*—Received the following letter, bearing date on board boat New Era :

*Albany, June 23rd, 1851.*

Friend HOPPER,—Please excuse this ill note, but I called on the Governor Washington Hunt to-day, at his house, and he said he could not recollect as to my application being forwarded to him, concerning 290, and the Governor directed his secretary to examine the papers, and, if the application was found, he would attend to it next week, but if not then, the Governor said, if Mr. Hopper would send him a letter in my favor, that would be satisfactory to him, he would grant me a free and full pardon immediately, for which I thanked him sincerely, and if it is God's will, I shall prove my sincerity to all men, and ever remain in debt to those who saved me, as it were from drawing my last breath within the walls of a prison. Sir, I trust your trouble in my behalf is not, nor shan't be in vain—my thanks to all who have taken an interest in this concern. Oh! I cannot express my emotion, but I feel like a new man, with a prospect of success.

Yours truly,

No. 290.

Agreeably to this request I wrote to the Governor, and the next day received a letter from his secretary, asking for the information my letter written the day before contained. It appears that some weeks ago he made application to the Governor to be restored to citizenship, and referred his Excellency to me for his character, and this was the cause of his private secretary's note to me. In reply I gave him No. 290's character in full as heretofore set forth, neither concealing or extenuating anything, and in a few days received a full pardon for him, restoring him to the rights of citizenship. It is now about four years and a half since he first claimed my advice and assistance; from that time he has

conducted himself well. He has supported himself respectably and paid his mother's rent for the last four years. About forty dollars have passed through my hands contributed by him for her relief. He has experienced a wonderful change for the better since he first called upon us, and says that he shall always remember the kindness that has been extended to him, and hoped that he should never do anything that would cause us to regret that we had befriended him.

*April 28, 1852.*—No. 290 called; says he is doing well; is married and has had four children, only two of which are now living. He keeps a grocery store in the upper part of the city in which he sells from ten to twenty-five dollars worth daily, at an average profit of twenty per cent, giving him about seven hundred dollars a year income. Made a donation of one dollar to the Association.

*June, 1852.*—No. 290, one of our former beneficiaries, but who has refunded all the money loaned to him, called to say that he has a horse and cart that he will let to a good man and will give him ten dollars to start a business with on condition that the man will keep the horse and divide the profits of his earnings with him. He proposes to sell fruit and vegetables. Made a donation of one dollar and twenty-five cents to the Association. As no suitable subject presented himself, I delayed taking advantage of the above offer until the 4th of July, 1852, when I sent to him No. 908, with a note stating that as no suitable person had previously offered, I had deferred taking advantage of his offer until then, and recommended the bearer as, in my opinion, in all respects worthy of his confidence. No. 290, however, had previously got tired waiting for my slow movements and had sold his horse, but sent me the following note:

Dr. Russ—Dear Sir:—As you did not send me a man till now, I thought you had not any, so I sold my horse at a bargain. Notwithstanding, I have a good employment for the bearer, which gives me much pleasure from my heart that I can do something good for him that wishes to do well; so leave the bearer to me and you will, I trust, be satisfied to know the end of charity from a reformed convict.

Signed No. 290.

No. 908 says that 290 got him a place on board a canal boat and paid his board for one week, or until the boat should arrive.

CASE NO. 179.

*April 28, 1846.*—No. 179, a native of this city, about 22 years old, was convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to Sing Sing for two years; served his time out and was discharged on the 19th inst. Has some knowledge of butchering; has two brothers in the city, one of whom is a stage driver; the other is in no business. No. 179 wants employment, and is well recommended by the Chaplain for his good conduct while in prison. *May 8.*—No. 179 called and says he has found employment. *June 19, 1847.*—Called yesterday afternoon in Eighteenth-street to make a visit to No. 179. Found him living in the upper part of a brick house, nearly new; his wife is a most likely looking young woman; they have a good carpet on the floor, and good plain substantial furniture; everything about the premises bespeaks neatness, economy and comfort. Before their door is a grass plot, and the margin of the fence is lined with a variety of flowers in bloom. No. 179 and his wife and mother expressed much gratification with my visit.

*Sept. 13, 1848.*—No. 179 called, as he frequently does; looks well, and says that he is now doing business on his own account; he deals in poultry, fish and vegetables; has a stand in Spring-street, and his prospects are favorable. *Sept. 20.*—No. 179 called at my house and spent an hour with me; I really believe he is a reformed man. *July 11, 1849.*—No. 179 called; looks respectable; says that he follows butchering and makes a comfortable living. He is a member of the society of Methodists. *Nov. 20, 1850.*—Met No. 179 in the street; he looks respectable, and says he is getting a good living; I have visited him; his wife appears to be a most tidy housekeeper; the appearance of their premises seems to indicate care and frugality, and they manifest sincere gratitude for the attention they have received. It is now nearly five years since he was released, and his conduct ever since has been unexceptionable.

May 17, 1852.—No. 179 called; is doing well; keeps a meat shop in this vicinity. A day or two after his visit I received the following letter:

*To the Agent of the Prison Association:*

Dear Sir—After having read the account of the venerable friend Isaac T. Hopper's death, I could not help weeping. It touched a tender chord in the fountain of my heart when coming to the account of his being a prisoner's friend. Yes, for I have felt it.

About six years ago, I was one of those who got good advice from the old man. I have carried it out and met with great success, although I was fatherless, motherless and friendless, with no home, nobody to care for me. I felt as the poet has it—

A pilgrim stranger here I rove,  
From place to place I'm driven,  
My friends are gone and I'm in gloom,  
This earth is all a lonely tomb,  
I have no home but Heaven.

Finally I got work, then married, and have three boys, and am doing business in — street. Go on in the work of humanity and love until the Good Master shall say it is enough, come up higher. I would be happy to have any of the friends of prisoners come and see me.

I remain respectfully yours,

No. 179.

The Executive Committee, after eight years of toil in this uninviting field of labor, have the pleasure of assuring the public that they have the utmost confidence in the belief that the greatest portion of their beneficiaries are saved from future imprisonment, and they hope from crime.

By order of the Executive Committee.

R. N. HAVENS, *Chairman.*

JOHN D. RUSS, *Cor. Sec.*

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## FEMALE DEPARTMENT.

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REPORT OF THE  
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
 OF THE FEMALE DEPARTMENT  
 FOR THE YEAR 1853.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Of the Female Department, for the Year 1853.**

**OFFICERS.**

- Miss CATHARINE M. SEDGWICK, 1st Directress, 54 East-16th street.  
 Mrs. THOMAS C. DOREMUS, 2d Directress, 52 East-21st street.  
 ANNA J. H. FITCH, Treasurer, 42 East-15th street.  
 CAROLINE M. KIRKLAND, Corresponding Secretary, 45 Irving Place.  
 Miss ANNA CURTIS, Recording Secretary, 47 Lexington Avenue.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

- Mrs. MAHLON DAY, 129 East-15th street,  
 JAMES S. GIBBONS, 19 Lamartine Place,  
 ABRAHAM MEAD, West-31st street,  
 EDGAR HICKS, Court and Schermerhorn streets, Brooklyn,  
 RICHARD MAUREY, Pacific street, Brooklyn,  
 WM. C. BRYANT, 53 Lexington Avenue,  
 ADDISON F. BOND, Montague Place, Brooklyn,  
 JAMES BEATTY, 869 Greenwich street,  
 ALFRED HALL, Williamsburgh,  
 JAMES EMERY, 263 Pearl street,  
 BENJ. ELLIS, Williamsburgh,  
 JAMES M. HALSTED, 18 West-17th street,  
 HENRY B. SMITH, 11 Lamartine Place,  
 CHARLES TRACEY, 82 Lexington Avenue,  
 C. W. MILBANK, 213 Madison street,  
 HENRY W. SMITH, 115 Amos street,  
 JAMES H. DILL, 274 Sixth Avenue,  
 JOHN BEAM, 101 State street, Brooklyn,  
 LUDLOW PATTEN, West-12th street,  
 SARAH T. MARTYN,  
 HENRY V. POOR, 12 College Place,  
 Miss HANNAH UNDERHILL, 199 Henry street,  
 AMY HAWKHURST, 52 Madison street,  
 ELIZABETH MANNING, Pacific street, Brooklyn,  
 SUSAN B. DAY, 139 East-15th street,  
 JANE SEDGWICK.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Hon. J. W. EDMONDS,  
JOHN DUER,  
RICHARD REED.

Hon. JAMES H. TITUS,  
JOHN D. RUSS, M.D.,  
RICHARD REED.

## MATRONS.

Mrs. JOANNA MORRIS, Miss M. TITUS,  
Miss WARD, Teacher.

## RECEIVING COMMITTEE.

Mrs. JAMES GIBBONS and Mrs. ABRAHAM MEAD.

## PRISON COMMITTEE.

Miss ANNA CURTIS, Mrs. JAMES BEATTY,  
Mrs. JAMES GIBBONS, JAMES EMERY,  
CHARLES TRACEY, Miss AMY HAWKHURST.

1852

## REPORT

*Of the Female Department of the Prison Association, for the year 1852.*

The managers of *the home*, have no signal event to record for the year 1852. Nothing has occurred to tempt them to exultation, and certainly nothing to discourage their hopes, if *they* could be discouraged, who are humble fellow-workers with him "who came to seek and to save the lost." The institution has been sustained partly by the product of the labor of the inmates, and partly by generous donations, and regular contributions. The alarming rise in the price of the necessaries of life, has been met by the faithful oversight of the managers, and the vigilant economy of a most satisfactory matron, so that the year closes without the dishonour of unpaid debts, or the pain of anxious responsibilities.

When it is remembered that ours are voluntary inmates, that, while with us they surrender freedom for protection, and that being mere children in the stature of their minds, they might be expected to fret under restraint, and to let their imaginations run riot upon the full glass of the "dance-room;" and the occasional plenty and indulgence of their social haunts, their satisfaction with their very frugal provision, and their patient subordination to the rules of the house, are hopeful circumstances.

At the beginning of 1852, there were thirty inmates in "the Home." During the year one hundred and thirty-six have been received—of these, eight have been returned to their friends—five have been sent to the Magdalen Asylum, two have gone to housekeeping, one to the Alms-house, one to Randall's Island, twelve have found places for themselves, thirty-two have left without permission, twenty-one have been discharged for impro-

per conduct, thirty are still in the house, and fifty-four have been placed, some in factories, under kind superintendence, and the rest at domestic service. More than half, it will be seen, are thus hopefully disposed of. Of most of those sent to manufactories, we have satisfactory testimonials from their employers. There have been girls, who have been sent from our protection to the factories, who are now in their third year of constant labor, and good conduct. Of one rescued, after years at Blackwell's Island, we have, in the words of the respectable principal of the manufactory, the high commendation, that "she is quite a matron among them!" We have equally satisfactory reports from mistresses of families, who speak of girls sent from the Home as "trustworthy" as "very capable," as "the best help they have ever had," &c., &c.

Small sums from their earnings have been transmitted to our managers by the girls, both at the manufactories, and in domestic service, to be invested for them. This is incontestable evidence of their moral progress. We would notice as a means of evident improvement to our inmates, the school maintained at the Home for their benefit. They are regularly taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, and to their lessons, there is added an effective religious, and moral teaching. The hearts of the inmates are reached by their indefatigable, skillful, and most kind instructress.

During the last year, there has been a marked improvement. But one individual, says the teacher, in her annual report, has been complained of to the Committee. Several of these ignorant creatures who came to us, not even knowing their letters, have taken into their barren minds, "committed to memory," whole chapters of the most sublime language, into which letters can be compounded. One had committed the whole gospel of Matthew."

Is it not something thus to bring these outcasts within the circle of Christian charities? We call them *outcasts*, but when we call them so, do we think of the fearful import of the word? To be an outcast, is to have lost that which is every human beings birthright, a father's protection, and a mother's unflinching compassion; it is to have no brother, no sister, no home. It is by their own sin, folly, or misfortune nobody knows which, nor perhaps

cares to know—to have turned all the world into priests and Levites, who "pass them by on the other side!"

These outcasts are the objects of our institution. They come to us, from the prisons, with the brand of commitment upon them, often diseased in body, morally sick, and sick at heart! They are patients—they need the great physician, who can restore the dead to life.

We have known the class of which we speak, from the most intimate acquaintance of year after year. Their misfortunes are to be traced chiefly to their ignorance, and helplessness. Many are the victims of transmitted social evils. The tower of Siloam has fallen upon them, but are they more sinners than others?

We assert that they are not all irreclaimable. Many have been reclaimed—the sick have been healed,—but we would not mistake or over-state; many relapse, and relapse in spite of teaching, and expostulation and help, and they find their way back again, and again to the prison, and the hospital; and again they appeal to us; but when we would turn away from them, we remember who it was that said, "if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying 'I repent,' thou shalt forgive him."

If any are disposed to meet our disappointed hopes with the derisive "I told you so?" we ask them if they find it easy to reclaim a wandering child? If their own efforts at self-reform are always crowned with success?

And, finally, if we are reduced to the minimum of success, is it not something to efface the word despair from the vocabulary of the wretched?—is it not more to be the humble instruments of that joy which there is, in the presence of the angels of God, over one sinner that repenteth?

We have a complaint to lay before our charitable fellow citizens. We would state it modestly. We have not had our fair share of help from the public. We do not complain that others have had more, but only that we have had less. Ours does not seem to be a popular charity. We do not know why—for to us

it seems to be in strict, and literal obedience to Christ's injunctions. We have appealed to the public, and unhappily hitherto appealed in vain, to build us a house. We are cramped, and shackled, by the want of room. We repeat, emphatically, what was said in our last year's report—"A building is necessary, such as shall be adapted to the wants of our Institution, with facilities not only for the shelter, treatment, and instruction of a larger number of inmates than we are now able to receive, but for the performance of various kinds of business in so advantageous a way, as may conduce largely to the support of the establishment."

Shall we, in our prosperous city, appeal in vain? Has not an Institution, that addresses its charities both to the body and the mind, a double claim upon public patronage? Oh ye who are fenced about by the securities of life, who have parents, relatives, troops of friends, respect, hope, expectation,—on whom the means of education have been lavished, to whom the avenues of employment, and acquisition, are open—are there not among you many, who, like the good Samaritan, will take money from your purses, saying—"take thou care of them?"

We have already husbanded a small sum towards the erection of a building. This has accumulated from bequests, and from donations from the "Female Association" of the society of Friends given for that specific purpose.

We cannot close our report, without acknowledging an anonymous donation of two hundred dollars, that comes to us year after year. It is met with deep gratitude; though like Heaven's gifts, it comes silently.

We have forborne to amplify our report, preferring to refer such as may be interested in our Institution, to a book which will shortly appear entitled "The Helping Hand," in which the wants, and claims of our Institution will, we know, be eloquently, and we trust effectively set forth by one of our board.

The following statement presents the result of our labors for the past year:

1852.

## STATISTICS OF THE "HOME" FOR 1852.

Jan. 1st, 1852.

|                                         |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| Received at the "home,"                 | 136 |
| Returned to friends,                    | 8   |
| Situations found for,                   | 54  |
| Gone to housekeeping,                   | 2   |
| Left to find situations for themselves, | 12  |
| Left without permission,                | 32  |
| To "Magdalen,"                          | 5   |
| Alms house,                             | 1   |
| Randall's Island,                       | 1   |
| Discharged for improper conduct,        | 21  |
| In the "home,"                          | 30  |

By order of the Executive Committee of Female Department,

CATHARINE SEDGWICK,

*First Directress.*



1852

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

### EXPENDITURES.

|                                            |                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| By Treasurer, .....                        | \$2,283 23        |
| “ “ of Female Department, .....            | 1,638 01          |
| Appropriation for house by F. Dept., ..... | 260 00            |
| In Treasury, Jan. 1, 1853, .....           | 49 67             |
| “ “ of F. Dept., Jan. 1, 1853, .....       | 23 90             |
|                                            | <u>\$4,254 81</u> |

### RECEIPTS.

|                                              |                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| In Treasury, Jan. 1, 1852, .....             | \$53 38           |
| “ “ of Female Department, Jan. 1, 1852, .... | 4 87              |
| By Treasurer, .....                          | 2,279 52          |
| “ “ Female Dept., (donations) .....          | 1,331 04          |
| “ “ “ “ (sale of stocks and dividend), ..... | 586 00            |
|                                              | <u>\$4,254 81</u> |

In addition to the above, \$25, received by the Treasurer from Wm. Sturgis, Esq., were passed over to the Female Department, being specially appropriated for that purpose by the donor.

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT

*Of the Female Department of the N. Y. Prison Association.*

### RECEIPTS.

|                                                        |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance of cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1851, .....           | \$4 87            |
| Subscriptions, .....                                   | 63 00             |
| Donations, .....                                       | 924 00            |
| Work, .....                                            | 323 56            |
| Interest on Merchants' Insurance stock, .....          | 86 00             |
| Money returned by an inmate, .....                     | 1 50              |
| Sales of old rags and barrels, .....                   | 3 98              |
| Sale of \$500 Insurance stock, and premium \$10, ..... | 510 00            |
| Total of receipts, .....                               | <u>\$1,921 91</u> |

### EXPENDITURES.

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Provisions and fuel, .....           | \$646 36          |
| Household articles, .....            | 81 99             |
| Travelling expenses, .....           | 50 31             |
| Salaries, .....                      | 444 00            |
| Printing report, .....               | 83 75             |
| Dry goods, .....                     | 246 80            |
| Working materials, .....             | 21 97             |
| Carpenter's bill, .....              | 9 26              |
| Appropriation for a house, .....     | 260 00            |
| Medicine, .....                      | 9 65              |
| Stationery, postage, &c., .....      | 35 92             |
| Commissions, .....                   | 8 00              |
|                                      | <u>\$1,898 01</u> |
| Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1853, ..... | <u>\$23 90</u>    |

The names of all the donors will appear in the printed report.

A. J. H. FITCH,  
Treasurer.

1852

## LIST OF DONATIONS

*To the Prison Association, for the Year 1852.*

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| John P. Palmer,.....          | \$25 |
| Joseph Walker, .....          | 25   |
| John Gihon, .....             | 20   |
| Paton & Stewart,.....         | 10   |
| A. H. Ward,.....              | 10   |
| R. Boorman,.....              | 5    |
| James Owen,.....              | 25   |
| James Lee, .....              | 5    |
| Ogden Hagerty, .....          | 25   |
| J. Kinsman, .....             | 25   |
| R. Palance,.....              | 10   |
| E. H. Gillelan,.....          | 10   |
| W. H. Adams,.....             | 3    |
| J. Corning, .....             | 5    |
| Naylor & Co.,.....            | 25   |
| Hasket, Merriek & Bull,.....  | 10   |
| Cash, .....                   | 10   |
| Cyrus W. Field & Co.,.....    | 5    |
| B. W. Howe, .....             | 5    |
| John Bard, .....              | 10   |
| S. Knap, .....                | 10   |
| John Cochrane,.....           | 10   |
| Walter R. Jones,.....         | 10   |
| William C. Rhineland, .....   | 25   |
| S. Burkhalter, .....          | 3    |
| C. Burkhalter, .....          | 5    |
| Robert Browne, .....          | 5    |
| F. S. Schlesinger,.....       | 5    |
| William Van Seht & Co., ..... | 5    |
| Augustine Wetmore,.....       | 1    |

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Born Sleiper Haarhows, ..... | \$5 |
| F. Hoose, .....              | 3   |
| Theodore W. Rieley, .....    | 5   |
| A. N. Low, .....             | 15  |
| Frederick A. Delano, .....   | 10  |
| James Brown, .....           | 25  |
| James Lenox, .....           | 25  |
| Stewart Brown, .....         | 10  |
| J. J. Astor, .....           | 20  |
| Goodhue & Co., .....         | 35  |
| Mr. Foster, .....            | 5   |
| Mr. Olyphant, .....          | 5   |
| Mr. Hicks, .....             | 5   |
| H. G., .....                 | 5   |
| G. W. Schrimmer, .....       | 1   |
| Cash, .....                  | 1   |
| S. Van Rensselaer, .....     | 20  |
| C. N. Talbot, .....          | 20  |
| Robert Ray, .....            | 20  |
| Beebe & Co., .....           | 10  |
| S. Hallock, .....            | 5   |
| J. Phalen, .....             | 5   |
| George Bruce, .....          | 50  |
| N. Lowe, .....               | 10  |
| James G. Bennet, .....       | 10  |
| W. C. DeRham, .....          | 5   |
| J. H. Abeel, .....           | 10  |
| W. J. T. Tapscott, .....     | 5   |
| W. Chauncey, .....           | 2   |
| S. S. Gray, .....            | 3   |
| Mr. Sampson, .....           | 5   |
| Richard Irvin, .....         | 10  |
| Decappet & Co., .....        | 10  |
| S. B. Sheffelin, .....       | 5   |
| Jas. L. Sheffelin, .....     | 5   |
| A. B. & D. Sands, .....      | 5   |
| A. Norrie, .....             | 25  |
| F. Cottinet & Co., .....     | 20  |
| Diets Brothers, .....        | 3   |

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Benjamin F. Butler, .....        | \$10 |
| R. H. Winslow, .....             | 10   |
| Jacob Badger, .....              | 10   |
| John Jay, .....                  | 10   |
| Doubleday & Beach, .....         | 5    |
| R. Haydock, .....                | 5    |
| D. H. Nevins, .....              | 10   |
| E. K. Collins, .....             | 10   |
| Cash, .....                      | 10   |
| Spies, Crist & Co., .....        | 10   |
| A. Belmont, .....                | 10   |
| Oelricks & Co., .....            | 5    |
| William D. Mangum, .....         | 5    |
| John Warren, .....               | 1    |
| John Smith, .....                | 1    |
| Frederick C. Gebhard, .....      | 5    |
| E. V. R., .....                  | 2    |
| Stanford, Mont & Co., .....      | 10   |
| Long & Davenport, .....          | 5    |
| Gorden & Talbot, .....           | 5    |
| C. U. Shipman, .....             | 5    |
| Olcot, McKisson & Robbins, ..... | 5    |
| Cary & Co., .....                | 15   |
| G. G. Spencer, .....             | 5    |
| Clark, Wilson & Co., .....       | 5    |
| H. Baker & Co., .....            | 5    |
| B. Whitlock, .....               | 5    |
| George Roberts, .....            | 3    |
| John Caswell, .....              | 10   |
| Lattimer, Large & Co., .....     | 10   |
| Charles Ely, .....               | 5    |
| Coleman and Stetson, .....       | 10   |
| J. S. Sibbey, .....              | 5    |
| George P. Putnam, .....          | 5    |
| D. Appleton & Co., .....         | 5    |
| John Milhan, .....               | 2    |
| Thomas Barrow, .....             | 10   |
| Koop, Fischer & Co., .....       | 5    |
| J. M. Oppenheim, .....           | 5    |

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Edgar F. Ryder,.....          | \$5 |
| George W. Brown,.....         | 5   |
| Widow Francis Hendricks,..... | 5   |
| J. H. Bartholomew,.....       | 5   |
| S. Cambreling,.....           | 10  |
| Elder & Painter,.....         | 10  |
| E. Beck & Kimbert,.....       | 5   |
| S. F. B. Morse,.....          | 100 |
| W. Broas,.....                | 5   |
| M. Vassar,.....               | 5   |
| T. W. Talmadge,....           | 2   |
| James Emott,.....             | 5   |
| W. A. Davies,.....            | 5   |
| Cash,.....                    | 5   |
| C. Bartlett,.....             | 25  |
| Adams & Co.,.....             | 10  |
| Cash,.....                    | 1   |
| Anthony Barclay,....          | 5   |
| Ball, Black & Co.,.....       | 5   |
| T. B. Stillman,.....          | 25  |
| Jacob A. Westervelt,.....     | 5   |
| Cash,.....                    | 10  |
| John Van Buren,.....          | 5   |
| D. Harris,.....               | 10  |
| Mrs. C. L. Slane,.....        | 3   |
| Cash,.....                    | 1   |
| Alderman Shaw,.....           | 3   |
| S. D. Hankins,.....           | 1   |
| S. A. Cowperthwaite,.....     | 1   |
| John A. Cowperthwaite,.....   | 1   |
| F. Haynes,.....               | 1   |
| Thomas Bristol,.....          | 1   |
| Samuel Willets,.....          | 10  |
| Cash,.....                    | 1   |
| Charles Partridge,.....       | 10  |
| H. Mali,.....                 | 5   |
| Cash,.....                    | 5   |
| J. Beveridge & Co.,.....      | 3   |
| William Niblo,.....           | 25  |

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Sterling, Cushing & Co.,..... | \$5 |
| H. E. Dibblee & Co.,.....     | 5   |
| Cash,.....                    | 5   |
| R. H. Nevins,.....            | 25  |
| Haight, Halsey & Co.,.....    | 10  |
| Reirs Brothers & Co.,.....    | 10  |
| G. G. Spencer,.....           | 3   |
| Thomas Messenger,.....        | 5   |
| Cornelius Smith,.....         | 25  |
| Russ & Reed,.....             | 5   |
| Cash,.....                    | 1   |
| Rev. L. Covell,.....          | 2   |
| Robert Colgate,.....          | 5   |
| Cash,.....                    | 2   |
| Rankin, Duryea & Co.,.....    | 5   |
| Isler & Otto,.....            | 2   |
| S. W. & Co.,.....             | 5   |
| S. C. Herring,.....           | 10  |
| J. S. Whiting,.....           | 3   |
| C. H. Siera,.....             | 5   |
| John H. Grinnell,.....        | 10  |
| O. B. Tweedy,.....            | 10  |
| Cameron & Brand,.....         | 10  |
| J. Sturges,.....              | 25  |
| L. Atterbury & Co.,.....      | 5   |
| Borceau & Busch,.....         | 10  |
| E. D. Morgan,.....            | 10  |
| W. H. Aspinwall,.....         | 25  |
| William Walker,.....          | 25  |
| Robert Dillon,.....           | 5   |
| H. W. Johnson,.....           | 5   |
| Camman & Whitehouse,.....     | 10  |
| Cash,.....                    | 5   |
| J. Allen,.....                | 5   |
| George Bridge,.....           | 5   |
| R. Goodman,.....              | 5   |
| Cash,.....                    | 5   |
| Cash,.....                    | 20  |