

No. 185.

IN ASSEMBLY, MAR. 26, 1859.

(for 1857-58)

**Thirteenth and Fourteenth Report of the Prison Association
of New York, including a list of the Officers and Members.**

NEW YORK, March 25, 1859.

HON. DEWITT C. LITTLEJOHN,

Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New York:

The New York Prison Association, in compliance with its charter, herewith transmits a report of its labors for the years 1857 and 1858, with the request that you will present the same to the Legislature.

Very respectfully,

JOHN H. GRISCOM,

Chairman of Executive Committee.

1857-58

OFFICERS OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK
FOR 1857-8.

PRESIDENT.

Hon. JAMES H. TITUS.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

R. N. HAVENS,
ISRAEL RUSSELL,

Hon. FRANCIS R. TILLOU,
JOHN H. GRISCOM, M. D.

Corresponding Secretary.
JOHN STANTON GOULD.

Recording Secretary.
JAMES C. HOLDEN.

Treasurer.
HENRY A. OAKLEY.

Executive Committee.
Chairman, JOHN H. GRISCOM, M. D.

Finance Committee.

WM. C. GILMAN, *Chairman,*
HENRY A. OAKLEY,
HENRY P. MARSHAL,

JOSEPH F. JOY,
JAMES T. ALLEY, M. D.,
GEORGE POLLEN.

JOHN A. BRYAN.

Detention Committee.

ISRAEL RUSSELL, *Chairman,*
JOHN H. KEYSER,
CHARLES A. DAVISON,
GEORGE E. BAKER,

SOLOMON JENNER,
WM. ALLEN BUTLER,
SALIM H. WALES,
ADAM T. SACKETT,
OTIS D. SWAN.

Discharged Convict Committee.

RICHARD REED, *Chairman,*
STEPHEN CUTLER,
ISAAC T. SMITH,

ORSON D. MUNN,
LYMAN COBB,
WM. HEGEMAN.

Prison Discipline Committee.

R. N. HAVENS, *Chairman,*
Hon. FRANCIS R. TILLOU,
Hon. CHARLES A. PRABODY,
PETER T. CUTLER,
JOHN A. BRYAN,

JOHN D. RUSS, M. D.,
THEO. TELLKAMPF, M. D.,
Hon. GEORGE HALL,
JOHN H. GRISCOM, M. D.,
SAMUEL C. HOLDEN.

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

HONORARY MEMBERS.

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

* Deceased.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, SINCE THE ORGANIZATION IN 1844.

A. DE TOCQUEVILLE, }
G. DE BEAUMONT, } Members of the Institution of France.
M. CH. LUCAS, }
M. DEMETZ, Membre du Conseil General du Department du Seine-et-Oise, etc., Paris.
M. G. BLOUET, Architecte du Gouvernement.
J. G. PERRY, Esq., Inspector of Prisons of Great Britain.
COL. JEBB, Surveyor General of the Prisons and Director of the Convict Prisons of Great Britain.

EDWIN CHADWICK, Esq., London.

Dr. VERDELL, Member of the Great Council, Vice-President of the Council of Health, at Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dr. GOSSE, Geneva, Switzerland.

JACOB POST, Esq., London.

*Rev. L. DWIGHT, Secretary of Prison Discipline Society, Boston.

FRANCIS LIEBER, Professor of History and Political Philosophy, Columbia, S. C. C. Cor.
Memb. of the Institute of France.

WM. P. FOULKE, Esq., Philadelphia.

M. MOREAU CHRESTOPHE, Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, France.

Dr. WARENTHRAP, Germany.

S. G. HOWE, M. D., Boston.

Miss D. L. DIX, Boston, Massachusetts.

Professor NATHAN DAVID, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Hon. CHARLES SUMNER, Boston.

Prof. I. L. TELLKAMPF, Berlin, Prussia.

JOHN HAVLAND, Prison Architect, Philadelphia.

GEORGE SUMNER, Esq., Boston.

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

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COM- MITTEE.

BY PAYMENT OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND UPWARDS.

Alsop, J. W.,
Aspinwall, W. H.,
Barrow, Thomas,
Bartlett, Edwin,
Blanco, B. James,
Boorman, James,
Brown, James,
Brown, Stewart,
Bruce, George,
Butler, Benj. F.,
Chauncey, Henry,
Crosby, Wm. B.,
Delano, James Warren,
Douglass, George,
Goulding, William,
Goodhue, E.,
Howland, Edgar M.,

City of New York.

*Howland, G. G.,
*Howland, S. S.,
Harris, Dennis,
Johnston, John T.,
Lenox, James,
Leupp, Charles M.,
Lord, Rufus L.,
Lorrillard, Peter,
Minturn, Robert B.,
Morse, S. F. B.,
*Nevis, Russell H.,
Naylor & Co.,
Norris, Adam,
*Olyphant, D. W. C.,
*Oothout, John,
*Palmer, John J.,

Parker, Charles,
*Phelps, Anson G.,
Ray, Robert,
Rhinelander, Wm. C.,
Sampeo, Joseph,
*Spencer, Wm. A.,
Spencer, Mrs. Wm. A.,
Sturges, Jonathan,
Talbot, Charles N.,
Tilton, Francis R.,
Trimble, George T.,
Titus, James H.,
Van Nest, Abraham,
Wolfe, John D.,
Woolsey, E. J.,
Wood, J. Walter,
Wood, William.

* Deceased.

Troy, N. Y.

Rev. Wm. Andrews,

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Rev. H. G. Ludlow.

Hudson, N. Y.

Rev. Mr. Darling.

Meriden, Conn.

Rev. G. W. Perkins.

Rev. Dr. Beman.

LIFE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

BY PAYMENT OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND UPWARDS.

Alsop, J. W.,
Aspinwall, Wm. H.,
Astor, Wm. B.,
Austin, David,
Barclay, Anthony,
Barclay, Henry,
Eard, John,
Barrow, Thomas,
Bartlett, C.,
Bartlett, Edwin,
Beche & Co.,
Beche, S. J.,
Belmont, James J.,
Belmont, Augustus,
Bennett, James G.,
Benzon, E. L.,
Blanco, B.,
Boorman, James,
Brevoort, Henry,
Brevoort, J. Carson,
*Bridges, L. K.,
Bridges, John,
Bronson, Mrs. A.,
Brook, Sydney,
Brook, S.,
Brown, Stewart,
Brown, James,
Bruce, George,
Buschell, O.,
Burr, Mrs.,
*Butler, Benjamin F.,
Bliss, Ira,
*Bayer, Mrs. Maria,
Cambreling, S.,
Caswell, J.,
Chauncey, Henry,
Collins, E. K.,
Corse, Israel,
Curtiss, Cyrus,
*Jones, James J.,
Cary, Wm. F.,
Daly, Charles P.,
De Rham, H. G.,
Dodger, Wm. E.,
Douglass, George,
Douglass, Wm.,
*Duac, John,
Duncan, Sherman & Co.
Edmonds, J. W.,
Edly, Lucy H.,
Edly, Thomas,
Engs, P. W.,

Field, B. H.,
Lorrillard, Peter,
Fish, Hamilton,
*Foster, James, Jr.,
Freeland, James
Farriss, W. P.,
Garner, F.,
Gihon, John,
Gilman, W. C.,
Gilman, W. S.,
Goodhue & Co.,
*Graham, J. B.,
Graves, J. Boonen,
Gregory, D. S.,
Green, J. C.,
Grinnell, Henry,
*Grosvener, Jasper,
Guthrie, A.,
Halsted, Wm. M.,
Hall, Francis,
Hedges, Timothy,
Haggerty, Ogden,
Hawes, L.,
Horrick, J. K.,
Herring, S. C.,
Heron, James,
Howland, Edgar M.,
*Howland, G. G.,
*Howland, S. S.,
Holden, James C.,
Hunt, Thomas,
Hussey, George F.,
Irvin, Richard,
Jay, John,
*Jay, Miss Ann,
Jaffray, J. A.,
Jenett, Solomon,
Johnson, Alex. S.,
Johnston, John T.,
*Jones, James J.,
*Jones, Walter R.,
Kemble, William,
King, Wm. L.,
Kinman, J.,
Kirkland, Charles P.,
Lede, Josiah,
Longdon, Mrs.,
Lords, Samuel,
Lenox, James,
LeRoy, Jacob,
LeRoy, Jacob R.,
Leupp, C. M.,

Lord, Rufus L.,
Lorrillard, Peter,
*Low, Cornelius,
Low, Nicholas,
*Low, A. A.,
Mann, A.,
Matthew, J.,
*McBride, James,
McCoun, Wm. T.,
Morgan, E. D.,
Morgan, G. D.,
Morgan, M.,
*Murray, Ludlow,
Naylor & Co.,
*Nevis, R. H.,
Newell, William,
Nibla, Wm.,
Norris, Adam,
O'Connor, Charles,
Olyphant & Son,
Outhout, William,
Owen, James,
*Palmer, J. J.,
Parnley, E.,
Pell, F.,
*Petrie & Co. I. & A.,
Phalon, J.,
Ray, Robert,
Rhinelander, Wm. C.
Robert, C. R.,
Roosevelt, C. V. S.,
Ruggles, S. B.,
Russell, Joseph,
Sampson, Joseph,
Sands, David,
*Schermerhorn, Peter,
*Selden Dudley,
Sherman, Austin,
*Spencer, Wm. A.,
Spencer, Mrs. Wm. A.,
Smith, Cornelius,
Stillman, T. B.,
Stone & Co.,
Sturges, Jonathan,
*Suzyvesant, Gerard,
Suzarez, L. I.,
Swan, Otis D.,
Sherman, E. B.,
Talbot, Charles N.,
Titus, James H.,
*Warren, S. P.,
Trimble, George T.,

Van Duser, A. S.	Whiting, James B.	Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Van Nest, Abm.	Whitney, Stephen	Vassar, M.
Van Nostrand, Jas.	Wilson, D. M.	
Van Rensselaer, P. S.	Winthrop, B. R.	Saisbury, Herkimer Co.
Van Rensselaer, P. S., Jr.	Winslow, R. H.	Burrell, H.
Van Rensselaer, Jas. T.	Wilmington, Wm. E.	Waterbury, Conn.
Walker, Joseph	Willets, Samuel	Rev. J. S. Clark,
Walker, W. J.	Willets, Wm. J.	Rev. Mr. Elliott.
Wales, Salom H.	Woolsey, E. J.	
Ward, A.		Meriden, Conn.
Weeks, Robert D.	Brooklyn, L. J.	Rev. Mr. Searles.
Wheeler, P. M.	Pecker, Wm. S.	
White, Eli,		

LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS

To the New York Prison Association for the years 1857 and 1858.

1857.

S. T. Skidmore	\$5 00	William O. Campbell	\$15 00
H. B. Livingston	25 00	Robert J. Dillon	10 00
Geo. Bruce	25 00	Anonymous	10 00
W. S. Gilman	25 00	H. E. Dibbler & Co.	5 00
R. B. Maturin	25 00	Edward Bridge	5 00
Otis D. Swan	25 00	Calvin W. How	5 00
James Boorman	50 00	Edward J. Woolsey	50 00
L. S. Suarez	25 00	Adam Norrie	10 00
Jacob Badger	10 00	George Platt	5 00
E. Goodman	10 00	E. Falanca	5 00
Geo. Opdyke	10 00	James Warren	5 00
E. H. Gillilan	10 00	A. A. Walsh	5 00
Thos. B. Bromson	10 00	E. M. Whitlock	5 00
Seymour & Co.	10 00	John D. Wolfe	50 00
J. H. Abeel	10 00	Geo. D. Morgan (second contribution)	25 00
S. B. Collins	5 00	Naylor & Co.	25 00
Geo. D. Morgan	5 00	Charles N. Talbot	25 00
T. T. Terry	5 00	James Brown	25 00
Morom Bros	5 00	Peter Lorillard	25 00
J. P. Melliss	5 00	J. A. B. Maturin	25 00
Charles Butler	5 00	A. Oothout	10 00
Morewood & Co.	5 00	Stewart Brown	10 00
A. E. Beach	5 00	J. W. Alsop	10 00
W. W. Stone	5 00	A. B. D. Sand	10 00
John Caswell	20 00	Babeock & Milnor	10 00
George T. Trimble	15 00	Thomas Owen	10 00
Mitchell & Post	10 00	C. H. Sand	10 00
Hargous Bros	10 00	E. C. Berrian	5 00
Hargous Bros	5 00	Grant & Barton	5 00
Rollin Sanford	5 00	Boury D. Ivernos & Co	5 00
A. Iselin	5 00	J. & N. Perrie & Co.	5 00
Charles Ply	10 00	R. M. Tweedy	5 00
S. Cambreleng	10 00	R. Hoe & Co.	5 00
S. A. S.	10 00	Freeman Rawdon	5 00
Wilson G. Hunt	5 00	A. Arnold	5 00
James Cruikshank	5 00	A. Rodewald	5 00
J. L. S.	5 00	R. S. Williams	5 00
C. F. Dambmann & Co	5 00	E. Farenstedt & Co	5 00
James Owen	3 00	H. Boker	5 00
Cash	3 00	J. W. Phillips	5 00
Cash	3 00	John M. Oppenheim & Co.	5 00
Cash	2 00	Clark, Wilson & Co.	3 00
Cash	1 00	C. S. Frenheim	3 00
B. Bianco	15 00		

E. Cauldwell	\$3 00	John Michaux	\$5 00
F. Beveridge & Co	3 00	J. C. Meeker & Perkins	5 00
William Kemble	2 50	Beebe & Co	5 00
G. Hallow	2 00	E. Kellogg	2 00
Waggoner & Knig	2 00	James H. Wadsworth	100 00
Thomas Eddy	25 00	Robert Hay	20 00
Jacy H. Eddy	25 00	A. H. Ward	5 00
W. S. Gilman (second contribution)	50 00	S. T. Skidmore (second contribution)	5 00
Gerrit Smith	10 00	Salom H. Wales	15 00
Francis R. Tillou	100 00	Naylor & Co (second contribution)	25 00
William F. Cary	20 00	John J. Palmer	5 00
W. C. Rhinelandler & Co	25 00	B. Bianco (second contribution)	15 00
Olyphant Sors	25 00	Wm. B. Crosby	25 00
Goodhue & Co.	20 00	W. Lobach & Schepeler	5 00
Norris K. Jessp	20 00	Reformed Convict	1 00
Kashtal, Merrick & Bull	10 00	Ed. Belmont	5 00
A. Van Nest	10 00	Wm. F. Cary (second contribution)	10 00
Benjamin F. Butler	10 00	Pierson & Co	5 00
Richard Irwin	10 00	DeCoppet & Co	5 00
B. B. Sherman	10 00	Loeschigib, Wesendonck & Co	5 00
Josiah Rich	5 00	C. Burkhalter	5 00
Thomas Messenger	5 00	H. Hennequin & Co	5 00
F. Cottont & A. Berter	5 00	S. G. Bugert	5 00
Cash	5 00	E. F. Sanderson	5 00
R. T. Ryder	5 00	R. C. Burlage	5 00
H. B. Livingston	5 00	H. B. Livingston (sec'd contribution)	20 00
Francis Hall	5 00	E. D. Sprague	5 00
Pasavant & Co	5 00	E. Cazet	5 00
Paton & Co	5 00	S. Robinson	5 00
Geo. B. Munkittford	5 00	Geo. Botwin	2 50
Spies, Christ, & Jay	5 00	O. D. Munn	5 00
Lehmier Bros	5 00	Cladin, Mellen & Co	10 00
James Hunter	5 00	Cash	50 00

Total contributions and donations in cash for 1857.....\$1,713 30

Donations of clothing from S. T. Skidmore, O. B. Tweedy, H. A. Oakley, J. C. Holden.

Of stationery and books, Bowne & Co., E. B. Clayton's Sons.

1858.

Winthrop S. Gilman	\$50 00	Geo. Opdyke	\$10 00
Edward J. Woolsey	50 00	J. Hasker	10 00
Recknagel & Schwarz	5 00	John F. Terry	5 00
Wilmingtons, Hognet & Humbut	25 00	Thos. Messenger	5 00
Ball, Blag & Co.	25 00	B. M. Woodcock	5 00
James Lenox	100 00	Pres. Com. Conv.	5 00
Bleecker St. Universalist Ch. collect'n	23 35	A. B. & D. Sands	10 00
Mrs. Bleecker	23 00	F. Karok	5 00
J. A. B. Maturin	25 00	Bresler & Co.	5 00
John Caswell	10 00	Doubleday & Beek	5 00
Hendrick Bros.	10 00	W. C. Rhinelandler	25 00
S. A. Schieffelin	10 00	Goodhue & Co.	20 00
Peter Schieffelin	10 00	Peter Lorillard	25 00
C. N. Talbot	20 00	Naylor & Co.	25 00
R. H. Winslow	25 00	Paton & Co.	5 00
Adam Norrie	10 00	Pasavant & Co.	5 00
L. S. Suarez	10 00	J. W. Schulten & Hurd	5 00
J. H. Abeel	10 00	Wilson G. Hunt	5 00
W. F. Oothout	5 00	Lehmier Bros.	5 00
J. & N. Perrie & Co.	10 00	E. Farenstedt & Co.	5 00
James Boorman	25 00	James Warren	5 00
Cash	5 00	Bronen Graves	5 00
James Brown	10 00	Wm. Allen Butler	5 00
Stewart Brown	10 00	R. Irwin	10 00
George D. Morgan	5 00	Sam'l Willets	10 00
Cash	10 00	Boury D. Ivernos & Co	5 00
Mitchell & Post	5 00	M. Oppenheim & Co.	5 00
Wm. H. Aspinwall	25 00	A. Iselin & Co	5 00
A. A. Low	15 00	J. W. Alsop	10 00
C. H. Sand	10 00	Francis Hall	5 00
John M. Oppenheim & Co.	5 00	E. V. Van Hook	5 00
Babeock & Milnor	5 00	J. & C. Berrian	5 00
R. S. Williams	5 00	E. T. Ryder	5 00
C. F. Dambmann & Co.	5 00	H. H. Gillilan	5 00
Grant & Barton	5 00	J. P. Milhan	5 00
L. Hawes	25 00	F. & A. Rusch	5 00

Robert Ray.....	\$20 00	Wm. C. Gilman.....	\$5 00
H. E. Dibles & Co.....	5 00	J. F. Millip.....	5 00
B. F. Butler.....	10 00	Youth's Tract Society.....	2 33
S. Cambresteg.....	10 00	G. L. Hall.....	5 00
Otis D. Swan.....	10 00	James H. Titus.....	25 00
C. H. Rodgers.....	5 00	Samuel T. Skidmore.....	5 00
Harper & Co.....	5 00	G. P. Pollen.....	25 00
G. Hallock.....	2 00	C. J. Gambelling.....	10 00
Geo. Douglas.....	25 00	S. H. Wales.....	5 00
Geo. Brodie.....	5 00	S. C. Hills.....	3 00
Jacob Badger.....	5 00	H. M. Schiefelin.....	100 00
Edward Bridge.....	5 00	F. L. Odell.....	1 00
A. H. Ward.....	5 00	M. Howland.....	100 00
James Hunter.....	5 00		

Total of contributions and donations in cash for 1858..... \$1,315 68

1857-58

REPORT.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York:

The Prison Association of New York presents the following as its report for the years 1857 and 1858:

This association was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature, on the 9th of May, 1846. Its reports, from time to time, have fully declared its objects and plan of operations, with their results; they comprise several volumes which will be found in the State Library, and to which we beg leave most respectfully to refer. It will be found, on consulting them, that the subject of crime, and the means of its prevention—of criminals and the influences to be employed for their reformation—of prison discipline and the improvements to be made therein, have all been fully discussed, and the arguments, pro and con, clearly set forth. But little can be added that is new, and it may be safely affirmed, that those reports contain all that need be said to convince your honorable body and the public, of the benefits which our organization has conferred on the State and the community at large, in the past, and of the usefulness, in the same channel, which it promises to continue to exert in the future.

The necessities which originated the Prison Association, and which induced the Legislature to give to it such a liberal charter, have not yet ceased to exist.

The theories on which its plans of operations have been based from the outset, are still believed to be sound, and if faithfully carried out, that they must stand approved by the great mass of reflecting men.

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

their commission and *reform* the criminals, and not to deal with them in a spirit of vindictiveness.

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

1st. *Detentions of alleged criminals.*

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

2d. *Prison discipline.*

It is well known, that in *some* detention prisons at least, (but it would be safe to say in nearly all of them,) it is quite common to confine prisoners under accusation and before conviction, although innocent, in the same quarters, and under the same restraints, and in the same cells, with those justly convicted; that witnesses are confined there for the want of bail, and are thus subjected to restraints and contaminating influences, which it is impossible, by any species of argument, to justify; that proper regard to cleanliness and the general sanitary condition of the inmates of the detention prisons is *often* omitted, and that the innocent, the guilty, and the witnesses, are, in *most cases* alike subject to this neglect, and that in the prisons for the confinement of prisoners under sentence, there is no suitable classification of them. Adeptis in every species of infamous crimes, and hardened criminals, such as professional thieves, burglars and pickpockets, being confined and brought in close contact with first offenders, and convicts for minor offenses, such as assaults and batteries, and other misdemeanors, and that in *some cases* cruel and unusual punishments are inflicted by drunken, ignorant, passionate, unprincipled or brutal keepers.

3d. *Discharged Convicts.*

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

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

During the thirteen years of our efforts in this interesting field of labor, it is confidently believed that the association has accomplished more good and conferred more lasting benefits on society, WITH A LESS AMOUNT OF PECUNIARY AID, than any other benevolent institution, to whose funds the public had been called upon to contribute. The statistics and information contained in our previous reports, will, we feel assured, abundantly sustain this declaration. Our visits to all the different prisons in the State, from year to year, our correspondence with kindred associations in other States, and foreign governments in Europe and elsewhere, and our exposures of abuses and recommendations of reforms, have been instrumental in leading your honorable body to make many changes for the better in the discipline of its prisons. But much more remains to be done, and we entertain the hope that, by patient and persistent efforts, we will be able to say on some future occasion, that the reform which our charter contemplated, in this behalf, has been well nigh accomplished. We will then willingly confine our labors to "detained prisoners" and "discharged convicts," who have already been the chief objects of our solicitude, and the relief and reformation of whom afford such an important subject for philanthropic effort.

The New York Prison Association presents the following summary of its labors during the years 1857-8:

	Number of persons visited in our city prison.	Number of complaints carefully examined, counselled and aided.	Complaints communicated and forwarded on our advice.	Number of persons discharged from custody on our recommendation.	Number of discharged persons with money and work provided.	Number of discharged persons supplied with clothing more or less.	Number of discharged persons provided with work, sent into country.
1857.							
January	450	126	41	34	32	15	9
February	450	161	37	39	21	14	7
March	450	98	43	43	24	17	13
April	450	127	51	44	27	13	7
May	400	141	45	46	26	12	11
June	400	104	32	43	29	24	13
July	500	119	31	42	27	34	13
August	450	98	40	41	23	6	17
September	450	90	38	31	23	6	9
October	400	97	43	38	24	11	6
November	400	104	29	47	26	12	4
December	400	84	34	39	27	17	10
Total	5,390	1,369	432	487	514	175	119
1858.							
January	400	94	33	47	19	13	5
February	350	109	37	41	26	11	7
March	400	117	41	43	24	12	6
April	450	97	49	44	36	13	7
May	500	110	31	47	31	9	8
June	450	114	32	49	26	9	13
July	500	123	37	44	37	11	9
August	400	127	41	53	31	13	14
September	420	117	34	52	34	16	16
October	450	113	47	38	37	16	7
November	425	110	41	33	28	12	9
December	400	91	32	31	27	10	13
Total	5,175	1,322	455	512	355	143	114

Your honorable body will scarcely need to have us here institute any comparison between the very small totals of contributions and the amount of work done, for this is the most prominent feature displayed in the tables.

The managers themselves propose to defray all the expenses for salaries of agents and employees, for office rent, fuel, lights, stationery, &c., and they appeal to the humane and benevolent solely for such contributions as may be necessary to render more efficient the work of reforming, restoring and elevating the condition of *detained prisoners and discharged convicts.*

These appeals have not been adequately answered, there being a reluctance to extend relief to this class of persons, when there are so many unfortunate persons who are believed to be more deserving, and in whose behalf urgent appeals are constantly being made. Our means, for several years past, have been altogether insufficient for the purposes last named, and in view of the facts

above stated, we feel that we should not hesitate earnestly to solicit an appropriation from the State treasury, for relief of these miserable beings. As a matter of economy, the State would do well, we think, to aid any well directed efforts to reform the criminal, and prevent his again becoming a charge upon the prison fund. Thus far we have never received a dollar, except by voluntary contribution, and the falling off of the funds from this source, is not to be attributed to any want of appreciation of the usefulness of this association, but rather to the needs of other charities, whose claims are more strongly urged, and which are believed, very properly, perhaps, to be more meritorious.

In this connection we call the attention to your honorable body to the reports of a *portion* of the many cases which we have passed upon, and relieved since our last report, and which we transcribe and submit herewith. The unfortunates and outcasts require something more than "good advice," and we beg that an appropriation, be it much or little, may be made for their relief.

We should not fail to mention, before closing this communication, that our general agent, Mr. Abraham Beal, who has been so long connected with us in that relation, still continues his self-sacrificing and arduous labors. He is eminently, and in a very peculiar degree, fitted for the performance of the work in which we are engaged. His experiences have been so varied and extensive, and his integrity, efficiency and reliability so perfect, that what was once difficult of performance by this association, has been, through him, rendered comparatively easy. He has the unreserved confidence of the courts, district attorneys and magistrates, and to an extent which demonstrates his trustworthiness and influence for good, more completely than anything we could say in commendation of his services. With any other than *such* an agent to carry out our plan of operations, we believe we could never have sustained our organization, upon the slender amounts which have been contributed, nor could we without his aid, have accomplished, under such circumstances, one-half the good which, for several years past, his diaries have exhibited.

We have had our attention called to a bill now pending before your honorable body, revising and amending the laws relating to the management and discipline of the State Prisons, which, by implication, we fear will destroy some of the most vital and salutary provisions of our charter, and we beg leave most respectfully to submit to your honorable body that care should be taken to insert a clause in that act, if it shall pass, exempting this associa-

Wm. A. Beal

tion from the operation of the repealing clause therein contained.

Since our last report we have applied to a justice of the Supreme Court, in the city of New York, as we had theretofore been accustomed to do, for an order permitting this association to visit the several prisons in this State, as contemplated in the charter, and such order was not granted, because such justice entertained the opinion that he did not possess the power to grant it; and this association has not felt that it would be proper to apply to another judicial officer for such an order in the face of this decision. This is our explanation of the omission to include in this report the customary statistics and information with respect to such prisons; and we would most respectfully ask your honorable body more explicitly to define in our charter the duties of the judges in this behalf, or to grant to this association the power to visit without an order from a judge. The removal of all restrictions could be very readily restored should this association abuse its powers of visitation, of which abuse there have, thus far, never been any complaints, and it will studiously avoid any just cause of complaint should this mark of confidence be extended to it by your honorable body.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Dated New York, January, 1859.

By order of the Executive Committee.

JAMES H. TITUS,

President of the Association.

JOHN H. GRISCOM,

Chairman of Executive Committee.

JAMES C. HOLDEN, *Recording Secretary.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1857.	<i>Receipts.</i>	
To balance on hand January 1, 1859,		\$7 50
cash received, donations, as per list,		595 30
cash received, subscriptions and contributions, during - 1857,	1,118 50	
money returned by convicts to whom it had been advanced,	6 75	
Total receipts for 1857,		\$1,728 05

1857-58

Expenditures.

By rent of office, No. 15 Centre St., in part,	\$150 00
expenses of office, fuel, postages, &c., &c.,	97 00
donations to discharged convicts in money,	230 16
salary of A. Beal, agent, balance of 1856,	
\$234.17, and on account for 1857,	
\$738.09,	972 26
commission on collections, and salary of assistant agent in 1857,	200 46
	<u>\$1,649 88</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1857,	\$78 17

1858.

Receipts.

To balance on hand Jan. 1, 1858,	\$78 17
donations received in 1858, as per list,	462 63
subscriptions and contributions, received in 1858, ..	853 00
money returned by convicts to whom it had been advanced,	5 50
Total receipts in 1858,	<u>\$1,399 35</u>

Expenditures.

By balance of rent of office, No. 15 Centre street, for 1857,	\$50 00
by amount of rent of offices No. 15 Centre street, for 1858,	100 00
expenses of office, fuel, postages, &c., &c.,	107 00
commission paid on collections, and salary of sub-agent,	200 24
donations in money to discharged convicts,	225 68
Abram Beal, agent, balance of salary for 1857,	261 91
Abram Beal, agent, on account of salary for 1858,	440 24
	<u>\$1,385 07</u>
Balance in treasurer's hands Dec. 31, 1858,	<u>\$14 28</u>

HENRY A. OAKLEY, *Treasurer.*

OFFICE OF PRISON ASSOCIATION,
15 CENTER ST., NEW YORK, Jan. 7, 1859. }

To the Committee on Detentions, ISRAEL RUSSELL, Esq., Chairman:

Dear Sir—In compliance with our uniform practice, the following brief report of our labors in this department during the past two years, ending December the 31st, 1858, is respectfully submitted to you for presentation to the executive board.

Your agent has, agreeably to your instructions, and in conformity with your charter and by-laws, visited, and as often as his varied and constantly increasing engagements would permit, each of the detention prisons of this city, and those of Brooklyn.

DETENTIONS.

This department includes all those who are arrested and detained for trial, or as witnesses in the prisons of New York and Brooklyn cities, to wit:

- First district, city prison, (Tombs).
- Second district, Jefferson Market prison.
- Third district, Essex Market prison.
- Fourth district, Yorkville prison.
- Eldridge street, (or county jail).
- Kings county, or Brooklyn jail.

The magnitude of this work can be best conceived, from a single statement of the number of those who have been there, charged with crime, and a very large proportion of whom we have visited.

During the past two years, there were:

	In 1857.	In 1858.
Committed to Kings county jail,	4,258	6,300
do to city prisons, New York,	27,845	35,172
Totals,	<u>32,103</u>	<u>41,472</u>

Hence it will be seen at one glance, either that crime has fearfully increased within the above named period, or that more efficient means have been adopted for its detection and punishment.

The following figures show most conclusively, that deleterious or poisoned drugs, called distilled and fermented liquors, (sold in those two cities, in violation of all law, by upwards of ten thousand unlicensed retail dealers, and by less than two hundred persons who had obtained licenses,) were the sole and direct cause of $\frac{1}{30}$ ths of all those commitments.

	In 1857.	In 1858.
Of temperate habits,	4,028	4,972
Of intemperate habits,	23,817	30,200
Totals,	<u>27,845</u>	<u>35,172</u>

If "figures do not lie;" if "facts are stubborn things;" if bad liquor is the prolific source of pauperism, crime, ruin and death, then ought not our excise laws to be enforced? If our detention prisons, all our penitentiaries, and our state prisons, are at this moment, inconveniently crowded, and much more crowded than ever from the use of those poisons, would it not be more reasonable and economical, and the most effectual preventive of crime, to forbid entirely their sale at groceries, and everywhere, to young persons?

On this all important subject of *the cause of crime*, your agent would beg leave to say, that after many years of extensive observation with prisoners, and of prison life, and of the multiplied paths which lead to disgrace and punishment, he knows of no habits, vices or indulgences, so detrimental to the body, mind and soul, and producing so large an amount of physical, mental and moral ruin, *to the masses*, as the use of alcoholic drinks.

Here a train of thought is suggested to which we cannot give utterance. Oh! what misery we have witnessed from this cause alone. Oh! that the Executive and Legislature of our State, and the municipal governments of our large cities would but let the axe strike at the root of this enormous evil, that the laws already in existence were scrupulously and efficiently enforced, and that those drinking places and their abominations could be swept away by one mighty stroke. Oh! that the great God of Heaven would show His mercy to the mass, by pointing out to those in authority what their duty is in this matter; then what a moral revolution would be effected, and in how short a time.

There are other sources of vice and crime, but most of these have arisen, and are sustained, by strong drink and its dupes, viz: gambling, dance houses, low theatres, balls, wakes, brothels, late hours, extravagance, poverty, ignorance, want of employment, and lack of home comforts and attractions; but above all, the want of light, and knowledge, and moral instruction, and training, also, contribute, in a great measure, to swell *the volume of crime*.

The following figures, abstracted from the summary of the general operations of the association, show what has been accomplished in this department within the past two years:

1857—1858.

MONTHS.	No. of persons visited in in our detention prisons.							
	No. of cases selected at the discretion of the warden, on the ground that the circumstances of extension were apparent.	No. of complaints submitted on our part, as being inexpedient in order to prevent & had passages.	No. of persons discharged on our recommendation.	No. visited in our city prison on detention.	No. of cases submitted in which we feel some aid.	No. of complaints submitted on our recommendation.	No. of persons discharged on our recommendation, as being inexpedient in order to prevent, &c.	
January,	450	126	41	34	400	94	33	37
February,	500	161	37	39	380	109	37	41
March,	450	95	33	45	400	117	41	43
April,	400	127	31	44	450	97	49	44
May,	480	141	43	46	500	110	31	47
June,	400	104	32	43	450	114	32	49
July,	500	119	31	42	500	123	37	44
August,	450	98	40	41	400	127	41	53
September,	460	90	38	31	420	117	34	52
October,	400	97	43	38	450	115	47	35
November,	500	104	29	47	425	110	41	33
December,	400	94	34	39	400	91	32	31
	5,300	1,859	432	487	5,175	1,322	455	511

A large proportion of the cases referred to in the third and fourth columns, consisted of arrests caused by family disturbances, by the ill-usage of wives by their husbands, and the abandonment of children by their parents, who, thus thrown upon the world, have committed petty crimes. In such cases, the association has been instrumental in reconciling the parties to each other; a better way of life has been shown them; many happy results have followed, and peace and happiness, in many a broken family circle, have been restored. Hence the city and State have saved large sums which would have been expended on these very persons as criminals or paupers.

Special attention has been given to young persons whom we have found in prison. Some have transgressed by accident; others have been driven to it by want, consequent on being orphans, or by reason of their not being cared for, or without homes or friends, or where the parents are grossly immoral. In such cases we have placed them in better circumstances, away from trials and temptation, and always where their future interests will be secured. Others we have been enabled by the favorable disposition of the courts, to restore to their friends, on the promise of a more watchful care over them.

Many of this class call upon us with their parents and friends, expressing their thanks for what was done for them, and promising to walk circumspectly for the future.

In all our visits we carefully look after the innocent (and such

1857-58

are to be found) who are charged with crime, the inexperienced in prison life, the penitent, and especially those who manifest a desire to make restitution, or for the first offense, where there is no aggravation, and especially where circumstances of extenuation are apparent. In all such cases the facts are honestly submitted to the proper authorities, and the accused and the ends of justice are more or less advantaged. And in no solitary case have we lent ourselves directly or indirectly to assist an old offender or professional thief, that he might escape the punishment due to his transgressions. On the contrary, we have invariably contributed our aid in securing to them their deserts. With all such we have no complicity whatever.

A word in relation to our detention prisons.

THE CITY PRISON (OR TOMBS).

Nearly all the persons committed for trial in the city of New York are collected here.

That the prison is too small is very evident, as it often becomes necessary to place three persons in one small cell. This practice, although unavoidable, (from the limited dimensions of the building), is productive of serious mischief. It is bad enough to keep persons confined for weeks or months in a state of idleness, but it becomes really serious to place two, three or four together, as evil communications have always proved permanently harmful.

The warden still peremptorily forbids the admission of lawyers into the inner prison in their professional capacity; and, although some improvement has been made in carrying out this rule, many flagrant impositions have been practiced, and by a class of unprincipled men who disgrace the honorable profession of the law. It is indeed to be deplored that there are creatures who engage to defend men on their trial, who extort from them every dollar which they or their families can collect or scrape together, and then abandon them to their fate. Such characters ought themselves be sent to prison, and kept at hard labor, instead of those who are so frequently the dupes and sufferers by their evil practices, and who would in many cases be acquitted were it not for the bad advice of these unscrupulous leeches.

JEFFERSON MARKET PRISON.

This prison has been enlarged, and greater accommodations secured. Although much improved, it is very questionable even now whether it would not have been more practicable to have

removed the old building and erected an entirely new one, having a greater regard to more space and better light and ventilation.

ESSEX MARKET PRISON.

This is a new building on the old site. It is commodious, light and replete with conveniences. The police court, offices and keeper's dwelling house are altogether unobjectionable, and nicely adapted to this densely populated locality.

YORKVILLE PRISON.

Here all is neat and clean, and though small, its capacity is pretty well proportioned to its business.

These four prisons are under the supervision of the alms house governor, and are under the immediate superintendence of the warden of the Tombs, Mr. Sutton.

ELDRIDGE STREET OR COUNTY JAIL.

The average number of its inmates is about forty, such as alleged fraudulent debtors, U. S. prisoners, witnesses, &c. The supervisors have had in contemplation the building of a new prison. They doubtless feel that it is unfit for a county jail, and it has long been condemned by an intelligent community.

KINGS COUNTY (BROOKLYN) JAIL.

In days gone by we have often had to complain that persons accused of crime were kept awaiting trial for two, three, and sometimes four months, in this prison, and that individuals and families have been seriously injured by these delays in the administration of justice. We are glad to report that there is a better state of things here now. The demands of equity and right are conceded, and the guilt or innocence of its inmates are more promptly ascertained. It is much to be regretted that this prison, like the Tombs of New York, is not furnished with sufficient cells. It is by far too small, and the keepers have no alternative but to place (and that very often) three and sometimes four in a cell.

The health of the inmates of our city prisons, taken as a whole, is generally good. Their classification, however, is not carefully regarded. But little or no concern is manifested for their moral improvement. Whilst one physician is appointed to look to the health of the bodies of the prisoners in the Tombs, and one also for the Brooklyn jail, there is no moral teacher or minister appointed or engaged to regard their spiritual condition. It would be well, we think, to have a chaplain appointed for each of these prisons, but more especially for the prison called the Tombs.

What has been said before in our annual reports in relation to our city or detention prisons, may with propriety be reiterated again and again, that but few, very few, means are employed for the moral elevation of their inmates—but few things exist in any one of these prisons calculated to lessen crime or promote reformation.

Your agent is not without hope that a better day will dawn, when those having charge of our prisons will insist on having a separate cell for every prisoner, that cell to be provided with soap, towel and wash bowl, and every facility for cleanliness, the same to be furnished with a bible and other good and useful books, and, when moral teachers shall be engaged, to improve the better natures of those confined within its walls. With such valuable auxiliaries, the virtuous and intelligent in the community might reasonably anticipate a permanent diminution of vice and crime. May that time be hastened!

We append hereto a number of cases selected from the diary of your agent, merely to show the character of our work and the objects of our anxious solicitude, with the results.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF DETENTION CASES.

No. 1. A German woman was indicted for grand larceny, for stealing a bank book, valued by complainant at \$40. When brought into court, the association, by its agent, informed the judge that he had made diligent enquiries of her past history and antecedents. These are the facts:

About seven months since, she arrived in New York, from Hamburg, having \$600 in her possession; she expected to find a portion of her family here, but they had gone west, she knew not where.

At the boarding house where she stayed, a young man also lived, who formerly resided in a neighboring town, in Germany, near to that she had so recently left. An intimacy grew up between them, and they married; he proposed they should start west, find their friends, and then with her \$600, and the money he expected to receive from his parents, they should buy a farm, live happy, and become rich. To this she heartily assented, handing him over all her money. Within a few hours, this unprincipled scoundrel disappeared, and left for parts unknown. She was left with her few clothes only, without the means to pay even one day's board. A situation was suggested by the woman with whom she had stayed since her arrival; she accepted it, but found it to be a house of bad repute. She determined instantly to leave,

and return to her fatherland. She saw this bank book, and was tempted to take it, concluding could she draw out the \$40, it would defray her expenses home. The theft was discovered, and the plans she had laid were frustrated, and she expressed great contrition. On recommendation of the agent, a plea of petit larceny was accepted by the district attorney, when the judgment was suspended, and she was discharged. A situation was subsequently obtained for her.

No. 2. Was remanded last court day by the recorder, that the association might enquire into his past character. To-day we reported favorably—that he had never been in prison before; and he solemnly promised never to do wrong again. Having a large family, the Association recommended his discharge. Judgment was suspended.

No. 3. Was committed for assault and battery, on complaint of his wife; the judge sentenced him four months to the penitentiary.

The Association begged the court not to send him to the Island, as in that case the poor woman and her three helpless children must starve, or go into the workhouse; he was remanded. The defendant signed the pledge; he promised to drink no more rum, and to treat his wife well in the future. These facts were submitted to the court, when judgment was suspended, and he was discharged.

No. 4. Was convicted of petit larceny, and sentenced by the city judge for three months to the penitentiary. The complainant, believing this to have been his first offense, conferred with the Association, expressing a desire that mercy should be shown him, and, especially, as the prisoner had acted with great candor, and had exhibited symptoms of deep sorrow. This statement was made to the court, when he was again brought out, admonished and discharged.

He called at the office of the Association, offering them his thanks for saving him from a winter's quarters in the penitentiary.

No. 5. Was indicted for forgery in the second degree, that he had attempted to pass a \$5 counterfeit bill, knowing it to be such.

There were many extraordinary circumstances surrounding this case. When arrested, \$76 in good money was taken from him by the officer. A counsel was employed; his fee was to be \$50. The district attorney was seen by the agent of the Association in this case, and all the circumstances submitted to him. When arraigned, he plead guilty to forgery in the 4th degree. The court regarded the case as one eminently entitled to favorable consideration.

Judgment was suspended, and he was discharged. An application was then made to the counsel for the return of the \$26, over and above the \$50, the fee agreed upon, but this was refused. The Association applied for the balance, but the counsel contended he ought not to be called upon to return it; he was at length induced to return a sum sufficient to defray the traveling expenses of this young man and his sister back to their home in the country.

They subsequently called to thank the Association for the interest shown by it in his behalf whilst in prison, and since his release therefrom.

No. 6. An honest looking youth was convicted of grand larceny; his heart appeared to be well nigh broken. The Association begged the court to suspend the judgment, believing, if discharged, under the influence of his present feeling, he would involuntarily sludder, and refuse to do another bad act. He was then discharged.

No. 7. A poor, wretched woman was seen by the agent of the Association, weeping in the Tombs, from whom he ascertained, that her husband had been confined the last nine days for disorderly conduct, and in default of \$300 bail. That she has five children now in want; the offense was trifling, as shown by the papers; the police magistrate was seen, and the man's discharge obtained.

No. 8. Was charged with an attempt at petit larceny. A purse containing \$4 had been given to an infant child to play with, and to quiet it. This youth saw it laying on the floor of the room, and being very hungry, picked it up and put it into his pocket. At the time he was seen in a stooping position, and suspected of having the missing purse; he denied it; it was found upon him.

The Association ascertained that he came to this country on board a ship, five weeks since; he had worked his passage out. The Association begged the court, under all the circumstances, to give him another trial or chance of doing better; the court acquiesced. We provided him a good supply of clothes, and then introduced him to those who found him a place on board a ship. This interesting boy appeared to feel very grateful for what had been done for him.

No. 9. A poor woman comes to our office, praying the Association to get her husband discharged from prison, on charge of breach of the peace. She has four children in want; after ascertaining this to be the truth, his discharge was obtained.

No. 10 was convicted of petit larceny. He had been in this country but two weeks. When arrested he had the article in his

possession. He frankly acknowledged his guilt, but said, "I was very hungry at the time; I asked several to help me, but all refused. I could find nothing to do." The court sentenced him to the penitentiary for three months.

The Association intimated that it would not lessen the difficulty; he would be in a much worse position than now. If the court would be pleased to suspend the judgment, a place of work could be found him. He promised to avoid a repetition of such an act. He was discharged.

We supplied him with a few necessary garments, and obtained a place of work for him immediately. He has since done well.

No. 11 was convicted of stealing a piece of ham. The Association had visited her in prison, and subsequently ascertained her story to be truthful—that at the time of this petit theft herself and two children were in great want. The truth was told the court, and her discharge recommended. She left the court room with her children, very grateful for the mercy shown to her, and with a determined purpose to suffer rather than be found in such a place again. Her pressing wants were for several weeks supplied by the Association.

No. 12 was charged with stealing articles valued at \$6 from her employer. She denied the charge. The only evidence against her was that a few buttons were found on the floor near where the missing things had been kept. She was remanded. To-day the Association assured the court that her character previous to this allegation was above reproach. Her discharge was recommended and obtained.

No. 13 was convicted of an assault and battery, on complaint of his wife, and sentenced by the court to the penitentiary for four months. At request of the Association he was remanded until next court day, and the sentence withheld.

To-day we showed, by two reliable men, for whom defendant had worked the last twenty-five years, that he is a sober, honest, industrious man, always providing a good home for his family. One of the witnesses testified that his children were pretty well grown up; one of them, the younger, aged sixteen, is a self-willed, obstinate girl; that she kept late hours, and entertained her young friends at their house as late as two, three, and often to four o'clock. The mother is indulgent, whilst the father apprehends some evil will result from such indulgences; hence he determines to prevent it. These and other causes have created this difficulty.

He was shown to be a good citizen. The Association then begged his discharge. The court acquiesced.

No. 14. The District Attorney of the U. S. Court was seen in behalf of two seamen detained as witnesses for the prosecution, and against the mate of ship, who stands charged with murder.

These two men have been in the Tombs nearly seven months. One of these is a married man, who states he has not been able to send his family any money since he was locked up.

The Marshal and District Attorney will do all they can to facilitate the trial.

No. 15. Aged 12 years, was discharged from custody on charge of stealing a veil.

Her fears were so powerfully wrought upon, it was deemed prudent to have her discharged. The probabilities are, she will never forget this circumstance.

No. 16. Was brought before the Recorder on charge of assault and battery, on complaint of his wife.

The Association saw him in prison, and found him under the influence of shame, regret, and a solemn purpose to avoid the causes which led to this gross and inexcusable offence.

Judgment was suspended and he was discharged.

No. 17. Was convicted on his own confession of petit larceny from one of his former employers.

The complainant believed he was in want, the result of being out of work.

On recommendation of Agent, judgment was suspended and he was discharged.

No. 18. Was charged with a petit larceny. He stoutly denied his guilt, although the evidence seemed clear against him. He assured the court the witnesses were influenced by prejudice against him, and without any cause. The Association begged that he might be remanded, as he represented that witnesses could be found who could prove him entirely innocent of the charge. These persons were subpoenaed, and to-day appeared in court and testified the defendant slept at their house, and consequently it was impossible for him to have committed the larceny.

The Recorder believed their statement, and that the witnesses for the prosecution had been mistaken in his identity. He was immediately discharged.

No. 19. A very honest looking German boy, aged 15, was arraigned before the Court of Special Sessions, on charge of

stealing \$3. He confessed his fault. The Association ascertained through an interpreter that this boy had been in this country but a few weeks; the friend who brought him had left for the far west, leaving him behind, not having the means to defray his traveling expenses. He was in great want when he was tempted to steal this money. He was painfully exercised about it, and solemnly promised never to take what did not belong to him again. The Association expressed their willingness to take him and provide him a situation away in the country, should the court mercifully suspend the judgment and discharge him. He was instantly discharged.

On the following Tuesday we sent him to a worthy man, a farmer, where he is now doing well.

No. 20. Was in prison, awaiting trial on his wife's complaint. She regretted the step she had been advised to take in having him locked up, because of the suffering herself and children now experienced. The Association were instrumental in bringing about a reconciliation between them, and a solemn promise that both should pull one way, the right way, and both together.

The Recorder, on recommendation of the Agent, discharged him. They both expressed their sincere thanks.

No. 21. Was arrested nine months since on charge of burglary. Two months subsequent to his arrest, symptoms of insanity were exhibited by him. The Association applied to the Resident Physician and one of his assistants to examine him. They pronounced him temporarily insane from the use of strong drinks. He was then sent to the Insane asylum on the Island.

After being there seven months, we ascertained he is now in a much better state. A certificate was obtained, when an application to the District Attorney was made that he be brought back to the City prison and disposed of. The complainant was seen; he had no desire to prosecute, as the offense was committed during the day, in their presence, and when under some hallucination produced by strong drink.

All these particulars were submitted to the proper authorities by the Association, when the prisoner was discharged.

No. 22. Was charged with assault and battery on his wife. The court was about to commit him, when the Association expressed their belief that the wife, from her appearance, was more in fault than he. The case was remanded that inquiry might be made.

On the following court day witnesses appeared and conclusively showed such to be the fact, when he was discharged.

No. 23. Remanded from last court day on charge of stealing \$2 from his employer. The case was satisfactorily proven, but it was also shown he had been paid by his "boss" but two or three shillings per day for his labor; hence he was tempted or driven to keep back the \$2 in question. The Association admonished him never to be guilty of such an act again; provided him with a clean shirt, coat, vest and shoes; and, when made decent, the court discharged him. We soon procured him a place of work.

No. 24. Had been convicted of assault and battery, and sentenced to the penitentiary for six months.

An application was immediately made to the Judge to let the case stand over until next court day. The request was reluctantly complied with. To-day the Association showed, by satisfactory testimony, that this defendant was worthy of his liberty.

He was immediately discharged.

No. 25. Indicted for forgery; that he had obtained the sum of \$17.50 by feloniously personating a shipmate to whom that sum was due as prize money.

This unfortunate creature had been in prison nearly four months, suffering sadly from chronic rheumatism, whilst his wife and two infant children were literally starving. The complainant felt more anxious to alleviate their distress than to have him punished, saying, "He did not do it; Rum did it."

The District Attorney humanely accepted a plea of forgery in the fourth degree, and then asked the court to suspend the judgment.

They called at our office the day following his discharge, expressing their unfeigned thanks for the interest the Association had shown in their behalf. They both signed a pledge to abandon the use of strong drinks.

No. 26. Had been confined in the Tombs over a month, on charge of grand larceny. The Association visited him and felt interested in his behalf. His story appeared truthful. He was believed to be an honest man, and consequently innocent of this charge. The complainant was seen and spoken to; the more thorough our inquiries, the more satisfied were we of his entire innocence.

The District Attorney was conferred with; he sent the case to the special sessions.

When the complainant was asked to take the stand, but two or three questions were put. Neither he or the witnesses could say one word to convict prisoner of the alleged larceny, when he was

instantly acquitted. He called again and again to thank the Association.

No. 27, a smart intelligent little fellow, aged sixteen, was charged with stealing a small amount of money from his employer. Under our advice he plead guilty, when he was remanded, that inquiry might be made into his character and habits.

To-day his mother appeared in court, telling the recorder that his father is very intemperate, and habitually regardless of his family, and that under the circumstances the boy was not disciplined or cared for. The Association suggested the propriety of sending him to the Juvenile Asylum. The court cheerfully acquiesced.

No. 28 had been committed of assault and battery on an officer. The affair was one of a very diminutive character. The recorder intimated that he would send him to the city prison for fifteen days. The Association ascertained that he had a sickly wife and a family of small children, and if locked up he would lose his work. These facts were submitted, and before the adjournment of the court his honor complied with the earnest request of the Association, and then suspended the judgment and discharged him.

No. 29 was convicted of petit larceny, stealing two pieces of cloth valued at twelve shillings, intended for boys' vests. He was remanded, that the Association might ascertain something concerning him. We found that he has a wife and two children; the cause of his present disgrace is the use of liquor; he had delirium on him when the petty theft was committed; it was his first offense that was proven. Judgment was suspended and he was discharged. They heartily thanked the Association.

No. 30 had been an inmate of Eldridge street jail for the last eleven weeks. He was arrested in a civil suit for damages, and in default of bail was locked up. He represented that whilst he was in constant employ, his wife, a professed cook, was also saving money. By their united efforts they managed to save one hundred and seventy dollars. With this sum he was advised to take a lager beer saloon. He was introduced by a friend to an agent of a distillery, who offered to supply him with liquors on a very reduced scale of prices. He was induced to give him an order. The goods were to be stored on the premises of the agent until he was ready to convey them to his own premises. He was taken sick, and for full seven weeks did nothing. His wife was also prevented from attending to her business. This circumstance, with the idea that the excise laws would be so altered that it

would be difficult for him to secure a license, induced him to alter his mind and abandon his intention of taking a saloon. The agent applied to him for the payment of the liquors. He had received no portion of them, hence he refused to pay. He was then sued for damages, and arrested. He procured bail, after being in jail twenty-six days; subsequently the plaintiff excited the fears of his bail, when he was surrendered, and has been again in prison the last twelve weeks.

The distiller and agent were seen by the Association. After being referred to their counsel, and much precious time devoted to the case, he consented to discharge him. We then waited on the sheriff, who kindly consented to waive his fees, when this poor man was then discharged. He has frequently called to thank the Association for procuring his release.

No. 31, an inmate of Eldridge street jail, begs the Association to aid and help him. He represents that he had been charged with an assault and battery. On the examination before a police justice, the complaint was dismissed. His persecutors then commenced a civil suit against him, when he was arrested and thrown into this prison in default of bail. He has no money, or friends who can assist him. We lost no time in finding the plaintiffs in the action. Much time was sacrificed in our attempts to convince them and their counsel that the defendant was unable to pay the costs. We did, however, succeed in procuring his discharge, for which he appeared thankful to the Association. This unfortunate man had been in the custody of the sheriff, on this contemptible charge, not less than 124 days.

No. 32 was charged with forging an order for \$28. He appeared to be very painfully exercised in mind that he should have yielded to a temptation of this grave character. The Association diligently inquired into his past history. When very young he had been adopted by a kind-hearted christian man of this city, and who had acted the part of an affectionate parent towards him. He was well educated, clothed, fed and a useful trade taught him. He gave his friends much trouble by his restless, unstable disposition; but this was the first dishonest act of his life since his adoption.

This statement was submitted to the district attorney, who consented to a plea of forgery in the fourth degree. The court suspended the judgment, and he was discharged. The family who had done so much for him sent him a supply of good clothes and

a sufficient sum to defray his expenses to the far west, where we confidently hope he is now doing well.

No. 33 was convicted of stealing a one dollar bill, the property of his employer. This young man appeared to feel most keenly the degradation of his present position.

The Association had inquired into all the facts of this case. Up to this arrest he had sustained a very good character. On this representation judgment was suspended, for which he seemed overjoyed.

No. 34 calls, accompanied by his wife, to say, since they ceased to drink they have ceased to fight. They are now cheerful and happy. They thanked the Association most heartily.

No. 35 asks the Association to assist her in getting from the police officer several articles which were taken from her by him when she was arrested. We ascertained the officer's whereabouts, and saw that her little property was restored.

No. 36. A mother calls and prays the Association to restore to her her son, now in prison charged with petit larceny. She says with such a soul as his he never could be mean enough to steal.

Careful inquiries were made, and the result influenced the Association in recommending his discharge. When brought before the court, judgment was suspended.

No. 37. The friends of this young man called on the Association to enlist its influence in his behalf. He is now in prison, charged with embezzlement. They cannot think him guilty of even a fraudulent intent to injure any one. They are willing to testify his past life has no blot. Such was found to be the case. When brought up for trial, judgment was suspended at request of complainant.

No. 38. The Danish consul calls to ask the aid of the Association, in behalf of a man now confined in Eldridge street jail, on a charge of smuggling 200 cigars from on board a ship from Hamburg. The marshal, the district attorney, and the collector of the port, were seen by the agent of the Association, who called their attention to this case as one of a very insignificant character. The prisoner's character was very good, and he was not to blame, having no idea the few cigars were in the bag with the clothing sent to his wife to wash. His imprisonment had distracted his family sadly; they are now wanting the necessaries of life. The collector immediately ordered his discharge, for which they all appeared thankful.

No. 39. Was charged with embezzlement. The case was sent

to the court of special sessions, with a request of the district attorney that enquiry be made into his character. Said note was placed in the hands of the Association. We ascertained the defendant had been in the employment of complainant over two years, and had conducted himself with great propriety; the employer retired from his business leaving several bills for collection in his hands; several times he had called for the sums collected, but he happened to be from home, at length he suspected his money had been used or spent, he caused his arrest, having ascertained that he had received on his account \$18, and failed to pay the same over; defendant admitted he had that sum and \$50 over, which he was ready to pay, and should have paid had he seen him. When brought up this was proven, and he was instantly acquitted.

No. 40. These two men were convicted of assault and battery and sentenced to the penitentiary for three months each. The disproportion of the punishment to the alleged trifling offense committed, induced the Association to ask the court to withdraw the sentence until next court, when a fuller and fairer statement of all the facts would be submitted. Such was the case; instead of sending these men to the penitentiary as at first proposed, a fine of \$5 each was inflicted; this latter decision was much more equitable and fair.

No. 41. Remanded by last court on charge of stealing a ham, that enquiries should be made of her habits and character. These were found to be very good; there seemed to be some mistake—her life had been without a stain. On our recommendation she was discharged.

No. 42. Was remanded also, last court day, on a charge of petit larceny. When brought up this a. m. her eyes were much swollen, her entire system was sadly distressed; the complaint was very frivolous and ought never to have been sent to this court. This young woman refused to remain in her situation, although offered an advance of wages. When they found she was determined to leave, this petty charge was trumped up against her, and on which she was arrested; her character had been uniformly good, very good, previous to this complaint. Judgment was suspended and she was discharged. The Association immediately applied to the family for her wages; the same were promptly paid; the girl seemed to be very thankful.

No. 43. Was confined in the city prison, charged with committing a grand larceny, stealing a gold watch. The story of this

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

No. 44. Charged with grand larceny; had been in prison five months without trial, the witnesses could not be found to appear against him. His health was fast failing him. The Association prayed the court to discharge him. The district attorney interposed no objection. He seemed to dance with joy.

No. 45. Was charged with grand larceny. When brought up before the court of general sessions she was in great trepidation, fearful of being sent to the State prison. She was remanded, that the Association might enquire into all the circumstances, as well as to report what had been her previous character. The property, we ascertained, had been restored; it was her first offense. The district attorney consented to accept the plea of petit larceny. The complainant accompanied the agent to the bar and begged the mercy of the court. Sentence, three months in the penitentiary.

No. 46. Was arraigned on a charge of grand larceny, in court of general sessions. The association being familiar with all the facts in this case, asked the district attorney to accept a plea of petit larceny, the clothes taken and pledged being worth less than \$25. The plea was accepted. When brought up for sentence, the agent prayed the court to be lenient towards him; he had been a long time without employment, under a severe pressure; wanting money very bad he yielded to the temptation of taking several shirts, which he pledged for a few dollars. It was his first offense; he had exhibited deep repentance, and most resolutely had he purposed never to be guilty of such an act again. The complainant had no desire to press the complaint against him. The recorder was actuated by motives of an enlightened humanity. Judgment was suspended and he was discharged. He expressed then, and as often since, his unfeigned thankfulness for the interposition which saved him from punishment.

No. 47. Was convicted of assault and battery and sentenced to

the city prison for one month. Her sister was seen in court by the agent of the Association, in great mental distress. Before the adjournment a fellow help of this poor girl came in to testify in her favor. She was again brought into the court room. Such was the conflicting evidence given, the Association asked the court to give the doubt to the benefit of the prisoner. She was then discharged and her wages obtained for her.

No. 48. Was visited in the toms; he appeared to feel deeply sensible of the degraded condition in which he was found; charged with grand larceny. He had spent the evening with a relative, and when about to leave, had stolen his friend's gold watch. He frankly, and with bitter tears, acknowledged his guilt, that he had, in a moment of unexpected temptation, wickedly yielded to do wrong, and that he could never forgive himself for the disgrace he had brought on his own character, and the mental anguish produced in the minds of his family, and the heart of his mother.

Appropriate means were taken, and this penitent young man was saved from the disgrace and ruin of a protracted imprisonment. He left the prison, evidently moved with a sense of his own folly and unworthiness, and solemnly resolved, in the future, to avoid "the very appearance of evil." He expressed his best thanks to the Association, for the timely help that had been rendered him.

The following letter was sent us by his mother:

(Copy.)

To the agent of the Prison Association:

Dear Sir: Permit me to express my grateful thanks for your kind services rendered, in rescuing my son from a living tomb, and myself from days and nights of distressing sorrow.

I give hearty thanks to the giver of every good and perfect gift, that our feeble prayers were heard and answered, and that means were at hand, and those successful. My hearty desire is, that you may be cheered in all your labors.

My son joins me in these humble thanks, with an earnest desire to profit by the past, and live more careful in the future.

Thankfully yours,

No. 49. Called at the office of the Association to confer with its agent; he had been addicted to dishonest practices the last five years, but from several causes, such as his own physical sufferings, his apprehension of being severely punished in the [Assembly, No. 185.]

future if not in the present life, his wife's constant wretchedness and mental disquietude, the upbraidings of a guilty conscience, the result of an early religious training by his poor but pious mother, all combined to make his existence too intolerable to be borne; he had now made up his mind to mend his ways. He asks advice. We sat down with him, counting the cost of the path now to be pursued. He deliberately resolved, if he perished, he would become an honest man. The association took him by the hand, he was supplied with sufficient means, just to enable him to get the necessaries of life, until work was provided for him; he went at it in earnest; his sincerity was put to the test, and he showed conclusively, that he meant to reform. He did reform; the noon meetings for prayer and praise in our city, were of great moral advantage to him; he derived great strength from them; such a change has been wrought in his experience, that we now have confidence in him, that he will characterize the honest man.

We copy a letter addressed to the Association by him some twelve weeks subsequent to the newly acquired happy experience.

(Copy.)

NEW YORK CITY.

Letter from Pickpocket

Sir: I want to write to you, but know not how. Permit me to say that I have been in this city the last five years; my business was that of a professional pickpocket. All this time I was a stranger to happiness, although never once convicted of crime. I had a dread of being arrested and punished; how I escaped I cannot tell; perhaps because of my honest little wife, who always entreated me to steal no more. She prayed for me; I think her sighs and tears to the Lord, led me first to call on you at your office, now about four months ago. Since then I have been an honest man. Many a time we wanted bread; my poor wife and child could not sleep for hunger. My old companions have often urged me to join them again, but I did not yield, and starvation staring me in the face; no food, no coal; none but my Maker knows what we have suffered; but amidst all, you kept me up; had I not met with you, we must have perished, or I continued a thief. I shall never forget your kindness, your advice, and your prayers, and the fifty cents given to me by Mr. C., on that very cold night. We were, with our few bits of furniture, just out on the sidewalk. I repeat it, these things made me resolve to reform; I have stolen nothing these last four months to help me in this way. I go to church, and the more I go the more I want to go, and whilst I

am very sorry and ashamed of my past life, I hope God will forgive me, and keep me, and show me how I can keep right and serve Him.

I am more happy now than I ever was before. I went to church last Sunday week; the minister seemed to know all about me; he almost pointed at me; I had to shift my seat; I thought it very strange. I don't understand what religion is, but such people appear to be the most happy, and I want the happy to pray for me.

I have lived, since you set me up in the tea trade, as I promised you, dear sir; to prove grateful, I will pay back all the money you have lent me. I am an honest man, and such I hope to remain.

Accept my best thanks, and do let me look up to your Association for encouragement and help. My wife's health is improved; she left the hospital last Monday. I will call and consult you about our taking a room, as we are anxious to have our child, and commence housekeeping in an humble way. Please carry my sincere thanks to the gentlemen of your society, for the help that has been given me, hoping I shall prove thankful and worthy.

I am, dear sir, yours, gratefully,

No. 50. Calls and says he was sent to the Penitentiary for three months for stealing of bread. He left the prison without coat or vest. He begs the Association to supply his wants and aid him to return to Connecticut. He was furnished with suitable clothing and a small amount of money.

No. 51. Says her mistress sent her away without paying her the wages due to her, amounting to \$10—that she was discharged without cause or provocation. The case was investigated and successful means taken to secure the girl her wages.

No. 52. Two respectable citizens call on the Association in behalf of a young girl reputedly connected, and who had arrived in this country but three weeks. She had been induced to enter and engage herself as chambermaid in a house of ill-fame in Mercer-street, not knowing it to be of that vile character.

She is represented to be in a distracted state of mind, and most anxious to get away; but this appears to be impossible, the abominable wretches having taken her clothes from her and refusing to give them up.

An efficient officer being at our office at this interview, he adopted proper means to rescue her from the corrupting influence of those destroyers.

No. 53. Was charged with petit larceny. She protested her innocence, whilst the complainant testified she was the girl and was guilty. She was remanded at our request. We procured the attendance of the lady with whom she had lived, who spoke so confidently of her honesty and truthfulness that the court discharged her. She thanked the Association.

No. 54. Was convicted of assault and battery, and sentenced for two months to the Island, on complaint of his wife, who testified that he had struck her a week since. The husband, a very decent, sober, well conducted looking man, admitted that he had done so, but that she had provoked him.

After the man had been conducted to the cell, the wife was spoken to; when a gentleman introduced himself by saying he is defendant's employer; that he had worked for him the last ten years; his averaged earnings were \$10.50 per week; his moral character was so good that he would not hesitate to leave all his business, stock and money in his hands; he was the most reliable man he had ever employed. These representations were immediately submitted to the court, when he was ordered again before them and discharged.

Both the man and his employer expressed their hearty thanks to the Association, that had at the right time interposed and saved him from a prison, of which he never had any experience, but an inconceivable horror.

No. 55. Was charged with stealing an old vest. The witness declined to appear against him. It had been ascertained by the Association that this poor boy is an orphan, that his parents died two years since, and that he has no home.

He was remanded until something could be done for him. The Association were enabled to send him out west on a farm (through kind friends), where he is now doing well.

No. 56. Had been committed ten days on charge of intemperance. On the third day of their confinement their wives prayed the Association to procure their discharge, as the one had four children and the other three children.

We ascertained that neither of these men had been previously in prison; they each promised to abstain from the use of strong drink in the future. An application was then made to the Governors of the Alms-house and they were discharged.

No. 57. Was an inmate of the City prison over one hundred days. He was detained as a witness against his captain, who was out on bail, charged with smuggling a quantity of cigars into this

port. The Marshal and District Attorney of the U. S. Court engaged to bring the captain to trial as early as possible, when the witness should be discharged.

It does appear to be a monstrous wrong that a guilty person or party should be out on bail, and those who happened to witness the alleged offense should be confined for so protracted a period, and the county subjected to such expense.

No. 58. Was charged with stealing a lace collar and sundry other little articles of small value. She appeared to be very painfully exercised in mind at the disgrace brought on herself by this petty theft. We ascertained this to be the first complaint made against her.

The complainant was seen and influenced to show mercy; the court suspended the judgment and discharged her. The Association never expect to meet her again in prison.

No. 59. Was seen in the Tombs, charged with stealing six loaves of bread. Inquiries were diligently made into his circumstances. We learned that he was industrious; he had been out of employ seven weeks. These facts were made known to the court, when judgment was suspended and he was discharged.

No. 60. Had been an inmate of the Tombs for ten weeks, on charge of abandonment. Considerable pains were taken to reform him; at length he was induced to sign the temperance pledge.

His wife, a woman of cleanly, sober habits, felt (now that he had promised to avoid the cause of all their past troubles) anxious to procure his release. She came to the office of the Association, asking their advice and aid. We gladly assisted her in getting his discharge. He seemed very grateful.

No. 61. The whole of the witnesses detained in the City prison were this day removed to the head-quarters of the Metropolitan Police Department, except a solitary U. S. witness, who has been confined here the last 155 days by the prosecution, his captain being charged with smuggling into this port a quantity of cigars.

No. 62. Calls to say that he is starving; that he never committed a dishonest act; his necessities drove him to sleep in the station-house; there the captain told him of the Association, and advised him to apply for assistance here. "Prevention," said he, "is better than cure." In this case we thought so too; it gave us pleasure to help him. We supplied his immediate wants, then found him employment.

No. 63. Was sentenced to the Penitentiary for two months on charge of petit larceny. Before the adjournment of the court,

several members of his family were introduced to the Association. They urged that their father is old and infirm; that his wife (their mother) is now very sick; should he be sent to the Island, her death might be accelerated.

The poor old man was seen in the prison; he promised never to steal the worth of a pin on any future occasion, but to live uprightly.

The court listened to our application for his discharge, the offense being a trifling one and the first he had committed.

The family were glad and thankful.

Nos. 64 and 65. Were confined in the City prison on complaint of a German emigrant who had been robbed, as he represents, of \$27. He suspected one of these two persons, who came over in the same ship with him from Liverpool. They arrived in this port late on Saturday—landed at Castle Garden. On Sunday the three repaired to Mulberry street and stayed in the one lodging-house, the two men in one room; the woman occupied an adjoining bed-room with the landlady and her daughter. When he arose in the morning he discovered his loss. The Association visited them in prison; their story was simple and apparently truthful. The complainant did not appear on the examination; hence they were discharged.

A situation was found for the woman; the man commenced to peddle; he succeeded, and eventually married her. They are now doing well. They assure the Association never shall they forget "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

No. 66. Charged with stealing a coat from his boarding house. He was remanded. On the following court day it was shown that he had gone to Philadelphia on business, there he discovered his mistake, he returned to the same boarding house not only to return the garment but to stay for a time, when he was surprised by an arrest. These facts were submitted. The court was led to believe he would not have returned to the same house, with the coat in his trunk, had he intended to keep it. He was discharged.

No. 67. Were convicted of stealing two or three small articles of very small value. The court considered the evidence conclusive against them; the agent of the Association thought otherwise; he asked the discharge of the woman; the court objected; if man and wife the law would be satisfied in his conviction and punishment. The court had no evidence of their being such; agent begged that they be remanded until next court day, when she

could, if allowed now to depart, produce the certificate of their marriage, and that their characters were above reproach or suspicion. Agent became responsible for her appearance at the next sitting; she was then permitted to leave. As promised, she appeared, and produced not only her certificate of marriage, but very satisfactory evidence of their being persons of excellent reputation. It was also shown the complainant was in their debt, for work some time since performed. At request of the Association they were both discharged; they were assisted with money until employment was obtained for them.

No. 68, was convicted of being drunk. On being searched after his commitment a brass coupling worth 20s. was found in his possession. He told the officer where he had been; this led to the owner and identification of the coupling; for this offense he was committed to the court of special sessions for trial. When brought up he was proven guilty. Agent reminded the court the old gentleman did not look to be a dishonest man. He was remanded that some enquiries might be made of his character, and at the next sitting of the court the Association reported favorably in his behalf; his standing in society had been uniformly good; judgment was suspended and he was discharged. He has often called on the Association since, expressing his grateful thanks for the assistance rendered him.

No. 69. A sailor charged with an assault was remanded, the complainant having left the room in consequence of her noisy infant. The wife of the sailor was seen weeping, she said her husband had shipped and had a due bill for \$30, the ship was to be hauled out into the stream this p. m. and would sail in the morning. The witness was sent for by the agent and the court was solicited, under the circumstances, to have the prisoner again brought out and tried; this was done; the affair was of a very frivolous character and he was discharged. Both man and wife expressed their hearty thanks; she would not now be put into the street as she had apprehended.

No. 70. Convicted of stealing three books; was sentenced to the Penitentiary for two months.

The mental distress exhibited by this prisoner induced the Association to ask the court, with the concurrence of the complainant, to withdraw the sentence and remand him until the next sitting, that inquiries may be made whether his story, that he has a wife and family, be true, and are now in very indigent circumstances.

We carefully investigated this case, and confirmed the statement he had made; his wife was in court to-day and begged their mercy. The man promised to steal no more. The complainant co-operated with the Association and obtained his discharge. They seemed very thankful that he had been saved from going to the penitentiary.

No. 71. Most of the inmates in Kings county jail were seen and spoken with.

The unfortunate man, Kelly, charged with the murder of his wife, said to Agent, "But for Rum it never would have happened—had I done as my wife did." When asked what was that, replied, "She signed the pledge of Father Mathew, and nothing would induce her to break it. Mr. Beal, I never should have murdered my wife but for Rum."

Reynolds, for the murder of his brother in Brooklyn, said, "I wish I had never drank liquor, then this would not have happened."

No. 72. Was arraigned in court of general sessions for stealing \$24 from the person with whom she had lived as help. She admitted taking the money, and because they would not pay her the amount of wages, long since due.

On this occasion she saw him—her employer—put a large sum of money in gold into his desk. When he was out, she forced the lock and took out one large gold piece and four small gold coins; she knew not the value of said pieces. She left the house and went to her sister, showing her the money now taken. An officer arrested her, to whom she very frankly acknowledged the whole affair.

In court, under advice of the Association, she plead guilty; the extenuating circumstances were pointed out, when his Honor the Recorder suspended the judgment and discharged her.

Agent subsequently called on the family for the wages due this poor girl, amounting to \$22.50, which was peremptorily refused. The case was sent to civil court.

The Association aided the girl until a situation was found her and her wages paid.

No. 73. Was arraigned in court of sessions on charge of petit larceny. The evidence was insufficient to commit her; she was discharged.

The Association sent her to a boarding-house until a place of work was provided for her; within ten days she was comfortably fixed and is now doing well.

No. 74. Says he left the penitentiary this morning a wiser if not a better man; he thinks the punishment may yet prove a blessing to him. Drink was the cause of his trouble; it shall, he protests, trouble him no more, except to persuade others not to drink it.

The Association secured him work.

No. 75. Charged with grand larceny. The officer who arrested him recommended a lawyer; it would occupy some time to find him, but this he cheerfully offered to do for expenses out of pocket, \$3. The prisoner's fears were excited. Another lawyer was introduced; he made light of the complaint, and said, you had better get bail. Give me \$20 and I will secure a man who will bail you out in a few hours. A bar-tender whom he had seen three or four times called on him and said: "I have a friend who for \$25 would have bailed you out; this person present, who has come with me, knows him well, and he could induce him to do it for you right away, but he would require \$10." These sums were given to those professed friends (\$58); he saw them no more. At length the first counsel came to his relief—he sympathized with him—took the balance of his funds, \$25. He came up for trial; counsel advised him to plead guilty, when he was sentenced to State prison for — years.

The prisoner had \$95 in his possession when arrested on this charge. This is a pretty fair specimen of the practical operations of the skinning and shystering of those fellows called Tombs lawyers.

No. 76. Had been committed to the Tombs for disorderly conduct. He was seen by Agent to be in a state of great mental trouble. On inquiry, we ascertained his ship was hauled out in the stream, and that his berth as well as his clothes would be lost unless he was released.

We examined the papers and found the complaint to be of a very frivolous character. His discharge was then obtained. He left with a glad and cheerful heart.

No. 77. Was charged with assault and battery, on complaint of his wife. She subsequently called on the Agent of the Association, begging him to get him released, and for several strong reasons, as she urged: 1st. He was drunk when he struck her; 2d. He has a family of six children; 3d. The rent falls due on Thursday next; 4th. He will lose his work if kept in prison; 5th. He will sign the pledge and drink no more. These cogent reasons led the Association to ask for his discharge; the court acquiesced.

Tombs lawyers' (billionaire case) 1857-58

No. 78. Was convicted of assault and battery, and fined \$20. His wife, accompanied by his landlord, calls and begs the Association to interpose with the court in his behalf. Great provocation had been given him or he would not have done wrong.

We diligently inquired into his past history and present circumstances. We found he had been out of employment all last winter; that now he had plenty of work; that his wife and four children would be seriously inconvenienced, and more punished than himself, were he to be kept in prison. The Association made these facts known, when the fine was remitted and he was discharged.

No. 79. Was sentenced ten days in City prison on charge of intemperance. The wife of this wretched man was seen in prison weeping most sadly.

He signed the pledge, and promised to keep it and begin at once to reform.

One of the alms-house governors was seen and his discharge obtained.

The man and wife thanked the Association, and showered down their blessings on them in the name of their five helpless children.

No. 80. Was charged with grand larceny. Under advice of the Association she plead guilty to petit larceny.

This poor girl was evidently inexperienced in crime; we had ascertained her character to be very good up to this complaint.

The prosecutor co-operated with the Association in urging the court to suspend the judgment and to discharge her. We then obtained a situation for her away in the country, where we have no doubt of her doing well.

No. 81. Plead guilty to the charge of stealing 10s. from a man when drunk. He was dropping it as he walked; and prisoner being out of work, a stranger, with a wife and one child in great want, was tempted for the first time in his life to take it. It was a little relief to his mind that this poor drunken fellow would have lost it. The crime did not appear so great, although he felt sorry for the wrong he had done.

The story was ascertained to be true. With the consent of the complainant, judgment was suspended and the man was discharged.

No. 82 was committed for examination on charge of assault. His wife was seen weeping in the police court. She represented that her three helpless children required his presence; that he would lose his work, besides which, he was not guilty. The com-

plainant was seen; he waited on the committing magistrate and said, "Sir, be pleased to let him go."

No. 83 was committed to the workhouse for vagrancy. Her brother, doing business in the city, calls on the Association and says she is a widow, and that an unprincipled officer had, for reasons that officer would not like made known to the police commissioners, influenced the magistrate to send her there for four months, without rhyme or reason, and that it is a burning shame to keep her from her home and her fatherless children. The respectability of the mother was ascertained; the character of his sister was found to be in every way correct. Appropriate means were then taken, and she was discharged.

No. 84, once a reputable merchant, but reduced by strong drink, was charged with stealing a piece of dress pattern. He was well known to complainant, having been in his employ for some considerable time. He was under the influence of drink when detected in taking goods from the store. Several merchants were seen, all of whom certified that the prisoner had been addicted to intemperance the last four years; that they never knew him to be dishonest. He promised to do better and was discharged.

No. 85 was charged with petit larceny, stealing a shawl. She represented to the court that this was her first offense. She begged the mercy of the court on account of her two small children. She was remanded, that inquiries might be made of her character and family.

On the following court day the Association reported that she is an habitual inebriate, and has no children. She still asserted that her character was good, and that she had two orphans. When asked where they were, she replied, "Yer honor, I left them in the old country nine years ago." She was then sentenced to the penitentiary for four months.

No. 86, remanded last court, on charge of being found in the basement of a dwelling house under (as was alleged) circumstances of suspicion.

The Association represented to the court this morning, that they had visited her home; the family are in abject distress, resulting from the intemperance of the husband and father; her character is good; if discharged this morning, a friend would send them all into the country, and employ them. She had two children with her who had the whooping cough, and fortunately for the mother they commenced coughing. Their advocacy was efficient. The court listened and discharged her.

No. 87 was charged with receiving stolen goods. She admitted purchasing the three articles in question, but contended she had paid a fair price for them, and had no idea of their being stolen.

When brought up for trial, her counsel did not appear. To one, the first engaged, she had paid \$35, but had never seen him since; to the other she paid \$25, and assigned her interest in two lots. Neither of these gentlemen were present. The Association stated to the court that she would plead guilty to buying those few little things, but that she knew not they had been stolen. Diligent inquiries had been made respecting her past character; it had been above reproach. Judgment was suspended, and she was discharged.

No. 88 was arraigned on charge of an attempt at burglary in the third degree. He was without money or counsel. Under our advice he plead not guilty. He was tried and convicted of an attempt of petit larceny, and sentenced to the penitentiary for three months. He appeared to be very thankful to the Association for the interest shown in his behalf, and which he thought had saved him from a worse fate. He protests his entire innocence of the charge, but admits of late, the last few months, he had indulged in the use of liquor, which had injured him much. He promised to read, think and become a better man.

No. 89 was arrested on charge of forgery, and fully committed for trial. He was subsequently visited by the agent of the Association in the City prison, when he complained of sickness and the want of other food than the prison allowance. He represented that he had in his pocket-book, when arrested, \$695—six one hundred dollar bills, which he had carefully placed under the silk or cotton lining of said pocket-book, the balance, \$95, were in bills of two's and three's. On his way to prison the officer suggested to him the name of a lawyer he thought best to engage for his defense. That gentleman very soon called to see him, and offered his professional services, which were accepted. He then informed his counsel that the officer had his pocket-book, which he wanted. An order was written and addressed to said officer, requesting him to deliver to counsel the pocket-book and its contents; the same was to be restored to prisoner. When asked if he had told his counsel the amount of bills in the officer's possession, replied, "I said nothing of the \$600, lest I should be charged a very heavy fee." Prisoner applied to counsel for cash to procure food, which was refused, on the ground that there were but \$95 in the book, and his fee was \$150. The empty book was with difficulty ob-

tained. The counsel finally advised his client to plead guilty of forgery in the fourth degree, and the youth was sentenced to the penitentiary for one year.

If the \$600 had been placed carefully in the book, as represented, then it was lost to the prisoner. Who found it is a problem not yet solved.

No. 90. Was tried in court of general sessions and acquitted; when the District Attorney ordered her to be taken back to the toms, and to the court of special sessions, and there sentenced on a former conviction of petit larceny, some sixteen months since.

The Association made diligent enquiries concerning her habits and character, especially during that term. There being no evidence of any one dishonest act since, the court suspended the judgment and discharged her.

No. 91. Charged with stealing clothes, valued at twelve dollars; her guilt was established.

The Association felt constrained to inform the court that she had been previously arrested on charge of grand larceny, but was acquitted. When discharged, she went to her friends in the country, and promised to stay there; but she is evidently bent on a life of prostitution. It was suggested that six months in the penitentiary might be an advantage to her; the court adopted our recommendation.

No. 92. Father and son were charged with assault and battery; complainant said she has been married to the elder defendant ten months; he had latterly given way to drink, and when under its influence was very ugly.

The son-in-law had slapped her face; she admitted speaking reproachfully of his own mother; this provoked him, and he struck her; he promised not to offend again. The Association recommended the court to discharge them; the court acquiesced; they, under the advice of the Association, went to Dr. Marsh and signed the pledge; all of them promised to do better.

No. 93. Was charged with stealing a five dollar gold piece. She plead guilty, and urged as an excuse, that she was without necessary clothing, and ashamed to go into the street. The whole of the money had been devoted to the purchase of clothing, all of which were now in the possession of complainant.

She was remanded until the Association could ascertain something about her, and to find her a situation; this was done, a favorable report made, and the girl was discharged, when a place of work was found her.

No. 94. Calls to ask advice of the Association. Her grand-son had been arrested on charge of burglary in the third degree; a lawyer had offered his services; he could defend him and get him finally discharged, but she must pay him ten dollars. She sold her bed and several articles from her miserable room, these articles realized her but four dollars, and her landlady had lent her three, which made seven dollars. This she paid to him, but he had never seen to the case. When the youth was tried, he was not present.

The poor old woman was advised to see the counsel, and respectfully urge the return of the money, but this was angrily refused; she then applied to the court where her efforts were equally unsuccessful.

No. 95. Was indicted for an attempt at grand larceny; he plead guilty. The Association ascertained that he was addicted to drinking, and on this occasion he appeared to be laboring under some strange delusion. Nothing had been removed from the premises. His character for honesty had been good. He has a large family to support.

He, to avoid a repetition of such disasters, now resolves to sign the temperance pledge, and to keep it; the leniency of the court was prayed in his behalf. The judge, under the circumstance, suspended the judgment and discharged him, for which he almost danced with joy.

No. 96. A poor, dejected looking woman was seen in court, a picture of sadness. When asked, "are you sick?" replied, "I am almost dead." Last Saturday my unfortunate husband drank too freely, and threatened to beat me; he did strike me, and made a great noise; an M. P. arrested him, and he was committed. He now regrets all he did, and I freely forgive him; but I can't get him out of prison. I have five children, and should he lose his work, what shall we do all the long winter which has just begun?

The man was seen by the agent, and promised to drink no more intoxicating drinks for two years; on this condition the court was urged to discharge him. He was then brought out and discharged. The man and wife heartily thanked the Association.

No. 97. Was charged with petit larceny, and remanded last court day, with a request that the Association would make some enquiry about her. We ascertained that herself, two children, and her husband had lived in the country for five years, and until the last three weeks, when she removed with her children into a

tenant house in the city. Here she became acquainted with a woman fond of liquor. The justice, for whom her husband had long worked in Eastchester, called at the office of the Association, and kindly engaged to give him permanent employ; the court was recommended to let the woman go; she was then discharged.

No. 98. Was charged with striking his late employer. The complainant appeared to be very wroth; the court fined the defendant ten dollars; great provocation had been given him, or he would not have given the blow. The court was urged in consideration of this fact, and of his wife being nearly blind, to remit the fine. On the Saturday he was brought into court, the fine remitted, and he was discharged.

No. 99. Was indicted for grand larceny, stealing several shirts; the District Attorney accepted a plea of petit larceny. The larceny was committed by another woman unknown to her; she was pursued by an officer, and had thrown them away; this woman picked them up. Her character had been good up to this time. Judgment was suspended, and she was discharged.

No. 100. On charge of abandonment had been confined in the City prison for three months.

The Association had often written to the wife. At length she called at our office. She complained that her husband had not provided for his family as he should do; he had never left his home, but he would be boss, and buy only such things as he deemed best, without consulting her at all. He earned about \$7 a week, and as he would not act as she desired, but was ugly, she had kept him in prison. This poor woman was reminded that herself and her children had been much more punished than he. Agent suggested a better way: if they could not live happily together, then part; to keep him in prison would accomplish nothing. She then placed herself under the protection and advice of the Association. The husband was seen; he had nine dollars in his employers' hands; agent urged him to give an order on them for five dollars, and in the future to allow her three dollars per week, then he would procure his discharge; he consented and he was discharged accordingly.

The weekly allowance has been paid into our hands since, with the utmost regularity; it is handed over immediately to the family, and all parties appear to be satisfied.

These instances will give some idea of our labors. Hundreds of such, and of equal interest, might be mentioned.

A review of the past should excite our grateful acknowledg-

ments. We have, under the divine blessing, aided many deserving persons, by the exercise of kindness. Bitter tears have dried up, hearts well nigh broken have been restored to confidence and hope, and the wanderer has been happily awakened and brought back to character and a home. Our successes have exceeded our most sanguine expectations. We have tried to win over and persuade men to forsake their evil ways, and we have abundant evidence that our efforts, though feeble, have not been in vain. The blessings of those who were ready to perish are our rich reward. Therefore we have God to thank, and we take courage to go on, and on, and on, in these works of mercy and of love.

Your agent thankfully recognizes and acknowledges the urbanity and attention of those connected with the administration of criminal justice in New York and Brooklyn. The advice and counsel so cheerfully afforded him, in the prosecution of his labors, by the District Attorneys and their assistants, he most gratefully appreciates.

And in conclusion I beg that you will yourselves, accept my thanks for the timely and cheerful aid your committee has so uniformly rendered me in my labors; and, with an unalterable determination still to work while it is day, in this field of hopeful effort, with unabated ardor and untiring industry.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

ABRAHAM BEAL.

OFFICE OF PRISON ASSOCIATION, }
15 CENTRE STREET, NEW YORK, *January, 1859.* }

To the Committee on Discharged Convicts,
RICHARD REED, Esq., Chairman:

Dear Sir—Herewith, in conformity with your rules and by-laws, is presented a very brief report, of the practical work done in this branch of our operations during the last two years ending 31st December, 1858.

There are multitudes of persons who are altogether faithless in regard to the value of any time, or any effort bestowed on prisoners, or discharged convicts. The opinion is formed that those who commit crimes, and thereby subject themselves to punishment, in the penitentiary or State prison, are beyond the reach of all substantial improvement, if not beyond all claim upon the sympathies of a moral and christian community. Yes, the greater part of the world, and a large proportion of the church, are very apt to look upon all convicted persons, in the

same light—as utterly depraved, as hopelessly fallen. This is a sad mistake, if not an uncharitable and wicked conclusion, for it is a well ascertained fact that more than three-fourths of the convicts discharged from our State prisons, repent of the crimes they have committed—go and sin no more, and in despite of all obstacles, persevere in living honest lives.

The truth, then, is irresistible, that the discharged convict is an unfortunate fellow-creature, needing our pity and our friendly commiseration; though guilty and fallen, he has yet a heart to feel, and the effect of human sympathy and christian kindness, may be to touch some chord of the soul, which has refused to vibrate to harsher sounds, or to call into exercise some remaining portion of humanity which has hitherto lain dormant, under the withering influence of neglect, or bad associations, followed by some criminal offense, and the arbitrary administration of retributive justice.

In connection with our labors we have witnessed many pleasing illustrations of the magical power of kindness.

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

[Assembly, No. 185.]

Received - from the State Prison, New York, Jan 1859

we were delighted to see hope beaming in his eye; whilst he felt encouraged to thank God, the Prison Association proved to him an ark of safety. We were enabled to place this poor fellow in a place of work at a dollar a day, and he has called upon us three or four times since our first interview. He says he shall never forget that day, when the handkerchief was tied around his neck. He observed "I shall never steal again, for I always carry that handkerchief with me."

As a people, we are very slow to give up our faith in the principle of physical force. We are too apt to think it necessary for the correction and discipline of men. All civilized nations have been very tardy in abandoning their faith in force. The proposal to settle quarrels by peaceful means is still too often held to be "Utopian." We have been so trained and educated into the belief of the efficacy of force, that we can scarcely imagine it possible that the frame-work of society could be kept together upon any other principle.

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

We might illustrate the power of kindness in many ways. In the training of children we can resort, as a general rule, to encouragement, gentleness and good example, with better success than to the employment of the rod. It has been found, too, that in

the treatment of lunatics the law of kindness is the only means which can be successfully used in their government and control. A visit to our Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island will convince the most skeptical of the superiority of the principle of kindness over that of harshness.

This principle is capable of extensive application. In every relationship of man, kindness will produce the same beneficial results. It draws out the better part of every nature, disarming resistance, dissipating angry passions, and melting the hardest heart. It overcomes the evil and strengthens the good. In a word, then, let us say, apply it with all its power in our prisons everywhere. Then, and not till then, can we reasonably hope to see them *moral hospitals*, and their afflicted inmates restored to moral health. We repeat that we should extend to our prisons abundant and appropriate moral appliances. "Then will the hearts of the disobedient be turned to the wisdom of the just," and the hardened culprit will feel constrained to reform; unhealthy and inhuman punishments will be numbered among the things that were, and there will be less apprehension or probability, when he is restored to liberty, of a relapse into crime.

We still avow ourselves the friends of the discharged convict. Our sympathies and anxious solicitude in his or her behalf, remain unabated. During the last two years we have more than ever felt that they have strong claims upon us. Our labors in this department were often of a very trying and embarrassing character; but, prompted as we have been by a sense of duty, by love to God and towards our neighbor, we have steadily endeavored to perform the work faithfully. We have labored *con amore*, and with earnest fidelity to benefit these erring ones in body, mind and circumstances. They come from our respective prisons often, very often, cast down, well nigh crushed, hopeless and dejected, almost in irretrievable ruin. We try to inspire and light up the spark of hope within them. Often beyond our limited means do we assist them and sustain them until a place of work, away from city life and its powerful temptations, is obtained. And, should the question be whispered, do they ever reform? Thank God, they do. It is our joy and rejoicing to witness their reformation. We also cheerfully bear testimony that but very few of those we select from the hundreds who call upon us for counsel, advice and pecuniary aid, are again found guilty of a repetition of crime. We are obliged, however, to acknowledge some additional exceptions to this rule within the last two years, and this has happened, in

most cases, because our pecuniary means have been at times literally *nothing*, and for that reason we have not been able to afford them subsistence until we could find employment for them.

The following figures we abstract from the summary of the last two years' labors in this department, ending Dec. 31, 1850:

Months.	No. of discharged convicts relieved with money.	No. of discharged convicts supplied with clothing, more or less.	No. of discharged convicts provided with work, situations &c.	No. of discharged convicts relieved with money.	No. of discharged convicts furnished with clothing.	No. of discharged persons provided with situations and work.
January,.....	32	15	9	19	13	5
February,.....	21	14	7	26	11	9
March,.....	24	11	13	24	12	6
April,.....	27	12	7	30	13	7
May,.....	26	12	11	31	9	9
June,.....	27	24	12	26	9	13
July,.....	29	34	13	37	11	9
August,.....	23	6	17	31	13	14
September,.....	25	6	9	34	16	16
October,.....	26	11	6	36	14	7
November,.....	24	6	10	27	12	9
December,.....	28	12	4	23	10	13
	<u>314</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>118</u>

The subjoined cases, selected from our diaries, are submitted as an exposition of the principles on which our efforts are based, and of our plan of operations. The selections are made from hundreds of others of equal interest.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF DISCHARGED CONVICTS.

No. 1. Was convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to state prison for two years. He left in — last. He solemnly protests he was not guilty of the alleged larceny. He calls now to say, that when free from severe pains, he tries to do a little work, but chronic rheumatism prevents him from earning a living. His friends felt anxious an effort should be made to secure some small business on his own account; he asks us to write him a few lines soliciting the co-operation of those especially who know him. We complied with this request, and contributed towards such object. We were glad subsequently to learn it was a successful step.

No. 2. Calls on the Association, after spending two months in the penitentiary, for an alleged assault and battery. Bad company and bad liquor was the cause. He says it is too bad to place decent men in company with those of the baser sort. He had no idea of the prison life before. He thinks there should be more discrimination on the part of the authorities; persons for assault, and assault and battery, ought not to be confined in the same prison with dishonest characters; and the treatment should

be humane and not degrading. The Association rendered him temporary aid.

No. 3. Convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced for one year to the penitentiary, calls to-day almost perished with cold, regretting his past wicked conduct, and promising to live honestly in the future. The Association furnished him with more suitable clothing, and provided employment for him.

No. 4. Was sentenced to state prison, at Charlestown, Massachusetts, for two years and six months, for grand larceny. He says this was his first offense; he was once punished by solitary confinement in a dark cell, without bed or supper, for writing a note to a fellow prisoner—such being contrary to the discipline. He says further, that corporal punishment or the shower bath, is studiously avoided, except in very obstinate cases. The discipline is of a mild character, and no punishment is inflicted, but with the knowledge and almost uniformly in the presence of the warden. The food is sufficient in quantity, but not as good in quality as I think it was when I first went. The bed is of straw, and the pillow also; each man has sufficient bedding; the sheet and pillow case is changed every week. There is a good library of books; one is given out, or changed for others, every Saturday. The chaplain writes all letters for the prisoners. There is a religious service every morning in the chapel, singing, reading and prayer; these exercises occupy from twenty to thirty minutes. This short service is a considerable relief, and of great moral advantage to the inmates. I feel, he says, grateful that I am out of prison, and I trust the grace of God will enable me to resist temptation, and that my future life will be consecrated to Him and His service. We were enabled to procure him employment. He has often called upon us since, and is now doing well.

No. 5. Had been in the penitentiary four months; he calls, asking advice and help; the last few months have been the most wretched of his life. He promises to keep out of bad company. We regard this case as very hopeful. The Association furnished him with suitable clothing, found him employment, gave him a bible, and urged him to read it.

No. 6. Called, out of situation, and said what to do he knew not; he had been discharged from prison three months, since which he has had but nine days' work; he was forced to leave his boarding house yesterday, and has had nothing to eat since. Temporary assistance was rendered him until work was provided.

No. 7. Left Sing Sing prison three months since. He was con-

victed of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced for two years. He says drink produced all his troubles. He was turned out of a liquor store, half drunk, late at night, broke into the same store, was detected and punished. To avoid other difficulties, he vows he will never touch, taste or handle strong drink again. He says his wife is sick, and their distress is very great. The Association lent them various sums to alleviate their pressing necessities, and soon provided him work, when he returned the money loaned. He is now sober, industrious, and doing as well as most working men.

No. 8. Had been in the city prison for several weeks awaiting trial, on charge of attempt at burglary. The grand jury dismissed the complainant, and he was discharged. The Association advanced him a trifling sum which enabled him to reach his friends in the country.

No. 9. Was six months in the penitentiary, on charge of petit larceny; he says he should not have found fault had he been guilty, but he was not. He was advised in future, to avoid every appearance of evil. He promised this. We supplied his temporary wants.

No. 10. Calls and says he is just from the Island; the three months there he hopes will never be forgotten. He can get nothing to do; had he the means to reach Orange county, he could get permanent work with his brother. The Association improved his appearance, and enabled him to reach the place designated.

No. 11. Says he received some pecuniary assistance three years since, when he left Sing Sing prison, after being there two years, on a charge of forgery. He represents that he is now out of employment, and wanting the commonest necessities of life. His immediate wants were supplied, when he was introduced to a member of the Association, who gave him employment.

No. 12 says he shall feel grateful to the Association could they provide him a place of work. He had been six months on the Island, and would never get there again. He was supplied with a pair of new boots, drawers, shirts, socks, hat, and a trifle of money. Work was speedily found him. He has often called to thank the Association.

No. 13 was convicted of grand larceny, on her own confession, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years and three months.

She had lived with a respectable family. On one occasion she was invited to a ball. The daughter of the lady with whom she lived was from home, when she took from a drawer a broach, merely

to wear to this gathering. On her return home, after midnight, her cousin insisted on having said broach, and playfully took it with him. Before it could be restored it was missed. The girl left the house, and repaired to the house of her cousin, but he was at his employment. On her way thither an officer pursued and arrested her. She told her story with truthfulness and without pervarication. The cousin was found. He admitted having the article; was arrested, and subsequently discharged.

This poor girl called at the office, with a letter of recommendation from the matron and chaplain. A situation was immediately found for her with a family connected with the Association. She is doing very well.

No. 14 says he was sent to the penitentiary without cause; the justice was influenced by the complainant, who was manifestly prejudiced against him. He begs the Association to furnish him with clothes and a trifle of money, to enable him to reach Westchester county. The case was regarded as very hopeful. We gave him a shirt, hat, boots, and a trifle, which enabled him to appear pretty decent amongst his friends.

No. 15, convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to the State prison for three years, calls at our office, when released, and says he shall feel very thankful could means be devised to send him away on a farm. A minister, interested in his behalf, also calls representing that it would be a favor conferred on the family, and especially on the young man, to procure him such a place. Providence appeared just then to open the way for the Association to comply with the request made without delay. Such a disposition of him was effected. We have since heard he is doing well.

No. 16 calls to present his grateful acknowledgments to the Association for the interest shown in his behalf when arraigned in court on charge of grand larceny. He was sent to the penitentiary for six months, and but for our timely interposition he might now be in Sing Sing. He promises to show his thanks by the honesty of his life. The Association took him by the hand, and helped him.

No. 17 was convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years. He says he was used well in prison by his keeper; came out three months since; went to ———, hoping to obtain permanent employ, but was doomed to disappointment; had no opportunity to return to New York; he finds himself in want; he was introduced to a kind-hearted man, who gave him work.

The Association lent him twenty shillings to pay one week's board, and supplied him with overalls, &c. He is now doing well.

No. 18 was charged with an attempt at grand larceny. The authorities were convinced that he had labored under some hallucination, produced by drinking a quantity of brandy, to which he was unaccustomed. Judgment was suspended, and he was discharged. The Association advanced him a sum sufficient to carry him home to his friends, for which he expressed his hearty thanks.

Some time subsequent to his release from prison, the following letter was addressed to the Association:

Dear sir—To you I feel so sensibly indebted, I know not how to express my thanks for the kind interest you have taken in my unfortunate son. You have not only saved him from ruin, but spared the feelings of an affectionate mother. To your mind, this will be a reward. I trust he will return to that position in society I once hoped to see him adorn. My recollections of him will ever be accompanied by my prayers for your health and happiness, and with feelings of sincere gratitude,

I remain, yours, truly obliged,

No. 19 was tried and convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to State prison for three years and six months. He says: "My employer charged me with stealing from him \$100 in money, and a gold watch and chain. Most solemnly do I declare I never had the money he says he lost. I believe he did not own a gold watch at the time. I served out the whole term of my sentence; was once showered. I hope I shall avoid such trouble in the future. My object in calling upon the Association is to procure employment. I wrote to you (with permission of the Inspectors), some weeks since. If you will but procure me work, I promise to live a sober, honest, industrious life."

Work was found him on a farm. The Association furnished him with suitable clothing, a bible, and money sufficient to pay for his ticket. We have had a good account of him.

No. 20 had been confined three months in the county jail, on charge of petit larceny. He had heard of the Association when there, and resolved to call and confer with its agent. He says he was not guilty of the alleged petty theft. He wishes to know could he obtain damages for false imprisonment. He was advised to abandon the idea altogether. It was best for him diligently to apply himself to honest industry, to avoid bad associations, and at once to acquire better habits, and become a better man. The

Association was enabled to send him into the country, where he is doing well.

No. 21. Had been in the penitentiary the last six months, on charge of stealing a coat; he left yesterday. He says: My father and mother died when I was very young; since then I have had no one to care for me. I learned no trade, and have been sadly put to it; my days have been evil and bitter; often hungry, no home, no school, no hope. My life has been a miserable one; but few kind words were ever spoken to me, so that often I cared but little what would become of me, or how things went. I was sent often to the penitentiary for petit larceny. I did not steal from choice, but, as I thought, from dire necessity. When I left the prison yesterday, I felt as though I should like to avoid going there again; I hence came to you. Please find me some work that I may be driven to steal no more. I feel that I would rather go into a workhouse than be dishonest. We advised him to leave New York; he went to another State, where he met with employment, and a humane employer. We hope he may do better, but our hope is not unmixed with fear.

No. 22. Had been in prison awaiting his trial, on charge of grand larceny. The witness could not be found; after being in custody for sixteen weeks, he was discharged. The Association improved his miserable condition. We were out of clothes at the time, but a member of the Association kindly sent us, for his use, a suit of clothes, when a situation was obtained for him; he appeared thankful, and promised to do well.

No. 23. Was convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced to Sing Sing for three years. He says: I was used pretty well. I have no desire to find fault with the prison or the officers. I was guilty of the offense, and it was not the first, and I deserved all I suffered. I had bad companions, and my habits were wrong and strong. On my discharge, after serving out the whole term, I repaired to the home of my mother. I found her sick, and in great poverty. My poor father had lived a life of intemperance; he now reaps what he had been sowing for years; he hindered the family seriously. The authorities sent him to the Island. I am now a burden to her; she is now in deep poverty, and that makes me very unhappy. Do pray get me some work, and I promise to live a life of honesty. He was provided with work, where he performed his part well.

No. 24. Was tried, and convicted of stealing a gold watch, and \$100 in money, and sentenced to Sing Sing for five years. He

says he was not guilty; his unfortunate wife committed the theft, of which he had no knowledge until after his arrest. To avoid bringing her into a similar predicament, he carried the whole of the burden himself, and suffered the punishment. He received four dollars when he left the prison. He now calls on the Association to provide employment for him away in the country, where there is no danger of his being spotted, and where he could feel safe and happy. We were enabled to comply with his request; he has since shipped and gone to the coast of Africa.

No. 25. Had spent four years and nine months in State prison, on charge of grand larceny, he says: This was my first offense, and I hope it will prove to be my last. I left the prison Saturday; I want work, and was advised to call on the Association. Please get me any sort of work by which I can earn an honest living, and you shall see that I am an honest, upright man. He was not in the office five minutes when a situation was offered him, which he gratefully accepted. He is now at work, cheerful and hopeful, looking forward to the time when the blot on his character shall disappear.

No. 26. Was charged with grand larceny. She had been help in many respectable families; on this occasion, she had found a sum of money secreted in the house; the same she had stolen; was arrested, and sentenced to Sing Sing for two years and nine months; she left to-day. She said this was her first offense; her object in calling at our office was to secure a place; she promised never to commit another dishonest act. She received three dollars and forty cents when she left; we sent her to the house of a friend; a situation was obtained for her within two days. We lent her a trifle to obtain necessary garments, and have strong hope concerning her, that she will not be guilty of a repetition of wrong.

No. 27. Was tried and convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to state prison for three years in 1854. I served out every hour of my sentence. I was sixteen years old when sentenced. He says: I trust the time I have spent in prison will not be wholly lost. About two years since, my mind and feelings experienced a great change. This was produced, I think, by reading Baxter's Saint's Rest; from that time, I trust I have some serious concern for my soul's salvation. From that time, I have acquired moral strength, and I purpose, the Lord being my keeper, to cleave to Him with purpose of heart. I beg the Association to find some employment for me. This interesting young man soon obtained employment, and unto this date is doing well.

No. 28. Had spent one year in the penitentiary, on charge of

stealing. He calls on the Association, and says he served out his term; he comes out without home, money or friends. He has an offer of constant work, with a respectable merchant in —, could he reach that city. We obtained for him a free passage, and supplied him with suitable clothing, and a trifle to sustain him for a few days there. He appeared to feel very grateful for the aid and assistance rendered him by the Association.

No. 29 was convicted, on his own confession, of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for three years and ten months.

He says: I served out the whole term. I do not think that punishments produce reformation. I hope and believe that my mind has been more healthily employed the last two years than before. I have read and thought more than I used to do. I now honestly desire, and fervently pray, the great Teacher will daily give me more strength, and a willing heart, that I may fear and love Him. I humbly hope to be kept in the right path, and that I shall be finally saved.

We were instrumental in sending him away in the country, where we know he is doing well.

The Association regards this case as one of unusual interest, and are delighted with the result thus far.

No. 30 had been in the penitentiary the last three months for an alleged assault and battery.

He says he went to the theater; took three glasses of liquor; saw double; felt ugly; struck an officer; was arrested and sent up. Forgive me this once; I will do so no more.

The Association enabled him to reach the residence of his friends by steamboat. He appeared to feel very thankful for the timely aid afforded him.

No. 31 was arraigned in court of General Sessions, on an indictment for felonious assault and battery with intent to kill. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to Sing Sing for five years.

He says: I was a seaman all my life, and came from Liverpool. The quarrel between me and the complainant began ten years since. We had not met since, until on this occasion, when the old feelings, so long smothered, again revived. The conflict was certainly a rough one. We were both terribly punished. It is well we did not kill each other. I have no fault to find with the prison. I am not in love with it, rely on my word. I shall try hard to avoid it in future.

He was influenced by the Association to visit Rev. Chas. Jones,

of the Mariner's church, who kindly introduced him to a decent boarding house, where no liquor is kept or sold. Previous to his leaving us, we administered to him the temperance pledge. On the following day he visited the Association again, and under the influence of very excited and ugly feelings. He had been to see the person who had charge of his clothing, most of which had been stolen. He threatened to kill the man by whom he had been robbed, wherever he met him. We found it difficult to divert him from his purpose. The next day he comes to see us again, and, as he says, a very different and altered man. At a prayer meeting last night, it seemed to him as though the Almighty had come down and cut him up fore and aft. For the first time in his life he felt afraid of the black book, death and hell. He wept as he never wept before. After this, he felt all was peace. He now forgave every one. He hoped never to forget the change. We got him shipped. He is doing well.

No. 32 was convicted of grand larceny, on her own confession, and sentenced for two years to Sing Sing prison.

She says: This was my first offense. There is, I feel, one advantage to be derived from confinement in a prison. We have time to think, to contrast the past with the present, and whilst we are forced away from our old companions and bad habits, we may, if led and strengthened by good moral influences, purpose to do well in the future. I cannot say that I am changed by religious principles; yet I think I have undergone some sort of change for the better.

The Association provided her a situation, where she secured the approval of the entire family. Her conduct was unobjectionable.

No. 33 had spent two years in the State prison, for an alleged grand larceny. He worked in the file shop; was not showered or punished for bad conduct whilst there; he tried to behave well, and this job was easy, as there was no rum to be had. But for liquor he never would have been sent to prison. He says the mate was more in fault than himself. They came into port on Tuesday at noon. Some of the passengers went on shore, leaving their baggage in the cabins. During the evening I saw the mate examining a small trunk, at the same time taking out several small articles; a few of the least value he gave to me. On the following morning there was a great noise about the missing property, when the mate handed me \$10 to leave the ship. I was arrested in Water street, and subsequently tried and punished.

The Association introduced him to a gentleman who procured him a ship.

No. 34, from the penitentiary, says three months there has taught him something. He thinks he shall never respect himself again. He feels there is about a prison that which degrades a man. It was my first visit; I swear it shall be the last.

The Association provided him with work.

No. 35 was convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced for three months to the penitentiary. He says: Could my poor mother have seen me there in a convict's dress, sworn at, cowed and in every way disgraced, she would have almost wept blood.

The Association sent him to work in the country.

No. 36 calls on the Association, expressing a strong desire to reach his friends, 150 miles in the country. He says he some time since lost his wife; he was very much distressed in mind, and sought solace in the bottle. Under its influence he was charged with stealing a watch from a man sleeping in the same room he had occupied. The watch was found upon him. He has tried to excuse himself since, that he was drunk and scarcely responsible for his conduct. He now regrets the cause and its effects, promising to abstain from their use absolutely and altogether.

The Association were enabled to get him a free passage home.

No. 37 was an inmate of the State prison two years and six months, for an alleged grand larceny. He says the complainant and himself were on terms of great intimacy. The attempt was of a very trifling character. The court was unnecessarily severe, and especially as his old friend had no desire to see him punished.

He applies to the Association, asking them to assist him to reach Fall river. This we accomplished.

No. 38 and 39 were each convicted of grand larceny, stealing clothing valued at \$30, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years. They served out the term, and secured the approbation of the matron and officers of the prison.

The one calls on the Association to say that she shall feel unfeignedly thankful for the loan of a few dollars, to enable her to buy a stove and other little articles, that she and her friend may commence house-keeping. She has two little boys in the Nursery, and cannot now live (as she says) without them.

The Association rendered them as much pecuniary aid as their resources would admit. Their conduct since their release has been uniformly good.

No. 39 was employed by a family to do a day's washing, a few weeks since. In the act of walking down a flight of basement

stairs backwards, with a kettle of boiling water, fell, drawing it after her. She was so seriously scalded as to render it necessary to convey her to the hospital. After great suffering for three weeks, she expired.

No. 40 was aided by the Association some months since. He calls this morning to say he is now on board ship; that he has reformed, and especially under the christian influence of Rev. C. J. Jones, since which he has paid most of his old debts, and will pay the Association what they kindly lent him. He says he felt it his duty to call and say this much.

No. 41. Was discharged from prison in June, 1852, after spending two years on a charge of burglary in the third degree. He has since married, and has a family of two children. On the whole, he has much to be grateful for. He is a stone cutter by trade, but now out of employment; he has crawled along until now—want drives, or he would not be here to-day. His family need food, and he knew of none so likely to help him as the Association. We expressed our utter inability to help him, as his circumstances required. He felt as though he had some strong claim on us; the State having placed at our disposal, as he had been led to believe, a large fund for the relief of discharged convicts. We found it a difficult task to remove this erroneous impression.

The Association advanced him several small sums to keep his family from threatened starvation, until business improved.

No. 42. Was convicted, on his own confession, of grand larceny, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison two years. He says he was seventeen years old when arrested; this was my first offense, and I should not have committed this, but that the complainant induced me to drink three glasses of brandy with him. He requested me to fetch him a bottle of brandy, and desired me to take a gold dollar from his pants that were hanging up. I found there a handful of gold coin, and helped myself; was arrested, helplessly drunk, next morning, with a portion of the money in my possession. We both lived in the same house, and boarded together. I regret the past, and hope to do better. The Association provided him with employment.

No. 43. Had been tried and convicted of petit larceny, and sentenced by the court of special sessions for six months to the penitentiary. When taken back to the Tombs, previous to the arrival of the (Maria) conveyance, she expressed her surprise at the decision and verdict of the court, but she evinced great anxiety that she should lose her furniture, worth, as she represented,

at least \$200; as there was no one being left to take care of it: She begged the matron to befriend her, and to take charge of it; at this moment, the runner or messenger of the prison appeared, and offered to see to her goods, and fetch them to the matron. It was deemed most prudent to permit her to go to her home, in the custody of an officer of the establishment, that she might supervise the packing of said furniture, &c. On the following day she was sent to the penitentiary, but with her mind much relieved, believing her furniture would be safe in the care of the matron. On her release from prison, after the expiration of her sentence, she applied to the matron for her property, but it was not there; the messenger had failed to convey it hither. He was seen, but denied having it. Under these circumstances, she was recommended to call on the Association. The case was brought before justice Welsh, and a search warrant was placed in the hands of an officer, and the furniture removed to a room adjoining the police court. Witnesses testified to such facts as induced the judge to order the furniture to be given up to the complainant, and the defendant to be held to answer in bonds of \$500.

This case was taken by counsel before one of the judges of the supreme court, who granted a writ of certiorari, returnable before the city judge. His Honor heard the case at the Chambers, and rendered the following decision:

I have examined all the affidavits and warrant issued against the within named Edward Smith, for grand larceny, and find that no legal offense has been committed by him; the most that can be said is, that it is a private fraud, and as such, is not an indictable offense. I therefore direct that the said Edward Smith be discharged from said complaint, and his recognizance, if any, be cancelled.

A. D. RUSSELL.

New York, Feb. 13, 1858.

Although the Association was not successful in returning the whole of the property belonging to this unfortunate woman, it was instrumental in preventing a wholesale *private fraud*, as he was compelled to give up that portion of the furniture found in his possession, and which had been so surreptitiously obtained.

The woman expressed her warmest thanks for the interest shown by the Association in her behalf.

This same messenger was detected by the Association, through its agent, in extorting \$50 from a prisoner, under the promise of providing him bail, and securing his discharge. The district attorney was consulted, and there being an indisposition on the

part of the prisoner and his wife to appear against him, it was deemed advisable to regard it as a private fraud.

No. 44. Had spent six months in the penitentiary for an alleged assault and battery, on complaint of his wife. He says he had been married to her for thirteen years; the first eleven years were passed pretty comfortable, but not so the last two years. She had a son by a former husband, and he was unsteady. At length he went on a whaling voyage. She looked for his return with great delight. He did return, and was welcomed to our home and hearts. He told his mother one of the owners was from home, and consequently his wages could not be paid then, that he would be paid off on his going back to New Bedford. After staying with us two weeks, he left us for the avowed purpose of going for the money due him, which was \$350. That sum he promised to loan to us to commence a small business. We expected him to return within a few days, but we saw him no more. Several letters were written him, and the only intelligence sent us was, that he had received his pay and had left. His mother was nigh broken-hearted; she sought solace in the bottle, and became a sot; and whilst I was in the penitentiary, she died drunk. When I was released, I repaired to my home, and nearly every article of furniture had been sold by my two little boys, who managed to live on the proceeds. When all was gone, and they were in want, the younger was sent to Randall's Island. My elder boy was out of employment. We are to-day without bread or means to procure it. The Association rendered him assistance until he obtained employment.

No. 45 calls, on his discharge from Sing Sing prison, after serving out a sentence of two years. He says, one night, after going to the theater, he, accompanied by two other youths, went to a drinking saloon. During the night they were all arrested on charge of burglary; twenty-four bottles of champagne, a few cigars and two pistols had been stolen. They were tried and convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced, the younger to the House of Refuge, the elder to State prison for two years and three months, and myself for two years. He worked in the file shop.

He says he feels very sorry for his past conduct. His father and mother died whilst he was in prison. He has no doubt but his vices and crimes broke his poor mother's heart, and the grey hairs of his suffering father were brought with sorrow to the grave.

He seems penitent for the past, and resolutely determined to avoid every evil way, and especially the theater, drinking saloons, and bad company.

The history of this poor erring boy, and the mental anguish of his whole family—the result of his wandering from the right path—were familiar to the Association.

We have the greatest confidence in this youth's determination to do well. He soon obtained a situation, and now conducts himself with uniform propriety; but a vivid sense of his past faults, and their consequences to his family, are eating, like a canker, at his heart's core; hence he cannot live out half his days. Poor youth, may his end be peace.

No. 46 was convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for three years.

He says he was born in Brooklyn; his mother died when he was young; he had no one to care for him then; he became wild and reckless; he left New York with the intention of going on a whaling voyage; in Sag Harbor he was found drunk; under its influence they say the burglary was committed.

"When I left the prison this morning, with six dollars and eighty cents to begin the world anew, I resolved to come without delay to the office of the Association, hoping you will provide me employment. I was induced, three months since, to give my heart to God. To-day I still purpose, by the divine blessing, to abstain from the very appearance of evil. At once, if the church will accept me, I will present myself as a member, earnestly praying that I may be enabled by the grace of God, to adorn the doctrine of God, my Savior, in all things."

This case we regarded with some hopes. He was introduced to a christian minister, and subsequently to employment. He is now doing well, and striving to be useful.

No. 47 says he left the penitentiary this morning, after being there four months, on charge of stealing a ham. Want of work drove him to great suffering; he was very hungry, and had asked for food, "but no man gave unto him;" he stole the ham, and would have taken an hundred just then.

The Association urged him to cease to do evil. His wants were relieved, and he was sent into the country.

No. 48 was convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced, by the recorder, to State prison for three years.

He calls to-day on the Association, and says this was not his first offence; he had been a wicked, disorderly boy. His mother died when he was an infant, and his father was a drunkard. Some people say there is no place like home, but his was a very wretched

one. Often was he driven to a rum hole, or a theater, where he could be kept warm and forget his miseries. He never went to school; he says he has learned more the last three years than he ever learned in his whole life. When he was restored to liberty, he hastened on to —, where he obtained work until the 24th of December last, when he was discharged, the business being dull.

He calls now on the Association, and asks to be sent to Pennsylvania, confidently believing he can there obtain employment. Through a kind friend he was sent on, as desired.

No. 49, on her own confession, was convicted and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years, on charge of grand larceny.

She says she could not at present return to her native town. The matron advised her to throw herself on the sympathy and protection of the Prison Association.

She was placed in a situation without delay, at \$5 per month. There she behaved well; was sober, honest and industrious. Her wages she kept until she possessed the means to reach her home. The Association wrote to her friends. They invited and urged her return, promising her a hearty welcome.

No. 50 was convicted of forgery in the fourth degree. He being a youth, and evidently inexperienced in crime, the Association wrote to his former employers in a distant city. They certified to his good conduct whilst he was in their employ. These letters were submitted to the court, which influenced the recorder to be lenient towards him. Instead of sending him to State prison, he was sent to the penitentiary for twelve months.

He calls on us now to present his sincere thanks for being instrumental in saving him from the brand of a Sing Sing convict, and to say he hopes to avoid bad company in the future; then shall he be able to look after his best interests.

We advised his immediate return to his home, to the residence of his parents, and especially as they knew not of his disgrace. He reluctantly, and yet thankfully, availed himself of a free passage, after the Association had clothed him decently. His greatest fear was to meet his mother.

No. 51, on his own confession, was convicted of grand larceny. He was sentenced for two years to Sing Sing prison.

He says, up to this time he was regarded as a young man of high moral tone. He had lent money to a man whom he believed to be honest, but in the end he found, to his bitter experience, that his hard earnings were all lost—he had cajoled him out of the sum he had lent. In a paroxysm of anger, he went and took

some property which he believed to have been purchased with his money, and for which he was punished.

This young man was enabled, by the Association, to go west, and is now doing well.

No. 52. Was convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced to State prison for two years. This young man calls on the Association, after the expiration of his sentence, and asks pecuniary aid, by which means he may be enabled to go south. He is the son pious parents, members and officers of a christian church. He says if he had followed their counsels and examples, all would have been well; but he despised remonstrance and reproof, and formed evil associations, which brought him to ruin. He regrets the past, and pledges himself to avoid the first step in the wrong direction. The Association advanced him the sum, required to enable him to reach the place named. It is our happiness to know that he is now doing well.

No. 53. Calls on the Association, and says: I was tried and convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced to state prison for ten years. After being a prisoner nearly three years, the judge who tried me was convinced of my innocence—like a just judge, he immediately applied to the executive to pardon me. I was released, and although only an act of justice, I feel thankful to our good governor. My object in calling, he says, on the Association, is to beg of them, if it be possible, to send me on to Massachusetts. He was introduced to the chairman of the executive board, who happened at that moment to enter the office. He was instrumental in sending him on at a reduced fare, and which he himself paid.

No. 54. Was convicted of assault and battery, with intent to do some bodily harm, and sentenced to Sing Sing for two years and six months. I shall never forget that my sentence was a very severe one. Drink was the cause of this quarrel; my prosecutor abused me most shamefully. Whether he struck me first I know not, but in the muzz, I threw a pitcher at him. I think the punishment inflicted by the court on me should have been divided between us, that would most certainly be fair play. He says I now resolve to drink no more liquor; then I expect never to find myself in such a miserable plight again. The Association were enabled to put this man to work, and he is now doing well.

No. 55. Was sentenced to state prison for two years; he so conducted himself there, as to secure the approval of all the officers. He says he was guilty of grand larceny, but that it was his first

offense; he seems sincere in his purposes, that it shall be the last. He doubted the truths of the bible until the last fifteen months; should nothing more result from his being confined in a prison, he thinks his change of mind will more than compensate for all he has suffered, and that was considerable. The Association furnished him with suitable garments, then sent him into the country, and introduced him to employment.

No. 56. Was convicted of two burglaries, and sentenced to state prison for twenty-one years. He served out every hour of his sentence. He says he is a shoemaker by trade. On the evening of these robberies, a man, an entire stranger, came into his house to get his boots temporarily repaired, and whilst I was at work upon them, he talked of the difficulties of the laboring poor, and the selfishness of the rich, until I was envious and nearly crazy; being very poor at that time, the result of several losses and other circumstances. When the boots were repaired he put them on, and then urged me to go out and take a drink. I complied; we took several glasses. On our return, he said, "I am going to raise the wind;" he asked me to accompany him; we walked until twelve o'clock, when he showed me what he was about to do. I went with him, and we did the jobs one after the other, but we were arrested, tried and sentenced for twenty-one years. I was used tolerably well during the long term of my severe punishment. This was my first offense. I am now on my way to —, but my baggage is at the pier, and they demand of me \$3.25 as freight, and I have not enough to pay it. My poor, faithful wife has gone on; what shall I do. The freight agent was seen, and the circumstances partially told him, and he kindly permitted him to take away his baggage. The Association then rendered him some pecuniary help, and he went on his way, not rejoicing, (for he never will rejoice again,) but thankful that he had found a friend in his need. The poor fellow cannot last long.

No. 57. Aged seventeen, was sentenced to the state prison, on charge of grand larceny, for two years and three months. He behaved well, and escaped extra punishment. He says had he remained in Germany, he must have served in the army, and that to him was most horrible. And then he had heard of the great prosperity of this country, "that gold grew thick on every tree," that labor was abundant, &c. His friends enabled him to pay his passage. When he arrived, (a friend from his native town came with him,) they possessed but \$4.00 each to

begin the work. Some decent looking man, with a board on their arrival, and offered to conduct them to a boarding house. After being there three days, their money was all gone. Having a good stock of clothes in their chests, they were permitted to remain the next four days, when they were unceremoniously put out, but their trunks were kept as a security for their board. They soon began to be in want; his friend was taken sick and went to Belevue. I was desperately put to it; under this trial. I saw a watch hanging up in a liquor store, and my necessities urged me to take it. I yielded to the temptation, was arrested and punished. I hope never to be in such distress again, for no one knows what he would do when in such a condition, without home, money or friends. The Association deeply sympathized with this youth; all the circumstances were known to them. His story was true to the letter. Employment was provided for him, and he is now doing well; we have a confident hope he will yet live to be respected, and become respectable.

No. 58 was tried and convicted of assault and battery with intent to kill, and sentenced to Sing Sing for seven years.

He worked in shoo shop whilst there. His hand was caught in the machinery, two of his fingers and a portion of his thumb and hand were torn off, and he disabled for life.

He calls here to-day and says he received a severe punishment for the offense; but for strong drink it never could have happened. At a liquor store he and several others quarrelled; from words they went to blows, when he found himself on the ground or floor, and two men whipping him. He drew out his knife and cut one of them, for which he was punished for seven long years. He comes out to-day, after a long captivity, with \$4, a crushed and almost ruined man.

The Association labored industriously to find him work, but were unsuccessful, he being crippled in the hand. A trifle of money was advanced him, and subsequently a hand cart was furnished him. He is now peddling and doing comfortably. He often calls to show himself, and express his grateful thanks for what has been done for him.

No. 59, when fifteen years of age, and in this country but a few weeks, a stranger to the English language, was induced by one of his own countrymen to leave the work in which he was then engaged, and go to live with him, on promise of doing better for him. He accompanied this bad fellow to commit a burglary. They were both taken, tried and sentenced to Sing Sing prison,

the elder one eleven years, and the boy thirteen years and six months, and the girl being there nine years and four months the latter was pardoned. He now has employment, and is hard at work and doing well.

No. 60 was charged with grand larceny. When arraigned she could not speak English, and was advised to plead guilty, not knowing the consequence of such a plea. The simple artlessness of this young woman, with an infant in her arms, excited the sympathy of all who saw her. The judge had no alternative but to sentence her to Sing Sing prison for two years.

After she had been consigned to prison, some doubts arose in the minds of several persons connected with the court, of her guilt. All the facts were collected and submitted to the Governor. Subsequently the District Attorney wrote a strong letter in her behalf, which reflected credit to his head and heart. When the application was again urged, Executive clemency was bestowed upon her.

She called on the Association, with many tears expressing her unfeigned thanks to those friends who had thought of her and procured her restoration to liberty. The Association wrote to her husband, who was at a remote distance from this city, informing him of the pardon. He sent \$30, praying she might be sent on to him.

Her child, aged sixteen months, taken from her when she was sentenced, and sent to Mrs. Callack, (to be nursed), by the ten governors, we ascertained died of consumption. This was a sad blow to this suffering woman; her mental anguish was apparently insupportable.

The Association were enabled to collect her furniture together, which was sent on after her. She left New York and regained her husband. We trust she may recover her health and cheerfulness, but fear concerning her.

No. 61 was convicted of receiving stolen goods.

She was born in Ireland; came to this country; married a very intemperate man, a tailor. This foolish step induced all her family to discard her. She says her husband's intemperate habits brought on an incurable disease. Whilst he was in the hospital, his sister called in one day with a basket, and requested to leave it with her for a few days. She had taken its contents out and placed them in a drawer. When she went to market she used the basket, which was recognized by a gentleman. An officer was called; she refused to tell how it came into her possession; her

place was searched, and the clothing found and identified by the person now her prosecutor.

After spending two years in Sing Sing, she calls on the Association. A situation was soon provided for her, where she is doing well. The family think highly of her, and have increased her wages.

Her husband and two of her children died whilst she was in prison,

No. 62 was convicted of burglary in the third degree, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years.

He says this was his first offense. He was out of work and in want, or he would not have done this wrong act. We advised him, on his release, to leave New York. The Association obtained for him a free passage to ———, where we hear he is hard at work and doing well. Two shirts and suitable working clothes were furnished him.

No. 63 was tried and convicted of arson in the third degree, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for seven years. He served out the whole term.

He says: I was used pretty well, on the whole. I had hoped to procure a pardon from the Executive, not only because the jury strongly recommended me to mercy, but because I was not guilty of the crime for which I was punished. I am a married man, and have one child, nine years old, I hope to see him tomorrow. My wife, with whom I had lived for more than three years on terms of reciprocal affection, visited me but once while I was an inmate of the prison. I know nothing of her now. My apprehensions are excited about her.

This poor unfortunate fellow felt disposed and determined to return to his former place of residence, there to live and show that he was not guilty of the alleged offense. He is now employed, with-cheering prospects for the future.

No. 64 calls on the Association, and asks the loan of \$2, to enable him to reach the country, where he feels certain of getting employment, and having relatives there. He left the penitentiary this morning, after being confined three months, for an alleged assault and battery. He says he came to New York to find work; went into a saloon to get a drink, where he was grossly insulted by a drunken man. He punished him for it; he richly deserved the whipping he received; "but," he adds, "I think it best to avoid all such places. I will cease to drink, and keep away from saloons." The Association enabled him to reach the country.

No. 65 was convicted, on his own confession, of an attempt of grand larceny. The complainant recommended him to the mercy of the court, and for these reasons: The stolen property had all been restored; it was his first offense; he had manifested great penitence for the wrong done, and would, it was confidently hoped, never be guilty of another dishonest act.

In this case the Association had shown an active interest; hence he was sentenced to the City prison for three months only.

After his release the following letter was received from him:

To the Agent of the Prison Association:

Dear sir—Allow me to address you a few lines respecting the late unfortunate era of my life. You are aware that I wickedly lost sight of the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," and that I yielded to the temptation, and appropriated property of my employers to my own use, for which offense I was justly committed to prison, there to await trial on a charge of grand larceny, but which, through their means, was so modified as to allow me to plead to an attempt, for which I sincerely thanked them. But to you, my dear sir, are my heartfelt thanks due, for your untiring exertions in my behalf. But for your efforts I should most probably have been an inmate of the State prison, instead of being allowed to breathe the FREE, pure, fresh air of heaven. Oh, how many reasons have I to be thankful to Him, "from whom no secrets are hid," that in my utmost need he caused me to find in you such a firm and steadfast friend!

But though free from prison, my punishment is not yet over. It is difficult at the present time even for those who have the best of characters to procure situations. How much more difficult for the man who has just emerged from prison, a bankrupt, both in character and reputation? Did but one-half of those on the verge of crime, reflect and picture to their mind's eye the ultimate consequences of such a false step, there would, I think, be fewer candidates for our prisons. I trust by God's help I have profited in more things than one by my indiscretion.

The only way I can show my gratitude for your past kindness, is by a strong determination throughout my future life to do right. And now accept the thanks and blessings of myself, my wife, my child, and rest assured, that in our supplications to "the Most High," your name is not forgotten. May the blessings of God rest upon you and yours, and prosper you in your noble work, and grant that in your journey through life, you may enjoy more happiness than generally falls to the lot of man. And when your

race is run, may you be gathered in peace to the bosom of Him who said, "I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me," is the sincere and fervent prayer of

Dear Sir, gratefully yours,

No. 66. Was convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to Sing Sing for two years. After serving out the whole term, she was discharged, and under the advice of the matron, she calls on the Association, begging we would procure her a situation. Her case was regarded as of a very hopeful character, and we assisted her in procuring decent clothing, &c., and promptly provided her a place with an excellent family. She is doing very well.

No. 67. Was arraigned in the court of general sessions, on charge of grand larceny; stealing thirty-five dollars. The use of strong drink had induced her to commit this larceny. She refused to plead; was tried and sentenced for three years to Sing Sing prison. She calls at our office on her discharge, expressing her sorrow for the past, and a determination to avoid the rock on which she had so fatally wrecked. We obtained a place for her away in the country. She is industrious and consistent, and will continue to do well all the time she abstains from drink.

No. 68. Calls on the Association to say he was discharged from Sing Sing prison in October last, since which he has worked on a farm. Three weeks since he was induced to come to New York. Here he obtained work up to last Saturday, when some one told his employer that he had been in Sing Sing prison, and he was paid off and discharged. We advised him to leave the city and never return; he adopted our advice, and we enabled him to leave forthwith.

No. 69. Was arrested in New York, and tried for grand larceny, was convicted, and sentenced to Sing Sing prison for two years. On his release, he calls on the Association, and says he is a shoemaker by trade; his business was injurious to his health. His wife sickened and died; then all seemed to go wrong. He was unable to follow his trade; he gave it up and engaged to work on a canal boat at twenty-two dollars per month. He worked the season, five months, when he was discharged. My employer represented that he could not pay me all my wages, it having been an unprofitable season, and he wished me to throw off thirty dollars from the balance then due me, which was eighty-five dollars. I refused, and commenced suit against him for its

recovery. He put it off again and again, and at length it was referred by the court to a referee. I lost my wages. It drove me to despair, and I drank myself nearly mad. In one of these crazy fits, I jumped upon a saddled horse which had been fastened to a post in the street, and drove away. I sold the horse at the first place I reached, for sixty dollars, and spent the money I know not how. I was soon detected and punished. Trouble drove me to drink, and drink drove me to ruin and disgrace; but I am not without hope that it will work together for my good. Sir, I am an altered man; I have considered my ways. I am now sober, and by the help of God, will never touch the first drop of maddening drink. He was in a very bad state of health, and it was deemed most practicable to secure him, at least for a short time, admission to a hospital.

No. 70. Was convicted of grand larceny, on her own confession, and sentenced for two years to Sing Sing prison. She says: "When I first went to live at this place, my character was very good, and for several months it remained so, until I became very familiarly acquainted with one in the house whose habits were very bad. I soon followed that example, and especially as regards dress, and visiting those whose external appearance were superior to my own. My wages were inadequate to gratify my pride, hence I began to pilfer, and at length I was charged with stealing a gold watch and chain from my employer, valued at \$150, a silk dress pattern, and several other articles, and I was arrested, when the whole of the articles were restored except the gold watch.

The uniform practice of the Association is to ascertain of the accused, immediately on their arrest, the whereabouts of the stolen property, and, if possible, to influence its restoration. The interrogatory was put to this poor girl: Was not the watch restored? She replied, No. Did you pledge it? No. Did you in no way dispose of it? No. Then you must now have it. She wept and replied, I know where it is; I wish I had never taken it; I will never, no, never be guilty of such wickedness again. Are you sincere? she said, with copious tears. I am. Then fetch me that watch. She left our office and soon returned with it. It was our pleasure, on thanksgiving day, to restore the complainant his valuable gold watch. He appeared very much gratified, and thanked us very heartily.

We then suggested the propriety of making her some reward for this evidence of her contrition and reformation, and urged him, now that all his property had been restored, that he make

her some acknowledgment, and especially as such a step on his part, would encourage her in her purposes to do better. He conceded that she should be so rewarded, and promised to call. We have, subsequent to this interview, sent him the watch key, with a few lines reminding him of his engagement, but no reward as yet reached this office.

We are glad to hear testimony to the excellent character of this young woman since her discharge from prison. She resides with a family who are acquainted with her case and degradation, and who now delight to witness daily, her uniform, moral conduct. Her employers, when speaking of her, say, "would to God all our help everywhere were like her, except in her never to be forgotten and bitter experience of the past." Her reformation we believe is, and will manifest itself to be, of a very permanent character.

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

Your agent, in concluding his report, feels it to be his duty to acknowledge that the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God has crowned the feeble efforts of the Association with astonishing success, far beyond all expectation. It is our blessed privilege to labor faithfully in this work; and while we are doing the Lord a service, what pleasure do we ourselves experience in the knowledge of the fact that we have been, in His mercy, the humble instruments of raising up so many miserable creatures who were cast down. Let us then thank God and take courage.

With sentiments of high regard,

I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,

ABRAHAM BEAL.

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE I.

The objects of the Association shall be,

1. The amelioration of the condition of prisoners, whether detained for trial, or finally convicted, or as witnesses:

2. The improvement of prison discipline, and the government of prisons, whether for cities, or counties, or States:

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

ARTICLE II.

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

ARTICLE III.

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

ARTICLE IV.

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

ARTICLE V.

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

ARTICLE VI.

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

ARTICLE VII.

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

ARTICLE VIII.

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

ARTICLE IX.

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

ARTICLE X.

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

ARTICLE XI.

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

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

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

§ 3. The said executive committee shall have power to establish a work-house in the county of New York, and in their discretion to receive and take into the work-house all such persons as shall be taken up and committed as vagrants or disorderly persons, in said city, as the court of general sessions, of the peace, or the court of special sessions, or the court of oyer and terminer, in said county, or any police magistrate, or the commissioner of the almshouse, may deem proper objects; and the said executive committee shall have the same powers to keep, detain, employ and govern the said persons, as are now by law conferred on the keepers of the bridewell or penitentiary in said city.

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

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

§ 6. The said executive committee, by such committees as they shall from time to time appoint, shall have power, and it shall be their duty, to visit, inspect and examine, all the prisons in the State, and annually report to the Legislature, their state and condition, and all such other things in regard to them as may enable the Legislature to perfect their government and discipline. And to enable them to execute the powers and perform the duties hereby granted and imposed, they shall possess all the powers and authority, that by the twenty-fourth section of title first, chapter third, part fourth of the Revised Statutes, are vested in

the inspectors of county prisons; and the duties of the keepers of each prison that they may examine, shall be the same in relation to them as in the section aforesaid are imposed on the keepers of such prisons in relation to the inspectors thereof: *Provided*, that no such examination or inspection of any prison shall be made until an order for that purpose, to be granted by the chancellor of this State, or one of the judges of supreme court, or by a vice-chancellor or circuit judge, or by the first judge of the county in which the prison to be examined shall be situated, shall first have been had and obtained, which order shall specify the name of the prison to be examined, the names of the persons, members of the said Association, by whom the examination is to be made, and the time within which the same must be concluded,

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

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

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

By order of the Senate,

A. GARDNER, *President*.
STATE OF NEW YORK, }
In Assembly, April 24, 1846. }

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

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

By order of the Assembly.

Approved this 9th day of May, 1846. WM. C. CRAIN, *Speaker*.
SILAS WRIGHT.
STATE OF NEW YORK, }
Secretary's Office. }

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

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

[L. s.] ARCH'D CAMPBELL, *Dep. Sec. of State.*

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

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

BY-LAWS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. To receive and pay over to the treasurer of the society all moneys received, either as donations or for memberships.
2. To audit, and direct the payment of all bills against the society in such manner and forms as they shall direct, but no bill shall be paid by the treasurer unless approved by the committee and countersigned by the chairman thereof.
3. To invest and control the surplus moneys of the society, under the authority of the executive committee.

4. To have power, under the same authority, to employ one or more agents to obtain members and collect subscriptions to the society; and it shall be their duty to make a report, at each monthly meeting, of their proceedings and those of their agents.

5. To annually examine and report upon the treasurer's accounts, and to audit the same.

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

1. To enquire into the causes of commitment of all persons detained for trial, or as witnesses, in any of the prisons of the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and to adopt proper measures for procuring the discharge of such as shall appear to be entitled thereto.
2. To visit frequently the prisons under their charge, and to endeavor to improve the condition of the prisoners, by training them to habits of cleanliness and exercise; by securing to them comfortable accommodations, having a regard to space, light and temperature; by providing them with books, or other means of mental occupation; by securing such a separation and classification as shall preserve the young, the innocent, and the less hardened, from the contaminating intercourse of the more depraved; by obtaining for them honest and able legal advice; and generally, by bringing all practical, moral, and religious influence to operate upon their minds.

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

1. Under the authority of the executive committee to employ an agent for the relief and aid of discharged convicts, and for the performance of its daily routine of duties, whose place of business shall be at the general office of the Association.
2. To keep a record of all commitments to our State prisons, and New York and Kings county prisons, of the crime of which each person was convicted, of the date of his commitment and discharge, and all other important information thereto appertaining.
3. To open a correspondence with the prison agents or superintendents, relative to the character and trades of prisoners, and to ascertain previous to the discharge of each prisoner, his feelings, views and capabilities, with a view to making the best arrangements for his future employment.
4. To keep a record of all persons who will employ discharged prisoners, and of their several occupations; to procure employment for prisoners applying therefor, as seems best adapted to the capacity of each; to hold a correspondence with employers; to keep a record of the behavior and prospects of those for whom places are