

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

Prison Association of New York,

AND

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1871.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE MARCH 20, 1872.

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TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, FOR THE YEAR 1871.

PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK,
58 BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE,
NEW YORK, *March 20, 1872.* }

TO HON. HENRY SMITH,

Speaker of the Assembly:

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

Yours respectfully,

THEODORE W. DWIGHT,

Chairman of Executive Committee

Prison Association of New York.

ELISHA HARRIS,

Corresponding Secretary.

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 Rev. S. S. Benson, Troy, N. Y.
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 Thomas W. Croft, do.
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TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THE Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York, in accordance with a requirement of its charter, respectfully submits to the legislature a report of its work during the year 1871.

The Prison Association entered upon its twenty-seventh year deeply regretting the failure, or temporary delay, of the necessary legislation to provide a basis of permanent improvement in the prison system of the State. But in no respect has the Association relaxed the performance of the duties for which it was called into existence. The objects of its work, as set forth in the charter, have lost none of their interest and importance amidst all the changes of laws and of population in the State. These objects are:

- (1) The amelioration of the condition of prisoners.
- (2) The improvement of prison discipline and the government of prisons, whether of cities, counties, or the State.
- (3) The encouragement of reformed convicts, after their discharge from the prisons, by affording aid and guidance in obtaining an honest livelihood, and otherwise sustaining them in their efforts at reform.

In the performance of the duties mentioned in the first and third classes, the Association continues to maintain its special office with an agent and an assistant in the city of New York, and it has also endeavored to organize in each county in the State a local committee that will perform these classes of duties, whenever practicable, in connection with county prisons and penitentiaries. The Association's Committee upon Prison Discipline and that upon the Wants of Discharged Convicts, have in the past years steadily endeavored to secure the faithful performance of these duties to prisoners, and

to present to the legislature and the public whatever information the Association acquires in regard to the effects of treatment prescribed or received in the penal institutions, and in regard to the wants of released prisoners and the importance of reformatory and more effectually preventive agencies that need to be brought to bear against the causes of criminal and disorderly life.

The second class of duties of this Association continues to be the subject of unceasing inquiry and study; and it is obvious that whatever improvements are effected in the discipline and government of prisons and jails will correspondingly diminish the demands for the other kinds of effort here mentioned. But it is a lamentable fact that the system of penal administration in the State of New York is not adapted to secure any general or permanent improvement either in methods or reformatory and economical results. The improvement that may from time to time be witnessed in particular jails or any of the larger penal institutions, when under unusually able administrative hands, seldom lasts beyond the brief term of two or three years that such officials happen to be in authority.

The Prison Association is, by every year's experience, more and more deeply impressed with the necessity of establishing a more secure basis for a system of penal administration, in the State of New York, that shall most effectually repress crime, most judiciously utilize the penal and reformatory industries, and be in all respects worthy the social and political economy of an enlightened people. This association therefore renews its appeal to the legislature and the people for such an amendment of the State Constitution, and of the Statutes, in regard to prisons, as will permanently redeem them from the odium and evils now charged against them.

In the duty of ameliorating the condition of prisoners the Association has ever taken the business-like and humane view that the object of all imprisonment should be to secure obedience to law, protection to innocence, and repentance in the criminal. No sickly sensibility, or mere sentiment without principle, is allowed to enter into the counsels of the Association. It is always dealing with stern facts that are of great importance to public order and morality. In words found in the first document ever issued by this Association, the Executive Committee now calls attention to the fact that "to the innocent, we owe it that they should be protected against the contamination of vice, and, above all, against the dire necessity which oftentimes impels to crime as the only refuge from

starvation; to the irreclaimable, we owe it that they should be deprived of the means of preying upon society, and of spreading the contagion of their evil example . . . The third class, however, is that most deserving the regard of such a society, not merely because most numerous, but because here is to be found the germ from which, with proper cultivation, the green tree shall spring . . . To such let a new chapter in human life be opened. When the suffering which must follow the evil lives they have led shall awaken in them a due sense of their fall, and of the duty which they owe to themselves and society, let them be helped on in the path of reform, and let us, by our timely aid, convert the convicted felon into the honest man and the good citizen. To this class, particularly, let instruction be directed while in prison. . . To give them some training which shall furnish food for their minds and open to them new views of life, and of their duty to themselves and their fellows, which shall, by proper instruction, awaken in them new aspiration for virtue, is a high and solemn duty which society owes to itself, as well as to those its erring members."

Prison life and prison discipline that are not directed with reference to saving the culprits from the power and dominion of evil practices will certainly fail to produce reformatory or generally beneficial results. Indeed, whenever society forgets the claims of man's moral nature, and, by mere force, attempts the conquest of turbulence and crime, the warfare will be carried on at immense cost, and be attended by a constant increase of the dangerous passions and other evils that must be kept within walled and armed subjection. These considerations assume special importance in regard both to social and economical results; for in the State of New York there are now nearly 3,000 convicts in the three State prisons, 2,500 and upwards in the six county penitentiaries, and in the county and police jails, during the year, nearly 70,000 persons imprisoned. The mere cost of maintaining this vast number of persons during the period of imprisonment has become burdensome, and even the three State prisons have long since ceased to pay expenses, and are incurring a debt of nearly half a million of dollars yearly.

Though the cost of prisons and prison-support is only a small fraction of the total cost of crime, it affords tangible evidence of the growth and increasing cost of the burden of crime in the State. The legislature and all good citizens need to insist upon the institution of a searching inquiry into the sources of growth of crime, and of the

acknowledged failure of most of the penal institutions to reform criminals, or even to deter the various classes of offenders from repeating their acts of vicious disorder and crime.

The Executive Committee of the Prison Association does not attempt to present to the legislature any statement concerning the faultiness of the judicial proceedings by which, upon partial examination and hasty decision, the special sessions and police courts, in almost every city and town, commit both the innocent and the guilty to a close companionship in filthy jails for an indefinite or entirely inappropriate period; nor can this Committee undertake the unauthorized task of suggesting the reforms by which the evils and moral outrage of the capricious infliction of jail sentences, and the herding of all classes and ages—the convicted and unconvicted, the filthy and the cleanly, and the vile with the yet uncorrupted—should be prevented. But it will point out the evils.

The State legislature enacted wholesome laws, years ago, to prevent some of the worst of these evils, but in the year 1849 the statute relating to these matters was so amended as to leave it a dead letter, for want of adequate official inspection and supervision, to secure the observance of its requirements. As the Prison Association has no power to secure such obedience to law as should be required, its Executive Committee now invites attention to this subject, and respectfully urges that in the plan which the State shall ere long adopt, for the better administration of prisons under an amendment of the Constitution, the supervisions of the county prisons shall be included, and that, until this proposed change in the State prison system shall have been effected, there should be provided by the present legislature some method of faithful official inspection and supervision to promote the proper observance of the statutes relating to the county prisons, and to acquire the various kinds of information that will be needed to facilitate any needed legislation on the introduction of an improved penal administration. It has been the practice of the Prison Association, ever since its incorporation by the State, to visit most of the jails and penitentiaries every year, by the voluntary aid of members of its Executive Committee, and during the past summer and autumn the corresponding secretary, Dr. Harris, performed this duty, under special instructions to examine carefully into the condition of all county prisons and prisoners, and to ascertain what means can immediately be brought to bear for their improvement and for the more effectual repression of sources

of crime. The secretary's statement of the results of these labors will be found appended to this report.

The statement by the secretary, here referred to, shows that the condition of the jails and penitentiaries is, with a very few exceptions, deplorably bad, and that the particular evils which have been described by members of the Executive Committee, in their individual reports in past years, are not amended, but, on the contrary, seem, in numerous instances, to have increased with the increasing number of jail commitments. In several counties the evils complained of have become sources of peril to the public and to prisoners that require prompt removal. For example, in one of the jails on Long Island, containing at the time of inspection thirty-one prisoners, there were found five boys and young men accused of burglary or attempt at that crime, committed from different sections of the county; two accused of rape; one of child murder; three others, accused of misdemeanors, were insane, and in a state of mental imbecility; while petty larceny, assault and battery, and disorderly conduct were enumerated as the offences for which the others were committed.

These prisoners were crowded promiscuously into a filthy and dilapidated corridor and its adjoining dark cells, and in a rickety old chamber consisting of two dismal apartments opening into each other, and having grated windows that scarcely offer resistance to prisoners who may determine to break jail. Herded together as those prisoners were, the secretary of this Association deemed it expedient to advise the keeper to exercise special vigilance to prevent the burglars from escaping, and at the same time urged that the attention of the authorities be called to the insane and the imbecile persons whom he designated. Indictments and a formal "jail delivery" could not be had until two months had elapsed, and during that interval, when several professional criminals had been added to that motley crowd of prisoners, eight of the worse culprits,—including the five young burglars,—broke jail and escaped. Such is the story of many a county jail, and of the successful escapes of the professional criminals, who under a wise system of administration ought never to pass through such an experience of eluding justice.

In another jail, in the western part of the State, always crowded with professional criminals and juvenile offenders, the secretary of the Association found the prisoners in a state of feverish excitement as the result of plots for escaping, the old offenders stimulating the

youths the least guilty to join not only in the plots to break jail, but in schemes to commit future crimes. In another jail two bright-eyed little boys, aged twelve and thirteen years respectively, accused of larcenies, were found sitting in the laps of two of the most accomplished and notorious burglars, learning not only the easy lessons of criminal life, but, as the lads confessed, learning the phrases and acquiring the habits of vice, while awaiting through a three months' interval the sitting of a grand jury and a criminal court. In another overcrowded jail several of the untried culprits were in irons and dark cells, as a necessary restraint upon their efforts to break jail; in their cells they were making an incessant uproar that disturbed the occupants of several blocks of neighboring dwelling; and as all classes of the prisoners were closely commingled in a central corridor, their days and nights were rendered intolerably wretched. In still another jail, with seventy prisoners, many of them youths, all kinds of petty offenders were commingled with the most debased contrivers and actors in crimes,—mostly crimes against property. The sheriff showed our secretary the freshly broken wall of the jail through which a gang of desperadoes were, a few nights previously, about to escape. They would have succeeded, had not a penitent young man—under indictment for a homicide—given timely notice to the officers in charge. In another jail, with an average of sixty-five prisoners in its cells and corridors, plots for breaking jail are continually in progress, and are easily executed, as the record of escapes the past ten years would show. These plots, and the capricious severity that follows upon their discovery; the adroit and seductive instruction in the schemes of criminal life; the commingling of all classes of prisoners, produce together a total amount of evil and of personal debasement which is equaled only by the terrible retributions by which the State is repaid for its neglect of the criminal classes—a neglect whereby crimes are multiplied and criminals made more daring as well as more corrupt.

The penitentiaries and State prisons have been visited by the corresponding secretary. In regard to the condition and wants of the former class of institutions careful inquiries and observations have been made. But concerning the State prisons no effort for improvement has seemed practicable until some radical measures of reform in their administration shall have been determined by the State legislature. In an appended statement, accompanying this report, there will be found some facts which call for thoughtful attention concern-

ing the punishments, discipline, industries, records, and wants of the State prisons.

While it is not the purpose of this Association to resort to minute and trivial criticism, it is its aim to discover and point out frankly the chief defects and necessities of the penal institutions of the State. It is certain that great evils and shameless abuses have in late years grown up in the methods of administration of these institutions. It is also true that the causes of these evils and abuses are known and can speedily be brought under control, and that the citizens of this State can, if they will, place its penal institutions upon a permanent basis of good economical and reformatory administration, secure against partisan interference and the cupidity of its ever-shifting and unworthy creatures. It is not true that the prison system of New York has relapsed into old barbarities, for in the twenty years that followed the institution of the Prison Association, and the reformation of the prison laws of 1847, good progress was made toward an enlightened and satisfactory administration; yet it was simply progress *toward* such a system. Abuses have crept in and have rapidly grown up in the prison management, while the people have been preparing to take correct and comprehensive views of this branch of the public service. At this very time the people have been, of their own part, organizing and strengthening the various kinds of reformatory and preventive measures which, as relating to children, will diminish the number of native recruits to the great army of criminals, and strengthen the defences of society. Indeed, the people may be regarded as ready for their part of the work of prison reform.

The capricious methods and crafty cupidity that now characterize the management of criminal convicts serve to mature and foster a great body of professional criminals, graduates of jails, penitentiaries, and State prisons. They may be regarded as the products of this pernicious system of administration. The people begin to understand this, and they may justly demand such changes in the system and its control as will secure beneficial instead of pernicious results, self-supporting economy instead of prodigal waste and debt, the prevention of crime instead of an increase of it, and the saving of men and women instead of the destruction of citizenship, industry and virtue.

Whenever the citizens of New York can have an opportunity to

vote upon the amendment of the State Constitution,* by which the penal institutions of the commonwealth shall be brought under skillful direction and benign system of management, the popular ballot will undoubtedly prove that the Prison Association owed it to the people to deal frankly, as it has, with the evils which characterize the jails and prisons throughout the State.

*As an amendment of the Constitution, proposed during the twenty years' interval between constitutional conventions, can be effected only by the vote of the people of the State upon the proposed words of amendment they shall have been previously approved and submitted by two legislatures,—successively elected as respects the Senate,—the present proposition for such an amendment will necessarily be two years before the public before the popular ballot decides it. (*Article XIII, Sec. 1, State Constitution*.) The following is the text of the

Proposed Amendment.

There shall be a Board of Managers of Prisons, to be composed of five persons appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall hold office for ten years.

The Board shall have the charge and superintendence of the State Prisons, and have such powers and perform such duties in respect to other prisons in the State as the Legislature may prescribe.

They shall appoint a Secretary, who shall be removable at their pleasure, perform such duties as the Legislature or the Board may direct, and receive a salary to be determined by law.

The Board shall appoint the Warden, Clerk, Physician, and Chaplain of each State Prison, and shall have power to remove them for cause only, after opportunity to be heard on written charges.

All other officers of each prison shall be appointed by the Warden thereof and be removable at his pleasure.

The Governor may remove any of the Managers for misconduct or neglect of duty, after opportunity to be heard on written charges.

The five Managers first appointed shall, as the Legislature may direct, be so classified that the term of one shall expire at the end of each two years during the first ten years.

This amendment shall go into effect on the first Monday of the January next after its adoption by the people.

STATISTICS AND CONDITION OF PENITENTIARIES.

The six penitentiaries in the State continue to be the objects of twofold interest and experiment in the counties in which they are located and by which they are exclusively controlled; for they are at once workhouses and prisons. Being designed originally to repress vagrancy, disorderly conduct, and the beginnings of crime, and having at last become, by special acts of legislation, virtually a subordinate but most important class of State prisons, the public interest which attaches to their administration and results should be fully equal to that which is accorded to the three State prisons.

The Prison Association caused very careful inspection and study to be devoted to these six institutions in the years 1863-64-65 and '66; and in 1865 a Committee of Inspection reported very fully upon their condition and characteristics and wants. During the past summer and autumn the corresponding secretary made a careful inspection of them, and has in every respect corroborated the conclusions of the report of the Committee of 1865.

The following table presents an abstract of the Statistics of the Penitentiaries. This abstract does not include the workhouse on Blackwell's Island, nor does it separate the merely vagrant and pauperized element of the Kings County Penitentiary. As stated by this Association in 1865, the latter institution assumes partly the character of a jail, and partly of an almshouse." An examination of the table shows that eight thousand four hundred and ninety-three persons were admitted to the penitentiaries alone during the past year. Of these, nearly nine-tenths admitted that they had been intemperate in the use of ardent spirits. Following the table will be found detailed statements respecting the condition and working of the various penitentiaries.

ABSTRACT of Penitentiary Statistics of the Six Penitentiaries in the State of New York, for the last fiscal year of each respectively, as given at inspection.

SPECIFICATIONS.	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE						Totals.
	Albany.	New York, Island.	Kings County.*	Orange County Syracuse.	Monroe County Rochester.	Fide County, Barnes.	
Total number of prisoners remaining from previous year.....	494	461	840	140	253	307	1,969
Total number of prisoners discharged, died and pardoned.....	1,146	1,769	1,386	681	1,090	2,401	8,403
Total number of prisoners paroled.....	1,311	1,583	1,069	659	1,069	2,513	8,588
Total number of prisoners paroled.....	19	10	1,089	60	807	1,089	5,355
Total males admitted in the year.....	223	336	80	80	243	872	1,072
Total females.....	50	119	35	25	42	133	379
Total of the United States.....	692	860	450	460	570	1,474	8,711
Total foreign born.....	544	369	329	460	500	1,407	4,941
Total can read and write.....	511	395	628	460	500	1,628	2,187
Total cannot read and write.....	179	465	222	300	244	883	1,862
Total between twenty and thirty years of age.....	389	811	144	139	158	283	1,893
Total between thirty and forty years of age.....	256	341	144	144	144	268	1,576
Total forty years and upward.....	225	175	177	177	337	575	1,934
Total married persons.....	403	565	290	290	595	2,000	2,788
Total prisoners who commit intemperance.....	933	nearly all	.....	681	983	3,340	80 to 90 p. ct.

* The criminal records of Kings county are exceedingly unsatisfactory. The penitentiary presents a strange intermixture of vagrants, criminals and disorderly persons. Blackwell's Island workhouse takes the vagrants and disorderly, numbering 21,461 in the year 1871, and giving an average daily population of 682.

Penitentiary and Workhouse, under the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, Blackwell's Island.

The separation of the vagrant and other workhouse cases into an entirely distinct class from penitentiary convicts in the city and county of New York, distinguishes the penitentiary and workhouse administration in this county from that in the other five counties in the State, which have instituted a penitentiary and workhouse system. In the other counties, viz., Albany, Kings, Onondaga, Monroe, and Erie, the penitentiary serves as the county workhouse. In estimating the operations of the penitentiaries in the State, therefore, we need to notice the fact that the workhouse on Blackwell's Island answers certain purposes of a penitentiary in the county of New York, and that, of the 21,000 persons who are annually consigned to that workhouse, all except a very few are either publicly drunken and disorderly, or are pauperized vagrants and trampers. Many of the inmates of both the institutions are found alternately in both penitentiary and workhouse. And it is the chief and peculiar defect of each of these institutions that the enforced industry is not so administered as to reform or in any manner replace the individual into any fitness or prospect for useful life.

The fact that the penitentiary of New York annually costs upwards of \$70,000 for maintenance of its inmates, (and office expenses), over and above all avails of their industry, is worthy of notice, and so also is the fact that the workhouse costs upwards of \$57,000 yearly, while its returns in avails of labor, including the full value of its wretched nurses and other attendants detailed to duty in hospitals, do not, to any great extent, diminish this total of net expenses. The fact is that the inmates of the penitentiary and workhouse on Blackwell's Island cost upwards of \$100,000 over and above their cash earnings, yearly, and that the effect of their industry and commitment is not reformatory. The one chief and really appreciable benefit which the city derives from these two institutions, is that resulting from the temporary absence of the horde of vagrants, pick-pockets, drunkards, prostitutes, and pimps that make up the 23,000 annual residents of workhouse and penitentiary on the island. The withdrawal of these offensive persons from the streets of the city is certainly a relief, and possibly gives increased security to life and property for the moment; but it is seriously doubted if permanent benefit is conferred either upon the offenders or upon the city. The system of brief and unmeaning commitments to this great receptacle

of the ignorant, the homeless, and the vile teachers at once of debauchery and crime, is what we complain of and expose to view for amendment and remedy; not the mere ministerial administration of the affairs of the penitentiary and workhouse under the Commissioners of Charities and Correction. The latter is certainly not in any manner chargeable with the faults of the former. It is the system and its endless train of ever-increasing evils, that need to be amended.

The Kings County Penitentiary.

Penitentiary and workhouse, and even the almshouse system, are in strange and perilous alliance in Kings county. Vagrancy and drunkenness in that county are passports to the penitentiary or the almshouse at the capricious decision of every police magistrate. In either place no reformatory or saving influence is provided by means of a system of industry. All is left to casual and doubtful expedients which are from day to day devised to occupy the time of the inmates that may be required to labor. The entire absence of system and plan for bringing into operation the reformatory influence of hard labor and the wholesome discipline of definite tasks, duties and useful instruction, is the distinguishing characteristic of the penal institutions of Brooklyn, and Kings county. The people feel that a radical reform in the organization and plan of the King County Penitentiary cannot come too soon.

Albany Penitentiary.

The fame and remarkable tact of its well-known superintendent, General Amos Pillsbury, has given to the Albany Penitentiary the practical rank and uses of a first-class State prison. The numerous counties that have contracted with the Albany authorities for the care of such convicts as they may send to that penitentiary avail themselves of the privilege of sending every year an increasingly large number of such convicts as would otherwise be sentenced to the county jail. The power also which, under the laws of 1856 and 1860, the courts in the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts have to sentence any minors or criminals subject to five years or less imprisonment, to the Albany Penitentiary, has added to that institution the functions of a State prison. Finally, the District of Columbia and the National Government having in a special manner designated the Albany Penitentiary as the chief convict prison for that district,

and for certain class of criminals convicted in the United States courts, and by courts martial, the institution has acquired an importance entirely unexampled in the history of county or other local prisons. Nevertheless, it continues to be a county institution, under the exclusive jurisdiction and control of the mayor and recorder of the city, and the supervisors of the county of Albany.

At the present time, and throughout most of the past year, the number of prisoners in this penitentiary has considerably exceeded the number of cells. Strict discipline and remarkable industry may have prevented evils, otherwise inevitable from such crowding and such condensed and unclassified aggregation of criminals and offenders of the most diverse characters and moral wants. In its exacting discipline, compact crowding in workshops and cells and in its large pecuniary returns, the Albany Penitentiary has reached its highest practicable point. Whether it presents a good and safe example or not, it teaches some very practical and important lessons. And, among other facts which General Pillsbury's administration has illustrated, this one is particularly worthy the attention of the State, namely, that with quite as great a degree of personal comfort and moral benefit as can have been enjoyed in any other prison or penitentiary in the State, the industry of the prisoners has, in twenty-two years, earned a surplus of \$78,000 over and above all expenses.

In this penitentiary, as in all others, the majority of the prisoners are committed for a very short term. For example, in the year 1871, out of the total of 1,146 prisoners admitted, 832 remained for a period of six months or less. Of these 434 were sent by the Albany police court. These short-term convicts do not in all cases become self-supporting while in prison, but the greatly increased number of State prisoners, from the sources before mentioned, yield a steady surplus by their industry. Independently of all receipts in cash from counties, and from the United States and District of Columbia, the prisoners earn a surplus, and thus show that penal self-support is practicable.

Onondaga County Penitentiary, at Syracuse.

This penitentiary, after many adversities, by fire, and by some confusion in its management, has during the past two years become nearly or quite self-supporting, though it serves as the common jail and bridewell for the county. Out of 681 prisoners admitted in 1870, only 26 were sentenced for a longer term than six months.

Yet the amount received for prisoners' labor was equal to the total expenditures of the penitentiary proper; though the contracts for all the selected labor averaged less than thirty cents a day for each laborer. The contractor for the shoe work paid \$6,000 for an assignment of the contract to him, and it is known to be a very profitable contract even at that price.

The county jail prisoners are kept in the penitentiary. They exceed one hundred in number in the year, and the cost of their maintenance is charged to the general account of the penitentiary. This is the only instance in the State in which the jail and penitentiary are combined. Some of the unconvicted jail inmates perform light duties about the penitentiary; others, according to obvious requirements of propriety and safety, are kept in cells.

The contractor of the works at this institution expresses much satisfaction with the spirit and result of the prison labor, and frankly expresses his conviction that the State might devise methods by which the penitentiary labor should contribute powerfully to incite and produce reformatory results in the prisoner.

Under the law of 1869, relating to female State prisoners, all females that in the Fifth and Sixth Judicial Districts may be convicted of any felony, except murder in the second degree, or arson in the first degree, must be sentenced and committed to imprisonment in the penitentiary in Syracuse. This law, extending as it does, to sixteen counties, together with the other statutes which relate to imprisonment of minors and to the permission to make contracts with other counties for jail convicts, serves to give the Syracuse Penitentiary all the essential functions and obligations of a State prison. Yet it remains without school instruction for the ignorant, without classification of its prisoners, and supervised only by the authorities designated by the supervisors of Onondaga county. From a county workhouse and a mere bridewell, it has grown to be a State prison, while it yet serves the fourfold purpose of county jail, workhouse, and bridewell for vagrants and disorderly persons, State prison for male convicts under the age of twenty-one years, and State prison for women of all ages and characters in vice.

With deep regret we record the fact that at the first visit of our corresponding secretary to this penitentiary, in September last, he found the institution entirely destitute of a library. But it is due to the worthy superintendent, Capt. Williams, to state that he has expressed his earnest wish that the supervisors of the county shall

co-operate with him in devising and maintaining suitable kinds of instruction of the ignorant classes of his prisoners, as about thirty-three per cent of all the prisoners are unable to read and write.*

Monroe County Penitentiary, at Rochester.

This institution was at first, and still is termed, "The Rochester Workhouse." But it has shared in the results of the several acts of the legislature, relative to minors and females convicted of felonies in the Judicial District in which the penitentiary is located, so that at the present time it claims all the characteristics of the Syracuse Penitentiary. The statistical summary, upon a preceding page, shows that the number of its prisoners considerably exceeds that of the Syracuse, especially in the female class.

The management and control of the Rochester Penitentiary rest solely in the hands of the Board of Supervisors of Monroe county. In those hands this important institution has been made a conspicuous example of public interest and moral obligation in a penal institution sacrificed to the behests of partisan strife.

"In no other penal institution in the State," says our corresponding secretary, "is there to be found so hopeful, so young, and so worthy a body of prisoners as these at the Rochester Penitentiary, yet nothing, absolutely nothing, is being done to induce in them the desire or even the anticipation or hope of a better life. The worst aspects of our penitentiary system, as it has developed into full growth from the common workhouse, are witnessed in the Rochester Penitentiary. It is simply a workhouse. But it is the system, and its bare and negative qualities as respects any merit, and its hideous power and possibilities of evil, which I witness here."

The average term of the sentences of prisoners in the Rochester Penitentiary is briefer even than at Syracuse. Only 22 out of 1,056 commitments in 1871 were for a period exceeding six months.

Among the prisoners in the penitentiary in November, five were found to have been committed from the Western House of Refuge, in the same city. The corresponding secretary justly urges the pro-

* Since the above paragraph was written, the assistant superintendent has informed us that a library has been established, and he adds the following remark on behalf of the superintendent (then very sick) and himself: "... We have no objection to your publishing this expression of our desire to devise some plan upon which the ignorant prisoners may be instructed, at least in the rudiments of learning. We believe that a great many will make good use of their learning, after their discharge from prison, by reading useful books, and spending their time in reading and writing, instead of following their old habits in ignorance and idleness...."

(Signed)

"ADOLPHUS BROWN, Deputy."

priety of a law to require that each house of refuge shall prepare a special department—a few separate, secure, and healthful apartments—to be in reserve for extreme cases, and known as the penal chambers and work-rooms for obdurate boys in the refuge. In the common penitentiary, the lads who were committed for plotting escapes and various crimes will be quite sure to gratify their propensity to learn the ways of crime. But in a class so distinguished, and a penal treatment so dreaded, and yet so useful and prudent in the refuge, it might be found possible, and, indeed, not at all difficult, to reform, and rescue such offenders from their beginnings of a criminal course. Dr. Harris states that the superintendent and the president of the Western House of Refuge are decidedly in favor of such a course.

The vast preponderance of youthful criminals in the penitentiaries renders it of the highest importance that by all proper methods the treatment of the inmates, and the entire administration of the industries, the discipline, the personal intercourse, and the instruction should be reformatory in person, spirit, and methods. This is a principle to be advocated in regard to each of the six penitentiaries; and we have reason to hope and to desire that it shall be fully sustained by the people of Monroe county, where there is afforded one of the best fields in the State to illustrate it and prove its utility.

Eric County Penitentiary, at Buffalo.

The peculiar facility with which the police courts of Buffalo commit all sorts of petty offenders to the penitentiary, and at the same time by a local statute, allow, as an alternative, that a fine may be offset against the sentence of imprisonment, and every dollar of such fine paid to diminish the term of imprisonment two days, serves to fill the penitentiary with a class of ceaselessly revolving or relapsing prisoners, who tarry within its walls for varying periods, from one hour to one year. This penitentiary also serves as a State prison for all female convicts in the Eighth Judicial District.

The intermixture of all classes and conditions of criminals and offenders in the Eric County Penitentiary is such as to present peculiar difficulties in anything like reformatory methods of administration. Prostitutes, and all the grossest examples of debauching depravity; children that have just yielded to the first enticement to pilfer, or to do other sinful acts; professional criminals, long familiar with State prisons, and expert teachers of every vice and crime; the homeless vagrant, the despairing outcast, and the thoughtless and tipping

youth, are all promiscuously commingled and locked away from public observation in this great penitentiary.

From a little workhouse it has grown to be a very important penal institution. And its good degree of success towards self-support, and comparative tranquillity and economy in the daily administration, prove that the prisoners there in custody are not wholly lost to reason and to kindly influences. But the demands upon the institution have so rapidly increased, and the expedients in its management have been so hastily extemporized, that it can hardly be said to have a system of administration. Our corresponding secretary reports that the physician, the superintendent of the workshops for the contractors, and the Sabbath-visitor (who is chairman of this Association's local Committee at Buffalo), were the only officials upon the premises of this institution, who expressed any hope or belief in the reformatory treatment of such a horde of prisoners. But the persons here named knew the inner and outward life of the various classes of convicts so well, that they believe in the duty of reformatory effort.

More than in any other penitentiary the blind, selfish, and pernicious behests of partisan dictation, regardless of moral consequences, rule the official organization of the Erie County Penitentiary; and although it has enjoyed the benefit of faithful and enlightened personal services at times in its various offices, the influence of partisan politics has ever been a great obstacle in the way of reformatory purposes concerning this important institution.

We have thus reviewed the condition of the six penitentiaries in the State, before alluding, in any detail, to the condition and management of the county jails, because these workhouses or penitentiaries have been made the Intermediate Prisons to which the sixty counties of the State are requested or expected to consign the greater part of all who commit gross misdemeanors and minor felonies, and, in fact, all youths between the ages of 16 and 21 years who are convicted of felony. These penitentiaries have grown up to be, in a certain sense, State prisons, while yet they are continuing to receive the overflow of county jails and the vagrant refuse that floats between the jail and the almshouse, and gravitates to vice and crime. The county authorities of Onondaga state, in a recent report, that their "(our) penitentiary is fast assuming proportions similar to the State prisons. We have now among our inmates some under sentence of five years, many for four, three, two years, and under, and by the operation of the laws of 1868-69, the number of long-sentenced prisoners

from the Fifth and Sixth Judicial Districts of this State will continue to increase." *

The relations which these six penitentiaries sustain to the present management of the penal affairs in the State, the mixed purposes which they serve, and the peculiarities and wants in their organization, should be well understood before any propositions concerning jail improvement and the necessary measures for permanently effecting reform are set forth.

It appears that while three of the penitentiaries have grown into the importance and function of State prisons, the other three not only serve as State prisons for a great number of youths between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years, but are made to serve as the mere shelter under which are massed the vagrants, tipplers, petty criminals, and a debauched and corrupting mass of unworthy and unfortunate lives that are, at frequent intervals, pushed out from public view, but neither taught nor strengthened for some self-respectful and self-supporting work by which alone they might possibly be saved from becoming a perpetual burden to the community and to themselves.

The system by which the penitentiaries, as well as our State prisons, now fail to produce reformatory results cannot be amended by means of the powers that pertain to their present mode of control, for neither the superintendents nor the county inspectors have the power to organize the industries, discipline, and other material agencies necessary to the establishment of reformatory methods of administration. There is good evidence that most of the officials just mentioned are favorable to the reorganization of the penitentiaries upon a basis of careful classification and reformatory treatment, but they have no power to bring about the desired improvement. They, in common with all citizens, can see that without a skilled and central system of inspection and counsel or direction this great reform will not be attained.

In concluding this brief review of the condition and uses of the six penitentiaries or district prisons in the State, the Executive Committee would respectfully repeat the recommendations that were made five years ago in the report of its Special Committee upon the Prisons and Reformatories of the United States and Canada. The passage referred to is as follows:

"Next in the ascending series" [The industrial school, the house

* Report of Board of Supervisors of Onondaga County, 1870, p. 108.

of refuge and reform, and the county jail being the institutions previously mentioned] "would come a class of prisons intermediate between the county jail and the State prison proper. Prisons of this sort have received different designations in different States. In Massachusetts, the only State where there is anything like a general system of such institutions, they are called houses of correction; in New York, where they are purely local institutions, created by special statutes for particular counties, they receive the name of penitentiaries or workhouses; and in Canada, where the Board of Prison Inspectors is pressing the legislature for their creation, they are to be designated (at least such is the title proposed) central prisons, and are to form one of the links in the general prison system of the country. We venture to suggest the name of district prisons for New York, whenever (if ever) there shall be a reconstruction of the prison system of the State, in accordance with the general views submitted in the present paper. These district prisons should be dispersed through the State, at points as convenient as possible to the several counties for whose use each is intended to serve. The counties that have already been at the trouble and expense of erecting and organizing local penitentiaries need not change their existing system, unless they prefer to sell or lease their several establishments to the State, and so become incorporated into the general system.

"It is clear that our common jails are not now, and never can be made, houses of correction in the proper sense—places for the reformation of criminals. The fact that they are mere places of detention to the majority of their inmates, the circumstance that the sentences of those confined in them for punishment are, and are likely ever to be, too short to admit of the application of reformatory process, the constant flux in their populations, the difficulty of organizing and enforcing a system of labor, without which there can be no reformation, and, above all, the want of a proper staff of officers, especially of chaplains and teachers, render it certain that common jails can never be converted into reformatory institutions. If, therefore, there are to be any such, below the grade of the State prison, as part and parcel of a general prison system, it must be by the establishment of the institutions here proposed, or others of a like character.

"The advantages to be expected from the establishment of district prisons are the following:

"1. The organization of the prisons, each with a full staff of officers, and all other appointments necessary to their proper and effective working as true houses of correction.

"2. The arrangement of buildings, cells, work-shops, school-rooms, chapels and premises generally, as to kind and construction, suitable to a complete penitentiary system.

"3. The introduction of a comprehensive, well-adjusted system of labor, a result that can never be attained in our common jails, but rendered comparatively easy in the district prisons, in consequence of the larger staff of officers, the greater number of prisoners, and the increased length of their sentences.

"4. Diminished cost of maintenance, despite the increase of officers, owing in part to the earnings of the convicts, and in part to greater economy in the administration. The county jails we believe to be at present the most costly of our prisons, from the enormous prices paid to sheriffs by the county authorities for the board of prisoners; being, in one case at least, as high as \$6.16 per week, and in others approximating to that figure—almost hotel prices.

"5. The relief of the common jails, by the absence from them of a large proportion of their worst and most frequent inmates, which would make the separate imprisonment of the rest comparatively easy, and that at a moderate cost for the necessary buildings, especially when taken in connection with another reform, to be hereafter noticed, viz., the more speedy trial of persons arrested for crime, and held in custody to that end.

"6. The relief of the State prisons, by the punishment in the district prisons of all convicts sentenced for terms not exceeding three years, and perhaps, also, first offenders and young criminals, with even longer sentences, according to the circumstances attending their several cases. But—

"7. The crowning recommendation of the system of district prisons, here proposed, lies in the reformatory character to be impressed upon their administration. This, indeed, is the great point to be sought and secured in their establishment. We will not now stay to enter into a detail of the means—religious, moral, educational and industrial—through which this end is to be reached. But there is one point on which, in this connection, we feel constrained to offer a few remarks. The absurd practice of short, repeated imprisonments must be discontinued, or all thought of reformation abandoned. Reformatory processes can have no time to take effect under such a system. On no subject are the enlightened friends of prison reform, and especially the governors of our penitentiaries, more generally agreed than on the utter worthlessness of these repeated short impris-

sonments; while the indirect expense to society in arrests and prosecutions, and yet more, in the amount of property of which it is plundered in the intervals between the imprisonments, is enormous. The object of all reformatory prison treatment is to conquer in the prisoner his habits of evil; to train him in the ways of virtuous industry; to sunder the tie that binds him to his associates in crime; to extinguish in him the desire and the tendency to herd with them again, and so to discipline him that he may go back into the world with some settled principle, and some steady purpose of virtue. To effect these changes *time*, and no inconsiderable amount of it, is absolutely essential; and all, without exception, who have given attention to the subject, concur in the belief that short sentences, at least in the great majority of cases, are not only useless but pernicious. Excessive leniency in the administration of criminal law is an evil scarcely less deplorable than excessive harshness. To be sternly resolute in the infliction of necessary pain is as much a duty as it is to decline the infliction of any that is not necessary; and especially where the object is not to punish vindictively, but to redeem and save, no hesitation should be felt in awarding a sentence adequate to the accomplishment of that great purpose. The sentence whose brevity deprives the criminal of the full advantages of reformatory influences, is to him not a mercy, but a cruelty, while to society it is an injustice and a wrong.

"The proposed increased length of the sentences to be awarded to misdemeanants, and especially those who, by the frequent repetition of minor offences, evince a proclivity to crime, would involve the necessity of some changes in the criminal laws of the State, particularly as to what should constitute a habitual or inveterate offender—a "recidivist" in technical phrase, in common parlance, a "revolver." But these changes could be easily made, and when made would be, as already intimated, no less to the real interest of the transgressor than to that of society, whose laws he had violated.

"Without intending to burden the present paper with needless details, we would suggest, just here, that, if the proposition for district prisons should ever be made the basis of legislation, it would be desirable, on moral, sanitary, economic, and administrative grounds, that the prisons for women should be separate from those for men; the two being in distinct buildings, and at a distance from each other." *

* See report on the "Prisons and Reformatories of the United States and Canada," made to the Legislature of New York, January, 1867. (Assembly Doc., 36.)

THE COUNTY PRISONS AND PRISONERS.

There are sixty-six county jails in the State, six of the counties having half-shire towns. Nearly all of these jails have been visited by the corresponding secretary of the Prison Association during the last summer and autumn; and he reports concerning their condition and occupation that, with only three exceptions, he found these prisons kept in such manner as to openly and continually violate all the essential requirements of the laws of the State relating to their official care and the classification and conduct of the persons imprisoned. The carefully devised code of regulations for county prisons, as contained in the act passed by the legislature, Dec. 14, 1847, is virtually a dead letter throughout the State.

First. In numerous jails there is an insufficient number of rooms for the separate confinement of persons committed on criminal process, detained for trial, separately from prisoners under sentence.

Second. Several of the jails have not a sufficient number of rooms for prisoners under sentence.

Third. Prisoners detained for trial, prisoners for contempt, or committed on civil process, and convicts under sentence to jail imprisonment, are found commingled and holding free intercourse with or annoying each other in most of the county prisons.

Fourth. There is rarely any attempt or plan in any of the counties, to comply with the legal requirement to enforce hard labor upon the jail convicts.

Fifth. The Bible is found in only a few of the jail-rooms and cells in most of the counties, and in many of the jails not a copy of the Bible is found.

Sixth. Religious worship on the Sabbath is almost wholly neglected in the jails, and in more than half of them there is no attempt to introduce religious services or any kind of moral instruction.

Seventh. In only five or six jails in the State is there a jail register and daily record kept, as required by section 15 of the act of 1847 and the act of 1866 relating to jail records. In a majority of the jails the sheriff and keeper wholly neglect this duty, and the only jail records consist in the filed (or scattered) commitment warrants and the keeper's boarding account sheets. Consequently it occurs,

in numerous counties, that not only is there an utter absence of any accessible public record of jail commitment and the movement of the accused or convicted persons that are imprisoned in the jail, but there necessarily results a culpable deficiency, and in some instances a total neglect, in regard to the stated reports of the jail statistics and other records which the laws require to be transmitted to the Secretary of State by sheriffs and keepers. Thus are even the latest as well as the earlier acts of the legislature for the better management of jails and prisoners disregarded.

In many of the counties the jail is practically a county boarding-house for vagrants, petty offenders, prostitutes and pimps, and it is so regarded by keepers and local magistrates. And this is the view that many of the prisoners take concerning their frequent imprisonment. Dr. Harris reports that the jails which he has found most crowded have invariably been found to contain many of this kind of chronic and revolving prisoners, who seem to regard their imprisonment without regret, and as a place of temporary rest and full feeding, in their loathsome and debased life. In one little county, with less than 35,000 inhabitants, the jail is perpetually overcrowded, with an average of nearly thirty prisoners, twenty of which are of the character here referred to, and the jail itself is a pandemonium.

In another county, with a population of less than 140,000, the jail, which has only 64 small cells, and ought never to have more than that number of prisoners, has an average of 110 prisoners, of which Dr. Harris found, in his inspections, that about three-fourths were of the kind just mentioned. In another rural county 20 out of 30 were of this class; in another county, all; in another, with an average of 60 prisoners, nearly all; in another, in the western part of the State, with 40 prisoners, half were of this kind; and in another, with 20 prisoners, there were 12 of this kind who, under any circumstances of penal commitment, should not only be separated from all other prisoners, but should also be kept at hard labor and under that very necessary kind of discipline and moral influence which society cannot elsewhere bring to bear upon such persons for their own benefit and the public safety.

The common jail is proved to be, in the State of New York (with very few exceptions), the common school of vice and crime, and to a vast number of vagabond youths, and homeless vagrants and petty offenders, its portals prove to be the very directory and gateway to a life of crime.

WORK IN THE DETENTION AND THE DIS- CHARGED DEPARTMENTS.

The duty of this Association to the prisoner in his cell, and to the poor, the friendless and ignorant, before the courts, in New York and Brooklyn, has been performed with the usual alacrity by the general agent, Mr. Abraham Beal. Though the office of the agent at 19 Centre street has daily been thronged by applicants for such advice and temporary aid as the discharged convict needs, Mr. Beal has, as in past years, divided his arduous labors between those wretched objects of charity and the urgent calls of the friendless and forsaken in the several city prisons. His report, as appended in this annual record of the Association, shows that, as in years past, the prisons and penitentiaries continue to send forth their graduates without any method or influences tending to guide them to self-support and a virtuous life. Mr. Beal had opportunity at his office to give good counsel and various kinds of encouragement and aid to one thousand three hundred and ten discharged convicts, who sought for such guidance as this Association may be able to give them in their difficult effort to find the way back to a self-respectful and honest life. The five hundred and nineteen persons of this class whom this Association during the past year, through its agent actually provided with work and situations for an honest livelihood in districts remote from the city, have now a fair chance not only of ceasing from crime, but of ceasing to burden and offend the community in any manner. The Prison Association has unceasingly reiterated the fact that *idleness* is one of the surest pathways to crime, and that HOWARD'S good maxim, "Make men diligent and you will make them honest," must be the basis of moral agencies for the reformation of criminal character and habits of life, and any safe method of replacement of released convicts in society. It continues to be a subject of deep regret that this Association has not more ample means for conducting this branch of their work. The enlargement of this sphere of duty, within means at the Association's command, is a matter of constant study; and, in the absence of any system of intermediate imprisonment, and of trial on good behavior, as evidence of reform, the State of New York needs to contribute adequate aid to enable

this Association to give the greatest possible efficiency to this branch of effort for the establishment of released prisoners in habits of honest industry.

The number of discharged convicts who have temporarily been provided with board, and aided, with money and by advice, to leave their former vicious associates, was thirteen hundred and ten during the past year. Most of these persons have, for a time at least, escaped the perils of their former associations. One hundred and eleven released prisoners have been supplied with working tools, by which aid from this Association they have at once resumed their trade occupations of free life. Five hundred and four prisoners, detained for trial, or before the courts, under circumstances that called for friendly inquiry into the probable innocence or other humane claims of the prisoner, have received the personal services of this Association's agent; and in one hundred and forty-eight of these cases the court has dismissed the accusations and released the accused persons, upon evidence produced by the agent.

In all this kind of labor great pains have been taken, as usual, to facilitate and promote the legitimate course of justice, and to avoid all unwarranted extenuation of crime. The police and criminal courts in the two cities continue to welcome this service of the Association by its experienced agent, and the Governor of the State frequently avails himself of evidence obtained by the agent in particular cases that appeal for his Excellency's clemency. Thus, in many ways, while the State provides no courts of conciliation, the Prison Association's agent and the Committee on Detentions bring timely relief to many an innocent prisoner, and still more frequently to prisoners guilty only of some technical offence, yet entirely free from criminal characteristics. By this agency much personal suffering is relieved and prevented, and the pernicious influence of protracted detention in jail or of an unjust conviction and imprisonment is prevented. It is particularly worthy of remark that the friendless persons thus aided by this Association almost without exception do honor to the kindness thus shown them, and live thereafter so circumspectly as to avoid the appearance of evil. The amount of good accomplished in these various ways by the Association's committees and agents, in the past twenty-seven years, has been very great. It has been at once a work of mercy to helpless, friendless prisoners and their families, and of prevention and avoidance of the growth of criminal character or of relapse into dangerous associations. The greatly increased demands

upon this department of labor, the increasing obstacles to the industrial employment of released convicts in any trade or occupation, the wretchedly demoralized condition of convicts when released, together with the increasing and even organized allurements by which released prisoners are beset as soon as they leave the prison gates, are among the many deplorable circumstances which conspire to render this branch of the Association's work more and more necessary, and also to demand for its maintenance a more adequate support from the State or from private beneficence. But whenever the time comes that our penal system shall be organized and administered with strict regard to the duty of society to make the prison life, its discipline, its industries, and instruction conspire to awaken and establish the moral nature (with its hopes, desires, and efforts) of the prisoner, so as to prepare him for a self-respecting and virtuous free life and a safe replacement in the ranks of society, then, and not until then, can this department of philanthropic labor be relinquished.

In anticipation of the methods by which, at no very distant day, the State, and even the more populous counties, will probably provide the necessary methods for the immediate employment and guidance for aiding released prisoners to a proper replacement in free and honest life, the Prison Association finds there is an urgent necessity for instituting a well-organized system of industrial occupations adapted to give temporary and remunerative employment to homeless and friendless released prisoners, and help them find a practicable way back into self-respecting and self-supporting life. It is believed that it will be the duty of this Association to procure the organization of such a system, based upon a simple and economical plan, that shall incur no waste or risk of the funds required to put the system into practical operation.

There are, fortunately, a few plain and easily-acquired trades and common modes of labor which can be made the means of honest livelihood almost anywhere, and in which it would be entirely practicable to employ all such needy ex-convicts as now tax the charity of the benevolent, and, in a vast number of instances, relapse from an enforced idleness back into criminal or disorderly life. The Executive Committee earnestly commends this subject to the attention of all the friends and co-workers of the Prison Association, and would invite their careful examination of the facts which the Corresponding Secretary has submitted, in a special report upon the necessity and plan for such a system of temporary shelter and

industry, as a means for preventing relapse into crime and vagrancy, and for suitable replacement of ex-convicts into the ranks of useful and honest life.

It will be noticed, in a subsequent section of this volume, that it is already the purpose and fixed plan of several of the County Committees of this Association, to institute methods for securing the temporary employment and instruction of homeless ex-convicts as means for aiding them to re-enter the paths of free life.

In whatever way the Prison Association may attempt to aid the discharged convicts who come within reach of its influence, it is certain that, for this class of persons, its responsibilities and expenditures must, for some time to come, be continually increasing, and that any such enlarged plans of effort for their benefit will need a cordial support from citizens in different portions of the State.

Respectfully submitted.

THEODORE W. DWIGHT,
Chairman of Executive Committee.

ELISHA HARRIS,

Corresponding Secretary.

New York, March 7, 1872.

COUNTY PRISONS.

Early in July the Corresponding Secretary, under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association, entered upon an inspection of the county and city jails throughout the State. Fifty-six of these institutions were inspected, and the records and sources of crime, the management of the jails and criminals, and the operation of local authority and agencies for repressing crime, were made the subject of careful study and inquiry in forty-seven counties.

In the sixty counties of the State there are sixty-six county jails, in sixty-one of which there is constantly a greater or less number of prisoners of all kinds that the laws permit to be kept in the custody of these prisons: that is, of (1) accused persons held for further examination or indictment; (2) persons indicted and awaiting trial; (3) persons under sentence for some crime or misdemeanor that is punishable in the county jail; (4) vagrant, insane and violent persons, temporarily for safe-keeping; (5) persons under arrest on civil process, and awaiting bail or some judicial action; (6) prisoners held awaiting requisition for delivery and transfer to another county or State for trial, &c.; (7) prisoners under sentence to State prison or to penitentiary, awaiting some course of appeal or stay of proceedings; (8) detained witnesses; (9) children accused of penal offenses.

In some of the jails the Corresponding Secretary found imprisoned and commingled at once in the same corridors, representatives of all these various classes of prisoners, and in numerous instances he met with four, five or six classes of these diverse kinds of prisoners at once. Throughout the State we find the county jail is made to serve all these purposes, and with only a few exceptions, these prisoners remain without classification or any other attempt to comply with the law relating to the separation and non-intercourse of the different classes as enjoined by the act of 1847. To this subject reference will be made in a subsequent section.

Jail Records.—The records of the personal and judicial facts which the law requires to be registered, are, with a very few exceptions, neglected throughout the State. In only five or six

counties in which a jail register is kept have the successive jail-keepers and sheriffs treated the *prison register* as a public record; each sheriff has removed that book as being his own private property, and in some instances the files of commitment and discharge papers are incomplete and probably destroyed.* Hence it has been found impossible for the secretary to make up an accurate or complete record even of the commitments to the jails.

Structural and Sanitary Condition of the Jails.—The Prison Association reports in 1863, '64, '65 and '66, correctly describe most of the jails in the State, as respects their structural condition and wants. In only five or six of the counties have any noticeable improvements been made since the inspection in 1866. The average condition of them, both as regards structural security, cleanliness, and their sanitary state, is more unsatisfactory than that described in the report for 1866.

Perhaps it is fortunate for the work of jail improvement that throughout the State nearly all the counties will soon be impelled to erect new structures for county prisoners, or thoroughly reconstruct the old ones. In numerous instances a new and more appropriate location for the county buildings will be quite certainly selected. Already there is, in several counties, a clamorous demand upon boards of supervisors for speedy action to provide for these improvements; and in such instances as we notice in the county of Queens, where a dilapidated old building—erected in colonial times, and out of which any able-bodied prisoner may break his way in a single night,—and in the counties of Albany, Erie, Rensselaer, Otsego, Tioga, Orange, Oneida, Warren, and others, which have jails that are neither secure nor fit for the prisoners of a civilized people, there will necessarily be some effectual movement very soon to secure the erection of new prisons.

Sheriffs and others may put in a plea for jail *enlargement*, but they and all other intelligent citizens can readily perceive that whenever penitentiary workhouses and the houses of refuge shall withdraw from the county prisons all the convicts that should be sent to them, the common jail will become merely a house of detention, and that it will need to be simply a moderately large and economically administered institution, so that it can be made at once a healthful and decent abode, at vastly less cost than is at present incurred in

*The following remark, quoted from a reply to the corresponding secretary, was written by a sheriff:—"I can't get a correct list of prisoners, as the person that had the commitments has destroyed them. I give you all I can recollect of."

the debasing dens which we call jails, and which no enlargement can remedy and make fit for penal institutions.

These circumstances render the present a most favorable time for presenting to the public, in all parts of the State, the arguments that call for a revised system of penal institutions and reformed classification and distribution of the county prisoners; a system that shall make the common jail simply a secure and well appointed house of detention for accused persons while awaiting examination or trial, and which shall also make the judicial sentence to "imprisonment and hard labor" apply in a literal manner by sending the convicted prisoners immediately to penitentiary workhouses.

For this reform in the classification and administration of county jails and other local prisons the people are favorably disposed towards all the propositions that have been made by the Prison Association. Hence, in our consideration of questions relating to the structural wants of these institutions in the different counties, we have taken notice of the fact that no enlargement or modification of the present jails will in the least diminish the necessity for a speedy and radical change in the treatment and distribution of convicted persons now subject to jail imprisonment. It is also evident that any elaborate propositions for the mere structural improvement or enlargement of the present prison buildings would necessarily tend to divert public attention and duty away from the main and immense evils of the existing system of jail imprisonment, and thereby the reforms which are most needed would be harmfully delayed.

The only reform or change which we can reasonably desire to have effected in the jail edifices is, that one great improvement, which shall transform them into detention prisons and provide for the personal separation and security of the prisoners. Public economy will be greatly promoted by the reform which shall begin by a transfer of jail convicts to penitentiary workhouses; but any reform that begins with enlargement of the jails will be a failure, an evil, and a needless expense. With but few exceptions, the existing jail structures might be transformed into amply spacious and decent detention prisons, sufficiently commodious for the wants of the respective counties, were no convicted prisoners and no wrongfully detained persons kept in them; and this is the reform that all good citizens must first insist upon. Other improvements should not be overlooked; but until the first and chief of all improvements shall

have been faithfully set forth as a public necessity, it would seem to be folly to waste time upon the sanitary and architectural study and suggestions which the existing jail structures and their present unwarranted uses seem to demand.

Having thus given the reasons for avoiding a detailed description of the structural and sanitary faults of the county jails, the following facts are recited to show the nature and necessity of improvements which need to be made in the jails:—First, the defects of structure and furniture will be described; and secondly, examples will be cited from notes of inspection in various counties.

The Structural Plans of the Jails.—The common plan is that of a cubical or oblong block of cells, which are narrow crypts, separated and compacted in masonry of brick or stone, and with a small entrance door to each cell, opening from the basement pavement or a narrow gallery-floor; this pile of contiguous and superimposed cells being surrounded and defended by a jacket wall, at the distance of a few feet from the face or doors of the cells. And this exterior building—known to the outer world as the jail—is usually supplied with narrow windows, sometimes with only narrow slot-windows (the *crevasse meurtrier*, or murderer's window), while various sham symbols of security are made to embellish the exterior face and entrance of the edifice. The most deceptive and frail of all embellishments and symbols of strength and security are the iron window-gratings. Seldom have we found those gratings really well fastened and secure. Usually they are of soft iron, that may readily be sawed and bent by rude instruments.

The grounds upon which the prisons are built have, in only a few instances, been deeply excavated, puddled and cemented, or by other means suitably protected against the mining and burrowing of uneasy prisoners; nor do we find a periphery of ground exterior to the walls of the prison treated in this way to prevent escapes. Yet in numerous instances the worst of prisoners have broken jail by the burrowing process. Massive, yet very insecure, walls for the prison edifices are built upon the soft ground, forgetful of this ready method of jail breaking.

The Cellular Structure.—The common plan for the cells, as before-mentioned, masses them in a central pile, without means for ventilation, and with but very inadequate lighting. In a few jails that have very large and numerous windows, and large open-grating cell-doors, the cells constructed upon this plan are fairly lighted and ven-

tilated; but the plan is very objectionable, unless the corresponding tiers of cells upon the opposite sides of the pile should be separated by a central hall or corridor, to be used for ventilation, lighting, and inspection.

A few of the county jails, chiefly the oldest, have their cells opening into a badly-lighted central hall, while they abut against the wall, and are usually lighted by ordinary grated windows, looking outward, as from common dwellings. A few other jails are constructed without plan, in basements and cellars, as at Newburgh, Schenectady, Caldwell, and Ovid.

Lighting.—The cells, with but few exceptions, are too dimly lighted to permit reading and writing. In most jails, whatever the plan, the corridors and all other portions of the interior are not sufficiently unlighted to answer the physical, mental, and moral claims of human nature. The few jails that may claim exemption from this criticism exhibited to the inspecting officer of the Prison Association remarkable evidence of the beneficial aid which direct and abundant sunlight affords as a cheering and morally strengthening agency of the physical world, even in its influence upon debased and offending men and women.

With few exceptions the jails are not so lighted at night as to permit the prisoners to read and write. The permission which the statute gives the prisoner to supply his own lights is practically of no avail. It is bad economy and a moral wrong to deprive the common jail or any other prison of full sunlight, and of proper artificial light from sunset until nine o'clock in the evening.

Ventilation.—The fresh air supply in the jails is exceedingly defective and uncertain. The common structure of the cells, as we have already seen, is such as to preclude thorough ventilation. In a few of the oldest jails, with apartments—not cells—looking out from ordinary (barred) windows, the air-supply is wholesome because it is directly from the external atmosphere, without passing through dubious galleries and corridors. In only one jail, constructed upon the plan of central cells, with a surrounding corridor and a jacket wall, has the fresh-air supply seemed to be adequate. In that jail the windows are large and have good exposure to the sun, and the cell doors are of full size and made of open bars. In that jail (Niagara county) and in the Albany Penitentiary we witness the most ample supply of air yet attained in the common construction of central cells. The superiority in the ventilation in these instances is

owing to the great size and proper arrangement of the windows and the cell-doors. The absence of a central or partition hall between the corresponding tiers of cells is a defect that needs to be remedied in all prisons in which the central-block plan has been adopted. In nearly all the jails the needed alteration can be made when the time comes for reconstruction of the cells and apartments.

In about one-half of all the jails there has been introduced to the cells a very useful and deceptive aperture—termed a “ventilating flue”—a mere rough space four or five inches square in the partition-walls of the cells, and extending through to the roof, but unaided by the power of heat or any other force to produce an exit current of air. In most of the jails the cells are offensive with foul air, and in far more than half of the corridors and halls the atmosphere is damp and foul. The duty of daily opening and airing the jail is neglected by jail-keepers almost without exception. The cells are generally too small, being upon an average only $7 \times 7 \times 4 = 196$ feet cubical capacity. This is scarcely half the proper capacity for the most open and well-ventilated cell that can be constructed.

With all these manifest proofs of bad ventilation and general unfitness of the cells, it will nevertheless be possible in most counties to recast the plan and reconstruct the cells of the jail in such manner as to make neat and wholesome quarters suitable for prisoners in a house of detention.

Water-supply.—In the villages and cities that have a system of water-supply the jail has a supply by one or two hydrants, but the slovenly and defective arrangements for the necessary uses of the water prove that such fixtures are usually put in without plan, and at the caprice of rude workmen, as a mere job. Seldom do we find a lavatory with wash-basins and trapped sink, for the convenience of the prisoners, but simply a rude faucet and wash-trough. In but few instances is there a water-closet and means for water-flushing the privy and sewer. Stenchless most sickening and unendurable pollute the atmosphere of most of these jails which have, as well as of those that have not, a hydrant-supply of water.

In a single police prison—that in the city of Syracuse—every cell was found supplied with a neatly-adjusted little hydrant, with a chained cup and suitable means of separate cell-drainage. This experiment has proved successful and exceedingly useful, and it is in striking contrast with the conditions formerly witnessed in the same city building, when the cells were situated in a damp cellar and with

no appliances for personal cleanliness and healthful comfort. The money-cost of the new cells and fixtures was practical economy, said the *Police Justice to the writer, who had witnessed the examination of thirteen prisoners before that magistrate—eight of whom pledged themselves upon the Bible to abstain evermore from intoxicating drinks. The utility of a spring-faucet to supply pure water to the wretched and thirsty prisoners in police prison-cells is completely illustrated in the prison here mentioned.*

Lavatory and Bath Fixtures.—In no county jail are such fixtures complete and adequate, and in only a single jail did the writer find a bath room, tub, and hydrant supply. The absence of necessary appliances for personal bathing and ordinary cleansing might easily be remedied. The neglect is inexcusable. In many a jail the writer found that a single dirty and toppling tin hand-basin sufficed for all the bathing and toilet purposes of fifteen or twenty prisoners, and that one towel among so many would be regarded as a luxury. In a few of the jails the keeper kindly supplies the requisite wash-basins, soap and towels, and enforces a reasonable regard for cleanliness of person, clothing, and premises; but these are very exceptional cases.

Sanitary Conditions of Jails and Prisoners.—The fact that but few deaths, and not many cases of acute sickness, occur in our county prisons is sometimes quoted as proof of their good sanitary condition. This would not be an argument admissible in medical evidence. Even in the prison cells of Newgate and the Old Bailey, which were so foul that when opened to let their pallid inmates go before the court, they sent forth with them up the passageways a poisoned atmosphere that destroyed the lives of judges and jurors, the prisoners themselves had become so seasoned in their own foulness that they took no fever. It is not the contagious fever or the dyspeptic's colic that most endanger imprisoned persons, but it is changed and disordered condition of the blood, the gradual impairment of vitality, the weakening of tissues, the deposit of tubercles, and the beginning and increase of various constitutional diseases which the repeatedly-committed or long-detained prisoners in our county jails are doomed to suffer as the bodily damage inflicted by imprisonment. Yet this mere bodily injury, alone considered, bears no comparison with the speedy, inevitable, and destructive influence which the very causes of such bodily injury inflict upon the mind and the moral nature of the prisoner.

It is a fact which every thoughtful observer will notice, in a practi-

cal inspection of the county jails, and examination into the mental as well as bodily condition of the prisoners, that not the bodily health so much as the mental health and moral nature of the prisoner is first and chiefly endangered by the jail life and its debasing accompaniments. The county prisons are destroying the best attributes of manhood and womanhood in a majority of the persons incarcerated in them, and it is not in the power of medical and sanitary advisers to remedy or to prevent this great wrong. The writer of this statement, after twenty years of study and practical service in matters of hygiene, must deliberately express his utter inability to discover how any devices of mere sanitary improvement in the prison edifices, or any improvements in the means of personal hygiene, such as the diet, exercise, rest, bathing, or the other agencies that shall be directed to benefit the bodily condition, will avail to prevent and reform the principal evils which society and the prisoners respectively suffer in consequence of the present system of jail imprisonment, under conviction or otherwise, in communion with all that is debasing and defiling to the moral nature—a wicked and needless system that must be overthrown and superseded by methods inspired with the very spirit of justice, reason, and religion.

As the writer has very carefully inspected the county prisons with regard to their sanitary defects, and the physical wants of the prisoner, endeavoring to promote the adoption of various and much-needed improvements and means of health and comfort, and has found great difficulty in commanding the means for this immediate purpose, he feels no apprehensions that he will in any manner depreciate the proper estimation in which all such sanitary work is to be held. The intimacy of the relationship between good hygienic conditions of the individual—be he prisoner or prince—and a healthful condition of mental life and the moral feelings, is close and powerful. For this reason, as well as on the score of mere humanity, all the improvements that can well be devised and put in practice for sanitary purposes ought to be adopted for the benefit of prisoners, though they cannot overcome the evils which we chiefly protest against and deplore in the penal institutions. Yet as a physician, keenly appreciating the practical uses of hygienic measures, the writer owes it to the cause of penal reform to say emphatically that the first and greatest of improvements now required for the benefit of prisons and prisoners, and of society as concerned in them, are those which lie quite beyond the field of sanitary science in the realm of the sys-

tem of procedure respecting the imprisonment and respecting the intention and infliction of penal sentences in the minor prisons. It is not in the power of language to convey the strength of these personal convictions, derived from a faithful endeavor to find how and where physical and moral aid may be so applied as to be most useful to the prisoners. And it is a painful experience, without parallel in other circumstances of the offending and the ignorant classes, which the physician is called to witness or the sanitary officer to deal with, that no agencies of physical improvement and hygienic reform for the benefit of the jail prisoners promises much aid towards the moral rescue of them from the perils and wretchedness to which they are exposed.

The conclusion of the whole matter concerning jail improvements, jail enlargement, sanitary care, and supervision, is plainly this: viz., that the proper classification and distribution of prisoners, the removal of all convicted persons to a workhouse penitentiary or reformatory, and the official administration of the county and town jails exclusively as houses of detention and temporary security of persons awaiting judicial action, can alone redeem these local prisons from their infamous characters as dens of death. In these dens all the nobler attributes of the mind and the moral feelings are hopelessly destroyed in thousands of prisoners every year.

This view of the case must not prevent the Prison Association and its county committees from doing whatever good can be done for the sanitary and moral welfare of the prisoners as found in the jails, but the main effort should be to bring about a thorough reform in the prison system itself. Upon this subject the Corresponding Secretary found, in his tour of inspection, that among all classes of enlightened citizens throughout the State there is a strong conviction that this reform should be secured without delay.

Jail-keepers.—In numerous instances the jail-keeper is exceedingly humane and thoughtful in the administration of the county prison. In some instances, when the sheriff himself resides upon the prison premises, his personal attention and care evince a high regard for the personal welfare of the prisoners. But in a majority of the counties, jail-keeping is a mercenary business; the jail is a county boarding-house for large numbers of prisoners who deserve penitentiary workhouse discipline, and for a less numerous class that suffer, from various pretences, the interminable delays of the law;—and not a few of this class seem to be very unjustly detained. But these

classes fill the culprit boarding-house of the county, which helps to drain the pockets of the taxpayers.

In some counties the Corresponding Secretary found the jail-keeper and the turnkey active agents in promoting the vilest passions and debased appetites of prisoners. In one overcrowded jail, every cell was found with its walls pasted over, and literally lined with the most obscene prints from morally contraband pamphlets and illustrated papers. And the cells and principal corridor were strewn with those vile and polluting prints. In another county the jail-keeper was a graduate of the same institution, and he shamelessly lends himself to the basest practices in his intercourse with and favors to prisoners. His turnkey is a constant prisoner, who manages to be recommitted immediately upon the termination of each successive sentence, and who panders to every vicious indulgence and favor that can bring gain to himself and the keeper. Such corrupt officials, are, doubtless, exceptional; yet, a single instance, and there is more than one, serves to prove how dangerously lax and unworthy the penal administration is, which admit of such outrages against propriety and morality. The dissimulation and formalities by which the actual corruption and vileness are occasionally covered from sight, are so exceedingly thin that no practiced eye of an inspector need fail to see just where and how the jails breed vice and crime. The fact, that, in most of the counties, the jail-keeper, if the sheriff is not himself serving in that capacity, is no more permanent than the sheriff, and is under much temptation to make that term an opportunity for personal gains and partisan or bad friendships, must be regarded as a public evil. The keeper should be a skilled man; for as the good Pastor Weichern, of the "Rauhe Haus" of Hamburg, made it a religious duty to educate and train men to be prison-keepers, so should every county make it possible, and even necessary, that the jail-keeper should be a teacher of discipline and good morals, as necessary to the best interests of society as the teacher of the high schools, and not be subject to removal and base partisan service at the dictation of a temporary majority in the political ballot for county officers. The difficult art of dealing with offenders as they should be dealt with, will be learned only by a few men, and certainly there are scarcely any suitable men who will consent to do this service as it needs to be done, if the tenure of the place must terminate at the end of the third year.

The Imprisonment of Women and Children.—If the common jail

must continue to be used for imprisoning women and children while awaiting examination or trial, it will be obviously the duty of county authorities to expedite the preparation of suitable apartments for the detention of such prisoners. Though it is easy to repeat the senseless assertion that there is no hope for women and girls when they have fallen under public accusation and been thrown into prison; and though this assertion might with almost as much propriety be extended to the case of boys when first subjected to jail imprisonment, it is not true that the accusation, arrest, and detention of women and children must necessarily be so conducted as to overwhelm the mind in conscious degradation, shame, and despair. These are the mental conditions which we find actually underlying even the bravado and desperation, which, in numerous cases, are incorrectly accounted as reckless and incurable depravity or the evidence of hopeless wickedness.

At present there is scarcely a jail in the State that has any cells or apartments, or the method of care adapted to the detention of a woman or girl, or of young lads, such as are found in the common jails and police prisons all over the State. In only three of the counties did the Corresponding Secretary find adequate and suitable arrangements for the detention of these classes of prisoners.

The preparation of suitable apartments, and the enforcement of needful rules for the care of the female and the child-prisoners, must not wait the slow movement of a total reform of the jail system. It should receive attention forthwith, and even by temporary and imperfect expedients, if necessary, in every county and large town in which these classes will inevitably be thrown into jail; and these brief allusions to the subject must be made in this statement relating to county prisons, for it concerns one of the most urgent public duties connected with these prisons and with penal reforms. Like several of the reforms which relate to sanitary and administrative improvements in the jails, this which relates to the complete separation of the sexes, the separate and careful management of child-prisoners and the more delicate treatment of female prisoners, should be made soon by some proper inspection and authority which the State may immediately cause to be brought to bear. Personal inspection of the jails, and conference with many of the best citizens in the State, warrant the writer in stating that all these merely temporary improvements are entirely feasible, and will undoubtedly be seconded and made sure by county authorities if suitable counsels prevail.

NOTES OF JAIL INSPECTION.

The inspection of the jails was undertaken by the Corresponding Secretary, under the direction of the Executive Committee, with the design to ascertain what interests of the prisoners and of society demand the attention of the Prison Association in these institutions; also, to organize in each county suitable measures for promoting such interests.

In this inspection it was presumed, at first, that it would be practicable to obtain in every jail an accurate statistical record of its prisoners for the preceding twelve months. But the utter confusion and incompleteness of the jail records in five-sixths of the counties, and the equally defective official returns from the Courts of Special Sessions, rendered it inexpedient to attempt to make the official records of the jails, and the primary courts, a basis for the desired reports and generalizations concerning this inspection. The fallacies of deductions from incorrect and incomplete statistics of crime must be avoided, and yet, whenever we find a compact body of trustworthy records relating to a particular locality, class, or crime, we will not hesitate to use the facts.

In the progress of this inspection the Secretary succeeded in organizing methods for inquiring into the preventible sources of crime, and securing the adoption of measures for promoting the interests of prisoners and of released convicts—the best interests of society conjoined with these classes of its unfortunate and offending members. The actual condition of the prisons and prisoners was very closely inspected, and it is with the results of this part of the inspection that we need to deal at first.

The method of inspection was calculated to arrive at the truth upon all the more essential facts relating to the sources and growth of vicious and criminal characteristics in the various classes of offenders found in prison; also concerning the procedures against the accused. In like manner the physical condition of prisoners, the sanitary and structural wants of the jails, and the official administration of penal regulations, came under close examination. And in the performance of this duty all desired aid and facilities were given by sheriffs, jail-keepers, the county clerks, and such other public

officers as are responsibly concerned in the management of prisoners, and the movements of criminals.

Before proceeding to the description of the condition of the jails and their inmates in particular counties, there are a few practical points to be mentioned concerning the

Distribution and Social Relationships of Crime in the State of New York.

The annals of crime and misdemeanors in the several counties of this State present certain facts which admit of such analysis and practical generalizations as will greatly aid in understanding some of the more important relationships of criminal and disorderly life in the populations of the different counties.

First. There are certain constant as well as fluctuating relationships between crime and pauperism. Both are products of the same soil and social wastes, and both depend upon vices which are correlated in many ways; they also hold relations to the concentration and the distribution of population. These relationships admit of a fair comparative statement; while, on the other hand, there are still more intimate relationships sustained by crime to intemperance, ignorance, etc., which cannot, for want of statistics, be accurately stated in tabulated abstracts of officially recorded facts.

Second. There are facts connected with the geographical distribution of population, of commerce and trade, of the great thoroughfares and public works, and of agriculture and manufactures, which may correctly be estimated in their bearing upon particular kinds as well as the totality of crime and misdemeanor. In the great State of New York, with every variety and the extremest range of social and personal conditions, and of moral surroundings, very wide differences are noticeable in regard to the presence and preponderance of particular crimes, as well as in regard to the total quantity and percentage of human lives which run to such social disorder and criminality as to bring them into prisons and before the courts. Yet in every county and town the professional criminal makes stealthy errands from time to time, and either is himself entrapped, or entices debased and pliant residents into crime and the perils of merited penalties. Thus we not infrequently find that the most daring and successful burglaries have been perpetrated in the most isolated, quiet, and moral communities, and only the resident accessories—a few of the indigenous or vagrant idlers of the town—are arrested;

while the cautious chief craksman readily escapes with all their marketable booty.

In certain counties that are readily accessible from the chief cities, hordes of vagrant trampers and petty thieves, utterly demoralized by chronic habits of pauperism, tippling, idling, and vices of various kinds, stroll along the highways, and nestle in the hamlets and larger towns, ready to pilfer, annoy, ravish, assault, or beg. Westchester, Richmond, Orange, and Queens counties suffer immensely from these debased classes.

The great thoroughfares through the State, the main-trunk railway towns, and many towns upon the tributary and cross railroads, suffer immensely at the hands of professional thieves and burglars, and from the establishment of rendezvous that not only facilitate the movements and operations of the professional criminals, but which are schools of the most dangerous vices and crimes. At Binghamton, Susquehanna, Hornellsville, Buffalo, Syracuse, Troy, Albany, Ogdensburgh, and Plattsburgh, and numerous canal towns, the particular houses that are used for such purposes of rendezvous are known to the criminal classes, and especially to all contrivers of crime, as well as the Astor House and the Delavan House are known to business travelers. There are other and peculiar kinds of rendezvous, and helping hands arranged and known to horse thieves and the persons engaged in moving stolen goods. The location of all these business centers and aids of crime depends mainly upon the course and connections of the great thoroughfares, and the facility for conducting an apparently legitimate business, adapted to cover and screen particular crimes. This matter is worthy of State inquiry; but it is alluded to here merely to show how particular crimes may flourish and increase in different localities, and be variable in similar populations, and even be excessively frequent in the very localities that have the fewest homebred criminals. Indeed, it may be truly affirmed that the sources and agencies of crime in the whole State, or in any separate district, should deeply concern every citizen, and be made the subject of exact and general inquiry.

The facts relating to the rendezvous, the aids, teachers, and contrivers of crimes against property in the various sections of the State; the relations of criminal gangs with each other; the methods of enticing discharged convicts into these gangs, or of using them to meet exigencies and to cover unsuspected criminals, and the methods of evading and preventing pursuit by officers of the law,

are more readily ascertained than is generally supposed. Yet the ordinary management of prisoners, and of discharged convicts, is peculiarly adapted to prevent the voluntary contribution of such information to the officers of the law by penitent persons; and it is perhaps the chief of all defects of that system of management that it rarely tends to produce sincere penitence. But in our recent inspection of county prisons and their inmates, and a cell-to-cell examination of three of the penitentiaries, ample evidence was obtained of the readiness of great numbers of the younger criminals to repent and wholly forsake all criminal and vicious practices and associates, and to contribute whatever information and aid they can to break up the dens and companionships of infamy.

Information thus contributed during this inspection has already proved correct and trustworthy in tracing out various sources of crime in counties remote from the prisons in which the information was received from penitent prisoners; and it has greatly aided the study of the social, moral, and physical conditions under which particular individuals and classes are growing up into fully formed criminal characters, or have already become professional criminals.

The facts, as verified, go to prove very conclusively that the methods, agents, instruction, and vicious forces by which the acts and practices of crime are made seductive and are extended throughout the State, are more studiously cultivated and diffused among youth and bad men than are the necessary studies and methods of prevention and repression of crime among honest citizens. Let a single instance be here quoted to illustrate this point:

In a county jail in the western part of the State the secretary's inspection brought before him a young man who had served a full term of imprisonment in the Auburn State Prison, and a term in the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, and who had been an inmate of numerous jails, always for crimes against property, horse-stealing, larcenies of goods, dealing in counterfeit money, and forgeries—and, at the time of this examination, again under arrest for his *chief-œuvre* of crime, namely, stealing a valuable horse. And he confessed to the writer that he had stolen five horses during the previous six months, without having been suspected, as he believes, excepting in the last theft, which he committed in a border county of another State, from the Governor of which a requisition has been sent for him.

With a third term of punishment in State prison before him, this

young criminal, at the close of a private interview with him, stated with entire simplicity and apparent penitence that, as the law had now got fast hold of him, he would endeavor to break away from every practice and associate in crime. The following is an abstract of the statements made by this prisoner in the interview mentioned, as far as they have been verified.

Personal History.—M—says he has been a criminal ever since he was eleven years of age. His father is a business man in L. R., where the prisoner was born, twenty-seven years ago.

His mother died when he was only eight years of age, and after that his care and government were capricious, and his temper petulant and at times reckless. When eleven years of age his truant habits brought him into the company of a young thief who had suffered the jail penalty for his larcenies, and he taught and persuaded him to steal from his father's cash-box at the business office. This he repeated successfully, and finally was detected and punished by his father, and from that time was tauntingly termed the thief by father and workmen. His truancy became village vagrancy, and at fourteen he absconded from home and became a peddler of trinkets. Again at home, he was indolent, and aped the gentleman loafer. At the age of eighteen he stole a valuable horse in E., N. Y.; and, when arrested, was bailed, and the offence compromised and condoned by the father. The next year he abandoned home and joined himself to the fortunes of an ex-convict in a large gang of professional criminals. By that prison-graduate he was introduced to three very adroit and yet unpunished contrivers and teachers of crime in Ontario county, and also to the infamous Sims, of Belle Isle, near Camillus, Onondaga county. He found Sims an expert teacher concerning counterfeit money and its movements, and he found that the Ontario county men (keepers of canal-stables and dram-shops) were adepts in a great variety of crimes that require contrivance, such, for example, as the "shoving" of counterfeit currency; the packing and transportation of stolen goods; the stealing and disguising of horses, and secreting and sale of them; and the disguising and sale of stolen carriages, saddles, etc.; and, particularly, the instruction and subordination of canal and railroad employes in extensive larcenies and the "shoving" of counterfeit money.

Pursuing his career of crime against property, he had occasion frequently to supply himself with counterfeit money in the city of New York, which he obtained on easy terms at ——— in Centre street.

But before a year of this professional crime in its varied forms had elapsed, he was arrested in the State of Pennsylvania, and sentenced to the Eastern Penitentiary for a term of eighteen months in solitary confinement.

At the expiration of his sentence he bounded into free life, elated with the idea that he had become a truly religious man; and having prepossessing manners, he at once obtained employment in a rural village, and became a Sabbath teacher, but soon fell into temptation, forged notes, and, after various escapades from arrest, he again became a horse-thief. In September, 1868, he stole a horse in the town of S., in ——— county, N. Y., and was proved guilty, and sentenced to State prison for two years and eight months.

In prison he was a pet, and lived at ease, playing at waiter upon the warden, etc. He asserts he had no consciousness of punishment or penalty, nor any wish to escape from this imprisonment. He wrote to the Prison Association for some good place of employment, but when released he plunged headlong into temptations and bad associations; and after marrying a wife in a respectable family, he pursued his vocation as a horse-thief, forger, and dealer in counterfeit money. Some of the horses he had stolen during the last six months were yet unsold, and were being kept in distant localities, awaiting his anticipated opportunities and movements. In recounting to the writer the methods and individuals that most aided him, he mentioned eleven men, who are expert horse-thieves and receivers of stolen goods. Most of the men he mentioned carry on active business, exchange and speculate freely in property of various kinds, and every one of them is reputed among his neighbors grossly immoral and unworthy of public confidence. They reside in different counties, between Delaware and Allegany counties, and whether acquainted with each other or not, were all well known to this young horse-thief, and were always ready to aid in secreting both the thief and his booty, and are known to be proud of their renown among thieves.

It is not the purpose of this partial outline of an individual criminal's early career to bring forward any other than the points which chiefly relate to the most preventable methods by which habits of criminal character are established, and the destructive forces of professional crime are seductively and fatally worked. The more important lessons from this young thief's history, the facts relating to his own defective and perverted organization and education, and the utter failure and misuse of every opportunity, under the penal as

well as the parental government that should have been made available for correcting and saving the lad and the man, possess even higher practical interest than this which the professional relations of crime present to the inquirer into sources and prevention of criminal and disorderly life. And it is hardly proper to dismiss this case thus, without the remark that, although the penitence, tears, and heartfelt pleadings for friendly counsel were as sincere, when seated before the writer alone, as was his elated confidence in certain pseudo-religious emotions when he left his first imprisonment, exulting in free life and deceptive hopes and expectations; such a character, such a man, indeed, as he is in his faultiness of mental and bodily organization, cannot be rescued from criminal life or the liability to it without careful and very skillful training and discipline,—penal, and moral and physical training. This he has never had, and is not now receiving, though again sentenced to solitary imprisonment for a term of years.

Numerous instances occurred in these prison inspections which proved quite as important and suggestive as the particular case just narrated, and to some of them occasional references will be made in the succeeding pages.

OBSERVATIONS IN THE DIFFERENT JAILS.

ALBANY COUNTY.

The three jails in this county have for years shared the same just criticism upon the unfitness of the structures. The descriptions given in the 19th, 20th, and 21st reports of the Prison Association are applicable and just in this 27th report.

The small prisons at Cohoes and West Troy are practically police jails, and the old Albany jail, on Maiden lane, serves as the central county prison. At the several periods of inspection the past season it contained never less than 60 nor more than 75 prisoners. Its cells are overcrowded, and its corridors foul with the odors of the motley crowd of prisoners. The sheriff's most exacting requirements respecting cleanliness cannot make the atmosphere or the cells of such a prison cleanly and wholesome. The apartments for women are entirely distinct from those of the men, but they are more crowded and noisy. There is no adequate provision for the solitary separation of either the female or the male prisoners.

The insecurity of this old prison is well attested by culprits who have escaped from it upon frequent occasions the past twenty years. It is as utterly unfit for desperate criminals as for the petty offenders and youth of both sexes that are daily cast into it. Its entire reconstruction and rearrangement are imminently necessary for the public welfare. Its cells for males are forty in number, and in four tiers, with an average cubical capacity of about 196 feet. The ventilation is wholly inadequate, and at night the inspector found the air of the corridors and cells insufferably close and stifling. Classification and even separation are practically impossible. The female prisoners are necessarily herded together in a manner that must destroy the sense of womanly decency. The jail is scarcely ever free from the presence of several professional criminals and ex-convicts.

The Albany Penitentiary receives the greater portion of these prisoners when convicted in the courts. The Recorder of Albany, like the same court officer in the city of New York, needs ample jurisdiction and very prompt judicial habits to clean the city prison day by day, as far as his jurisdiction and the state of the cases permit, so as to limit in some measure the debasing moral influences that pervade the crowded corridors.

This old jail is kept with reasonable care by the sheriff's subordinates. Its prisoners are visited on Sabbath and occasional week days by a city agent of the Young Men's Christian Association, for moral and religious purposes, and the files of that association supply miscellaneous reading for the inmates several times a week. This kindness is highly appreciated by them, and it is to be regarded as a useful public service, for it helps to save men from blind abandonment to vicious life.

The police prisons of the city of Albany are more secure and appropriate for the detention of prisoners than the old county prison. That connected with police headquarters has a water-closet attached to each cell, and when inspected, was found in a cleanly and well-ordered condition.

BROOME COUNTY.

The criminal list of Broome county is large, and the culprits and disorderly persons who become inmates of the county prison at Binghamton are largely derived from other counties. The convergence of railways and canals makes Binghamton a convenient point of rendezvous for professional and casual criminals; besides, this city and several of the villages of the county can point to numerous criminals of indigenous growth.

At the time of the writer's first inspection there were eighteen prisoners in the jail, five of whom were charged with burglary and four charged with grand larceny; also, one with rape, and one with keeping a disorderly house for prostituting young girls. And at the second visit, two months later, there were twenty-two prisoners, and five new and very daring burglars. Concerning these prisoners there is a further remark to be made shortly.

This prison is one of the most dismal, filthy and uncomfortable in the State, and is a standing disgrace to the people of Broome county.

It is constructed upon the ordinary central "block" plan, and has a secure ante-room, and windows wretchedly dark and begrimed, but well secured by a stout facing of chilled-iron grating, besides the ordinary bar-iron grates. Yet this prison is very insecure on account of the ease of mining and burrowing out. Various attempts have been made by uneasy prisoners to escape during the past year. At each inspection the prisoners were found in a turbulent and dissatisfied mood, yet when examined separately each person appeared subdued, sincere, and truly anxious to break away from evil companion-

ships and the forces of vicious life. Their ages ranged from ten to thirty-six years, the average of the total number being only twenty-four years. Two were under fourteen years of age, and nine were under twenty years. One boyish faced young man, aged twenty-five, is an expert burglar and contriver of burglaries. Four other adepts in burglary and grand larceny were of the age of twenty, eighteen, eighteen and seventeen years respectively, and have fair common-school education. They are highly intelligent, but debauched by vicious companionships.

The apartments for female prisoners are entirely distinct and remote from the main prison for men. The solitary woman prisoner confessed to the inspector that she had for some years deliberately pursued the business of a procuress, and had numerous patrons, though her den of infamy was "too low to be a rendezvous, for gentlemen." She was a widowed daughter of a Methodist clergyman in the county, and was persuaded to enter upon her infamous career by a lawyer in one of the villages.

One of the accused thieves is an epileptic; and in fully confessing his crime was led to confess that he has monthly attacks of epilepsy, and that for a few days following each epileptic attack, even when only such an attack as leaves him momentarily unconscious, he has for three years found himself addicted to purloining and attempting to steal, and that when, after a few days, his moral consciousness is restored, he is chagrined at his vicious conduct. He has been an intemperate person. He has a dependent family and needs to work for their support, and expresses the wish that he might be worked and controlled for their benefit all his lifetime. He is a mild, timid, and physically diseased man, whom no prison punishment can cure.

Without exception, the male prisoners which the inspector found in this prison belong to classes that can and should be saved; yet nearly all have begun a high-handed course of vicious life, and two at least have adopted the crime of burglary as a profession; but the latter being young, plastic and confiding, as well as mentally competent, respond quickly to the warning to turn at once from criminal courses. And such hastily formed resolutions might result in entire success if these young culprits could have two or three years of true reformatory training and education with the penal labor which they deserve.

In this filthy and dismal prison, where the inmates must become brutalized, these young men have remained, and boys have been kept

from six weeks to six months, and neither they nor any prisoners that preceded them during the past year have been visited or advised in any manner by representatives of the people of Broome county. No minister of religion and no other person has undertaken the duty of ascertaining the moral wants of the prisoners, or extending to them any means of improvement and reform; and with the single exception of the moustrous Ruloff, whose character was hopelessly criminal, all these wretched inmates of the county prison have received no evidence whatsoever of any public or personal interest in their welfare, either for the present or the future.

The following abstract shows that there were 817 persons committed to this prison in the year 1870; and that 50 of these prisoners were females, and 107 under twenty years of age.

Abstract of the Broome County Prison Statistics for the Year 1870.

CRIME CHARGED.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under twenty years of age.
Assault and Battery	30	1	31	7
Pejjury	3	..	3	..
Debtors	7	..	7	..
Burglary	13	..	13	3
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	536	27	563	41
Vagrancy	127	18	145	49
Bastardy	1	..	1	..
Petit Larceny	12	4	16	5
Fraud	1	..	1	..
Grand Larceny	17	..	17	..
Lunacy	2	..	2	..
Forgery	3	..	3	..
H. W. Robbery	3	..	3	..
Arson	1	..	1	..
Murder	2	..	2	..
Military Fines	3	..	3	3
Other Offences .....	..	..	..	..
Illegal Voting	1	..	1	..
Total No.	767	50	817	107

The actual interest in the wants of this prison was found to be sufficiently widespread to warrant the hope that the local committee will find that their new organization and work for the benefit of the prisoners will be cordially seconded by the people, and a thorough reform of this prison be demanded. The Committee will find before them a remarkable field for inquiry into preventable sources of crime and the pernicious influence of jail life, and the neglect of early offences in youthful candidates for a criminal career.

CAYUGA COUNTY.

The jail at Auburn is one of the most secure and cleanly in the State. It has twenty cells for males and spacious apartments for women. It is under good discipline and interior police. It requires improvement in its ventilation and lighting, and some modifications in its internal arrangement to facilitate the needed classification and separation of inmates. There were only eight prisoners in jail at the time of inspection. These were remarkable for the low mental and moral organization that characterized each one, and especially of one that was accused of murder and one accused of arson. The former, whether guilty or not, possesses a weak and sadly unbalanced organization of both the body and the mind, with a sinister and vacillating habit of thought, void of judgment and as timid and impulsive as the most stealthy beast of prey. He was a frail and puny boy, who grew up in idleness, without even common education, in a community that has excellent schools.

The prisoner indicted for arson evinced one besetting weakness—a spirit of vindictiveness against which his reason and conscience seemed to oppose no barriers. Whether guilty or not, he greatly needed moral instruction while in prison. Another prisoner, with every attribute of a criminal character, indicted for arson, has since been released in consequence of defect of evidence, a fact that may never fail in his criminal trials, so adroitly does he contrive the crimes with which he is connected.

The criminal calendar of Cayuga county, as well as the returns from the courts of special sessions, will compare favorably with those of the purely agricultural counties, notwithstanding its water-side and canal population, and the presence of a State prison with 1,200 convicts. The Auburn prison, unlike that of Sing Sing, does not damage the peace and property of Cayuga county as the latter does of Westchester county. Release from the prison at Auburn is seldom followed by the ex-convict's residence in the county. It has long been one of the most peaceful counties in the State. In the year 1870 there were only eight convictions for felony and but fourteen for misdemeanors, in a population of 59,500.

Personal and religious efforts for the benefit of the county prisoners had been suspended for a long period, but have been commenced again by a committee aided by the Young Men's Christian Association.

There are sources of crimes which will amply repay the labor of

careful inquiry. And among a people remarkable for thrift, intelligence, and public spirit, it may be found easy to bring the advantages of social culture and practical education home to every neighborhood and every family, and thereby to attain all the immunity from criminal and disorderly life which these elements of social order can give.

CHEMUNG COUNTY.

The jail at Elmira, the county seat, has long been very unworthy of the rich and enterprising county of Chemung. A new jail, now nearly completed, and in some respects peculiarly well designed, will make it needless for any criticism to be entered in this note upon the inspection of the old jail.

There were eighteen men and boys in jail at the time of inspection. Two were indicted for manslaughter, and one for murder in the first degree. Gross intemperance, rather than any natural vice, had manifestly been the active cause of these terrible crimes. Their school education was fully as good as that of the average of the common people. The murderer is a negro who shot his own friend by mistake when intending to take the life of the seducer of his wife. This prisoner has served twenty-two months in Auburn State prison, to which he was sentenced for grand larceny, perpetrated when he was drunk. He says that during the day which ended in the murder he drank thirty glasses of raw whiskey while at Elmira and Horseheads.

Other prisoners gave very straightforward and instructive statements concerning the crimes and offenses of which they were accused; and only one of them, one guilty of manslaughter, appeared obdurate and irreclaimable, and he was a city ruffian of Elmira. Every prisoner had been the victim of inebriety. One of the young men who had been sent up by the police court for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and who had so incompletely recovered from his debauch that the inspector was about to leave the prison without attempting to converse with the man, so courteously expressed his wish to converse that the request was gratified, and the following facts will show that even the poor wretch just lifted from the gutter ought to be visited, and not passed by and neglected, when in prison. J. K., aged twenty-six, a native of Dumfries, Scotland, the second son and sixth child of wealthy and widely honored parents. Educated at the Dumfries High School and in the University of Edinburgh, he returned to his father's estate haughty and impetuous, and

having become intensely angry at a just rebuke from his father, he absconded and undertook to find his fortune independently in the United States. Entering the volunteer army he performed some service, but his career since the war has been one of alternate dissipation and melancholy. But his mind is active, his affection for mother and sisters fervid, and his memory clear even in respect to his classical readings in the University.

By request of the inspector he rapidly wrote out two paradigms of Greek verbs, beginning with the verb *tupto*; and also wrote out, without delay, the first paragraph of *Cæsar's Commentaries*, in Latin.

Ashamed to meet his father, and utterly dispirited, though not inevitably lost, he confessed his conscious worthlessness, and promised to let arrangements be made for his return to his father's house.

Numerous other cases examined in the Elmira prison were equally as important as this one. The local committee in that city is well organized, and they will find an ample field for studying preventable causes of crime. The Young Men's Christian Association is represented in the prison every Sabbath by one of their members, who instructs the prisoners out of the Bible, and leaves an ample supply of papers and magazines.

Chemung county has a heavy criminal list for a population of only 36,000. During the year preceding the inspector's visit the courts had sent 7 convicts to the State prison, 6 to the House of Refuge, and 45 to the Rochester Penitentiary.

Vices of a debauching and pernicious nature have been perpetrated at and near the county-seat ever since the war. The curse of the great rendezvous remains, though hidden from sight. In evidence upon this subject it is proper to remark that by the aid of the City Recorder and other citizens, evidence was obtained that not less than 100 girls and young women are known to be in the list of prostitutes in that little city of only about 17,000 inhabitants. In a single family a father, in comfortable circumstances, stated to the inspector that three daughters, all yet less than eighteen years of age, had been led astray during the previous eight months, and that if a private commitment to a reform school were practicable, then their salvation from a life of shame would be possible; but parental restraint had become powerless. The City Recorder correctly judges that to arrest and imprison, or even to publicly notice and degrade, such young persons, even if the municipal ordinances warranted,

would hasten the destruction of a far greater number than such official action could save.

CHENANGO COUNTY.

The county prison comprises ten cells, fitted up for two prisoners each. Each cell has a capacity of 296 cubic feet. Cells and corridor in front of them smelled offensively, although there were only six prisoners in them.

This prison is insecure, and has given exit and freedom to the worse criminals that have been brought into it the past year. This fault of the jail needs to be speedily remedied, for the numerous railroads which are now getting into operation in the county, already bring the worse class of burglars and other criminals who need to be held fast whenever they are arrested.

All except one of the prisoners found in this jail committed their offences when intoxicated. The exceptional case was that of an inebriate who, in an hour of sobriety, resolved to procure his own commitment by perpetrating a petty larceny and going at once before the magistrate to confess his crime with the evidence in hand, namely, a few ears of green corn, with his often repeated request to be sent to jail, to be saved from his abject enslavement to intoxicating drink. Being sober and having all needed proof produced before the village justice, he received a sentence of six months' imprisonment in the county jail. He has spent three years in the State prison at Auburn, and after two years of vagrancy and drunkenness in the streets of his native town, where once he had home and children, he begged for this asylum of a jail, where he faithfully obeys all rules, and endeavors to earn the sheriff more than his daily cost to the county. He says he has lost all power over appetite and will, except as he acts in obedience to official or friendly orders and requests.

This instance of a manly and real consciousness of incapacity is not a rare one, and it instructively points to the demand which exists in all parts of the State for workhouses for *correction*, where moral weakness and vagrancy may together find the proper remedy, so far as it is in the power of society to apply it.

CLINTON COUNTY.

The county prison at Plattsburgh is one of the most dismal and worst contrived in the State, and is utterly unfit for a civilized people.

The eighteen cells occupied by male prisoners are crypts, entered from a very dismal and damp central corridor, which has one small window at the end. The two apartments for women are in a second story of this ugly structure. There were nine prisoners at the time of inspection, typical representatives of the frontier criminals.

At the inspector's first call to see the prisoners they were in a turbulent, riotous condition. In their darkness and discomfort they were utterly defiant, and reckless to such a degree that the sheriff, though a most indulgent and kind-hearted man, had been compelled to manacle some of them.

Requesting to be left alone with them, with manacles off and cells unlocked, the inspector found that while every man was readily calmed and at last induced to give a straightforward account of his early life and the course of his disorderly and criminal career, they at the same time evinced such utter disregard for the consequences of crime both to themselves and to society, that the principle seemed to be demonstrated in this instance, that penal treatment, without special and well adapted instruction and training, could not overcome the criminal and disorderly character into which several of these prisoners had grown up from boyhood. They were sharp-witted and reckless young men, almost wholly untouched by any of the conservative agencies of religion, morality, and law. Arrest and escape were the legal and social terms with which their thoughts and lives had been associated in respect of crime. These young men correctly represented the bold and desperate quality of the Canadian frontier criminals. Yet their conversation evinced the fact that they could be rescued from criminal courses of life at far less cost than the price of the property they had stolen or destroyed.

The public record of crime in Clinton county, as far as the returns to the Secretary of State can show, would not seem to be alarmingly large. The conviction records in this county show, for example, that in the year 1865 the criminal courts convicted only 18, and the special sessions only 28 persons; and that in the year 1870 there were 22 convictions for felonies, and 87 for misdemeanors. But this is only the recorded part of the actual history of crime in the county during the years here specified. The inspector found there were no less than 73 indictments for felonies in the same year in which there had been but 22 convictions; also that the 87 certified returns of convictions for misdemeanors covered only a fractional part of the number which had come under arrest and

penalties of some sort; yet the exact number of well-proved misdemeanors and petty crimes handled by the magistrates of the several towns could not be ascertained. In conversation with an intelligent county officer, he was able to point to the persons accused in the perpetration of 112 felonies in the course of seven months, and to describe the burning of thirteen barns at different times and in different neighborhoods in a period of only twelve months; and in recounting the cost of crime in Clinton county, it was found that there is ample evidence that the yearly loss would, at the lowest cash valuation, greatly exceed the total expense of defraying the reformatory education of all the juvenile delinquents in the county, though the proportion of such criminals and offenders is probably larger in this than in any other county in the State. Yet, in the face of abounding evidence of the fearful cost of crime, and especially of neglected juvenile delinquencies, in the nature of felony, the common almshouse of the county is made a receptacle for vagrants and some of the vilest wretches in the community. At the time of the inspection, a debauched and intolerably vicious girl, of fifteen years, that had recently been convicted of prostitution and shameless crime, was permitted to be sent to the crowded almshouse, because the supreme court judge in that district declined to recognize the duty of sending her to the House of Refuge for Girls on Randall's Island. Were the laws relating to the trial and commitment of children guilty of felonies and misdemeanors so amended as to direct the county judges to try all child-offenses (not capital crimes) without delay, it might effectually obviate great evils that now arise from delay and from haste in the disposal of these cases in the oyer and terminer and general sessions courts. In one way and another Clinton county suffers greatly for want of the means of reformatory schools and reformatory penal treatment. Even the moral power of the common-school system is greatly crippled by the withdrawal of a great portion of the children and youth into sectarian schools. Child vagrancy is a prevailing vice in the villages. The laboring classes have, to a great extent, forbidden the attendance of their children in the common-schools. The following incident, in the inspector's inquiry upon this point in the county jail, is too instructive to remain unpublished:

J. M., a lad aged nineteen years, was in irons in his cell when the inspector entered the Plattsburgh jail. He was already under indictment for burglary and grand larceny. After a brief preparatory

conversation—released from restraints—he stated with entire frankness the following facts: His father and mother were laborers, still residing in P— street (where the inspector visited them and verified the prisoner's personal history); he was never permitted to attend the district schools; yet had alternated from the church schools to vagrancy in the streets until he began to steal, when about twelve years old. In 1866 he committed burglaries and thefts for which he was sentenced to the Western House of Refuge. At that institution he remained a short time, and then escaped with a company of his associates; when he reached the eastern portion of the State he engaged in his favorite raids upon property, and soon was arrested, tried, and sentenced to Clinton prison at Dannemora. In prison he was a pet, and performed some kitchen duties, but was allowed his own way, a favor that he requited by his amusing exhibitions at "tumbling" and acrobatic posturing. Becoming uneasy, he escaped from prison and soon reached the region of Rutland county, in Vermont, where he says he committed crimes that never can be proved, but for which he was about to be tried when the requisition for him as an escaped prisoner enabled him to return and finish his penal sentence at Dannemora. After two years and eight months' imprisonment, his release, with the usual commutation for good behavior, was granted, and he went to Massachusetts; but returning to Plattsburgh, early in the last summer, he committed two burglaries, and other crimes, for which he is now again sentenced to several years of imprisonment. He is a smart, reckless, but kind-hearted lad; has a wife, and much warmth of affection for parents, sister, and home. By his request the inspector visited the parents, and received from father and a young sister abundant evidence that the mother, a very energetic and bigoted woman, had taught the lad to steal, and that the chief regret at home was for the "misfortune of discovery," as they expressed it in their French patois.

There were other cases of equal importance in the Plattsburgh jail at the time of the visit, but the writer has not had opportunity to verify the statement he receives from them.

The local committee that will henceforth co-operate with the Prison Association is thoroughly impressed with the duty of searching out and extinguishing the sources of crime which so greatly damage the frontier counties along the Canada line. They are greatly aided by the pastor of one of the Presbyterian churches, who regularly, upon every Monday at the jail, and every Thursday at

almshouse, voluntarily performs the duties of a Christian teacher, and makes a careful study of the fruits of that social soil which in Clinton county as in other sections of the State produces at one growth vagrancy, vice, crime, and pauperism.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

The jail at Hudson serves its chief purpose very well, namely, to board certain chronic vagrants and drunkards; but it is not suitable for the detention of persons accused of crime. It is badly arranged interiorly, and should be reconstructed so as to provide for complete classification of inmates, and for the proper lighting and ventilation of the cells and corridors.

There has for many years been maintained such wholesome local influence for the welfare of the jail-prisoners by Hon. John Stanton Gould and numerous citizens of the city of Hudson, that the administration of penal justice evinces great readiness to meet the moral and legal interests of prisoners in this county.

There was one prisoner in the corridors at the time of inspection whose personal record shows how lame the course of justice has been in New York and Brooklyn, and how widely and expensively the fruit of official neglect may be experienced.

Z. S., a lad aged nineteen, native of the Red Hook district, Brooklyn, lost both parents at three or four years of age, and was brought up by an uncle who owned shanties and a dram-shop there; says he is sure his mother was intemperate. He began to be a "little thief" and snatcher when only ten years old. Says he can recollect thefts of money enough to make \$3,000. He stole \$1,000 in one afternoon and evening, in Brooklyn, in September, 1870, and fled to Jersey City, and thence to Chicago. He had been often arrested both in New York and Brooklyn for petty larcenies, but had "got off without being sent up." Was sure the \$1,600 would send him up to prison, as he had grown too old to be sent to the refuge. At Chicago he lived a bestial and debauched life; lost the sight of one eye by syphilitic disease, and after spending all except \$25 of his stolen money he returned eastward to Albany, and in his first strolling as a vagrant "to get work," he was offered a place by a farmer in Columbia county. He stole a valuable horse from his employer, and was overtaken before he reached Hudson.

This lad had become familiar with every phase of petty burglaries and thieving; said he never had any wish to leave off, nor did he

know or expect that he would suffer any punishment from God for his crimes. His present condition is that of a moral idiot. Though a beardless boy, he seems to have passed hopelessly beyond the reach of any reformatory influence of State prisons, unless moral agencies and instruction can be united with the prison discipline.

According to his own account he has aided in destroying and stealing enough property in the counties of New York and Kings to have paid the cost of educating and saving ten such lads as he was when he was first arrested for petty larceny, at twelve or thirteen years of age.

There were nine prisoners in the jail at the time of inspection, and of these there were seven that needed a protracted period of workhouse discipline, and daily instruction and training to rescue them from intemperance and vagrancy.

CORTLAND COUNTY.

The new jail at Cortlandville is one of the four decently cleanly and well-arranged county prisons in the State. There were only two inmates in its corridors at the date of inspection. This prison is under good management, and the prisoners can be kept classified to any desirable extent. Several of its apartments are as comfortable and well lighted as those of any ordinary dwelling.

One of the two prisoners, at the time of the last visit, had forged a stolen blank check when recovering from a protracted "spree," and he has been sentenced to the State prison. The other prisoner, — a slave-born negro, accused of an indecent assault, — was writing a letter in a very legible hand, and he stated that his prison mate, the forger, had taught him to read and write, and that henceforth he would follow the precepts of temperance and religion which he had been reading. Instruction and a well-ordered daily life are practicable in such a jail.

Cortland county has a small criminal list, though it produces occasionally a few very bad criminals. For example, in one of the penitentiaries the writer found a lad of eighteen years, who, while in the house of refuge for larcenies committed in this county, had armed himself and a company of associates, and were on the eve of escape and bloodshed, and a marauding tour, when, by timely discovery and arrest by the superintendent of the refuge, the lad and his associates found they had "broken into the penitentiary." This prisoner, in describing to the writer his first instructions and exploits in crime

in Cortland county, designated a family of social contrabands that lived by petty crimes, in which he was first taught and aided. His statement was verified. That hiding-place for thieves and their booty was pointed out to the writer.

In this county, as in many others, the pauper class and the criminal records need to be studied together. Pauperism and neglected families furnish the stock of vagrants and criminals.

DELAWARE COUNTY.

The jail at Delhi was found in a cleanly and well-ordered condition at the date of inspection. It had only two inmates. A wholesome sentiment in regard to the preventable causes of crime is found to be operating in various quarters of the county. The people need the aid of the reformatory more than of an improved jail. In one of the villages the inspector found that the three boys between the ages of twelve and fifteen years had so frequently had the clemency of the magistrates and courts rather than the needed sternness of a sentence of the daring young offenders, that they were awakening good citizens to the duty of securing to them the benefit of reformatory treatment.

DUTCHESS COUNTY.

The jail at Poughkeepsie has fallen into a neglected condition, and its inmates present peculiar examples of the necessity there is for effectual classification of prisoners in the county prison. Dutchess county, and the city of Poughkeepsie especially, must have access to some workhouse penitentiary. This would quickly rectify the evils now witnessed in the jail.

ERIE COUNTY.

The old jail of Erie county, in the city of Buffalo, is justly regarded by the people as a public nuisance. It is an insecure and loathsome prison, with less than forty available cells, and with four or five apartments for females and debtors. With the utmost efforts of the jail-keeper, the premises are kept in a more cleanly condition than at some prior periods; still it remains a foul and dismal den, utterly unfit for human habitation. The repeated official representations made by grand juries concerning it have led to some improvements in the management of its internal affairs.

Crowded, condensed, and necessarily intermixed, as the prisoners in

this jail are, they evince the pernicious effects of their bodily and social discomfort in an unmistakable manner. The sixty prisoners visited in this jail by the inspector were restive, petulant, and mentally inaccessible to moral influences, to a degree scarcely equaled in any other prison in the State.

This jail is legitimately a detention prison only, and that too for cases of felony, etc., that must be brought up before the courts of record. The penitentiary workhouse of Erie county receives all cases of special sessions and police court convictions, whatever the term of imprisonment. Therefore, the county jail should be made, without further delay, a model detention prison. No other county jail in the State is so completely relieved of the minor offenders and all the cases that admit of immediate hearing and conviction. And it is also true of this jail and of Erie county that, for the same number of inhabitants, there is no other county that has so large a number of prisoners that rank as felons. The number of convictions in the courts of record in this county in the year 1870, was 139; the total number in special sessions, as far as reported to the County Clerk, was 1,341; and the total number of convictions in the Buffalo police courts was 2,299; the total number sent to State's prison in that year, was 62; the number sent to penitentiary was 2,470.

At the last session of the Special Term of the Supreme Court in Buffalo, November, 1871, the writer was occasionally present to listen to the sentences of conviction. At that term there were twenty-five (25) sentenced to State prison; six (6) to the penitentiary; and two (2) to be executed. These bare statistics of conviction justify the statement that Erie county (with a population as given by census of 1870, of 178,697), has an enormous criminal list.

The city of Buffalo is, unquestionably, one of the most frequented centres of crime in the State of New York. Its criminal classes are found in condensed masses, such as have not existed or been possible in the cities of New York and Brooklyn since the metropolitan police system swept through the purlieus of crime here some fifteen years ago. The record relating to the 7,543 arrests by the police of Buffalo in the year 1870, show an immense vortex of vice and crime sweeps in a vast population of particular districts, and that the region known as the Canal street district surpasses the "Five Points" of the metropolis in its worst days. These facts relating to crime in Erie county stand in a very important relation to the penal institutions in the county. Certainly, it is an affair of vital

importance that thousands of young criminals and persons accused of felonies are dragged from the openly-permitted hot-beds of vice and schools of crime into a detention prison that might truthfully be written all over—within and without—with Dante's inscription over the portals of the *Inferno*. Let one of the numerous criminals, found now in the felons' prison for the fifth or sixth time, and who had her first prison experience chiefly in the Erie county jail, tell her own story, which is briefly as follows (from her own lips, verified by officials who had watched her career):

S—, age thirty-three, well born, educated in a convent school, and led into indiscretions upon her first visit to Buffalo. For one of her larcenies in a bagnio she was arrested and thrown into jail; and after repeated offences, she was convicted and sentenced to State prison. At each step of her career, until she reached Sing Sing, she says she became more and more hardened and reckless by the preliminary proceedings of justice and the circumstances of her incarceration. She has now spent eleven years in prison, penitentiary and jail since she was fifteen years old; and in the intervals of her imprisonment this lost creature has at times, for brief periods, been the belle of the *demi-monde*, and has destroyed men and families at will. She says that from her first jail imprisonment she has wreaked her vengeance upon society and its laws in her own way, in which she was conscious that she walked, when not imprisoned, as the queen of seduction and debauchery.

Hardened, soulless, and lost as this wretched criminal is, her mind is clear, her consciousness of wickedness and the long lost possibility of return to a womanly life is intense, and her manners are still graceful and proud.

There was a time when that prisoner could have been saved, but not in such a place as the Buffalo jail. She has already cost the people more than ten thousand dollars as a criminal under trial and in prisons, has stolen and variously destroyed tens of thousands, and boasts her deliberate ruin of numerous men.

In no other county in the State does criminal character find facilities for more rapid and complete development; and if the inspector's observations in the criminal institutions throughout the State have not misled him, he must conclude that not only the people of Erie county, but the whole State of New York, must take interest in the causes and growth of criminal character like this. And as the whole State should be interested in the condition and management of every

jail, penitentiary, and prison wherever located within its boundaries, the writer would recite such evidence as this to illustrate the necessity for the reforms that are called for in every county.

ESSEX COUNTY.

The criminal and disorderly life that comes under the cognizance of the courts in this mountain district seems to be faithfully dealt with, but the causes which are continually fostering it and giving it boldness, cannot be overcome by criminal laws. Ignorance, and low social conditions in particular families and neighborhoods are the leading sources of crime in this county.

There were five prisoners in the jail at Elizabethtown at the time of inspection. Four were guilty of crimes against property in the nature of larceny, and one was indicted for murder. One, a hotel-boy, orphan at tender age, and now only thirteen years old, had long been in prison awaiting trial for grand larceny, which he frankly confesses. Utterly ignorant and untrained in any moral truths, he had been a ready learner from an elder brother, now a convict in State prison. That brother instructed this lad in the crime for which he is now imprisoned. The requirements of the law relating to the boy criminals that may be consigned to the Western House of Refuge, compel this lad to tarry in the wretched old jail at Elizabethtown, until he shall have been sentenced by the criminal court, that has only two sessions during the year. This boy-prisoner, that has received no education or training, except in the art of larceny, might be saved except for this protracted imprisonment, among debased men, in a dark and cheerless den.

Prisoner number two, aged forty, a butcher, accused of sheep-stealing; confesses he stole the pelts, but that other persons derived all the profits of his larcenies. Has been a thief all his life, and belongs to a family of cattle and sheep thieves. This criminal quality has been evinced in two generations, and is now witnessed in collateral kindred. In the thief here under examination the moral sense is virtually that of an idiot, yet it is a vindictive and irascible man of the mountains that exhibits this depravity. This man has often been shut up in a jail for months in sleepy idleness for the same kind of crime he is now accused of, but at each imprisonment he believes he suffers the full measure that society and the laws accept in atonement for any evil he may have done. He says one of his cousins has amassed a mountain property in land and stock

worth many thousands, by stealing cattle and sheep and running them to points of distant transportation.

Prisoner number three, aged twenty-five, has been proved guilty of the murder of a friend when under the influence of whiskey, and in a wild delirium. Now, in his sobriety, he is not endowed with any attributes of a murderer.

Prisoner number four, aged twenty-two, a giant mountaineer, utterly ignorant of letters, and untaught in moral truths. He is reckless of every legal requirement in the community, yet he is a young man of mild temper, though a sort of indigenous *Communist*. He needs instruction as well as penalties for the cure of his outlawry.

Prisoner number five, aged thirty-five, is a miner, who, when out of employment, and debased by gross intemperance, committed grand larceny. He is utterly ignorant, and needs a year of instruction as well as penal toil. The latter he will receive, but not the former. Every inmate of this jail was found peculiarly accessible and ready to be instructed, and certainly no prisoners could stand more in need of it.

This jail received during the first eight months of 1871 twenty-two prisoners, and six of them were under twenty years of age. In the year 1870 it received twenty prisoners, of which two were females, and six were under twenty years of age.

Essex county needs to reconstruct this jail, for it is insecure, and utterly faulty in its plan. Most of all do these counties, in which accusations of felony must wait the long months of interval to answer the call of grand juries and criminal courts, need to have the same expeditious method of examining and deciding the cases of child-criminals as that which the cities of New York and Rochester have for all cases that may be sent to the houses of refuge. This reform can be brought about either by requiring the county judge to take immediate action, without waiting for the circuit courts, or by extending the jurisdiction of local magistrates, to enable them to decide such cases as that of the boy that was found in the prison of Elizabethtown.

GENESEE COUNTY.

The county prison at Batavia was built in 1861. It is located upon the right bank of the Tonawanda creek. It is a damp and insecure prison, and is not of sufficient capacity for the demands that are made upon it. The twelve cells for male prisoners were all occupied at the date of inspection. The utter impossibility of necessary classification

was obvious, and the pernicious results of unrestricted intercourse of the inmates were strikingly illustrated in this jail at the time of inspection in November.

One of the prisoners was a professed burglar; nine of them had committed grand larceny in various ways; one was accused of malicious mischief, and the twelfth prisoner confessed he was guilty of arson. These were all lounging in one narrow corridor in front of their cells. The graceful and well-dressed professional burglar was the centre of attraction and influence. An accomplished villain, aged thirty-nine, and for fifteen years or more living in crime, excepting, as he was pleased to state, the four years that he served in the rebel army. He boldly and ingeniously justifies his career and ignominious profession, asserting that he has done more good than evil, and that the reign of *Communism* will eventually justify his acts. Upon his knee, at the first visit to the prison, sat a lad of twelve years exchanging the gossip of crime, and by his side sat a lad of eighteen years, a Boston boatman's boy, who, for three months, had been his accomplice in crime, doing the stealing and marketing for this crafty crackman and contriver. The Boston boy was frank and manly, and wished to be saved from any further dependence upon, or companionship with, the *Communist* burglar. He said he hoped the court would sentence them to different prisons. Yet for the time being in jail, waiting trial, the chief means of "killing time" is the criminal conversation of these young candidates for the State prison.

Two of these prisoners are boys only twelve and thirteen years of age, accused of grand larceny, and an attempt at burglary. They are Rochester newsboys and shoeblacks, whose parents encouraged them in those occupations to keep them out of the truant home. Their active and largely developed brains had planned a trip to San Francisco, with no other means than their blacking kits, and "dead-head-riding," from place to place by railroad. Their experiment having ended in disaster before they reached the city of Cleveland, they stole a ride homewards by rail, but were ejected from the train at Batavia, and there pilfered what they could lay hand on for food, and marketable sales to aid them homeward. The committing magistrate interpreted the acts of these two children as felonies, and thrust them into jail to await the grand inquest and a supreme court session, to be held some nine or ten weeks subsequent to the arrest. These two instances illustrate the case to which attention was called in Essex county. These lads had received some rudimen-

tary education in a parochial school in Rochester, and had shrewdly kept out of the hands of the truant police, though they had for two years been truants.

Among the prisoners at Batavia none could be regarded with indifference. Even the three Indians had each a record of beginning and progress in disorderly life that had received no rational care from the educated classes. The sixth prisoner examined, an Irishman, aged thirty-five, confessed his crime of burning stacks and barns, but could give no reason for that act. Yet there was a reason, an idiot's reason. It was simply as follows, as the writer ascertained when examining into the mental history of that man's daily life: Though always sane, and always a faithful domestic and farm servant, his brain was defective in development, and would be classed as 'microcephalic' by physiologists; yet he managed his personal affairs independently. No motive for his impulse to arson had been discovered; yet there was a motive: When, upon a certain evening in October last, a clan of rude young men had assembled upon the premises of the next neighbor of his own employer for a noisy ravel with horns and bells and insulting manners, this half-witted man became intensely determined and anxious to put a stop to the riotous outrage against his friend and neighbor. With but one thought in his narrow and utterly incompetent mind, he quickly obtained a friction-match and ran and set fire to a large straw-stack, and says he "determined the boys should drop their horns and noisy brawling, and put out the fire." But he took no heed of the fact that the barns, as well as numerous stacks, all stood in close proximity in the same inclosure, with whose flames were suddenly to terminate the indecent serenade to the owner of this property.

Though regarded as both shrewd and strange, this man with a deformed brain had always been peculiarly liable to do impulsively the most unreasonable acts. Without education or guidance, he now is only fit to live securely and harmlessly in a workhouse, or under a friendly master. This instance of "unaccountable" crime is mentioned to illustrate the fact that in numerous criminals which the writer has examined, the acts of crime, as charged and proved, have not been associated with criminal motives. Some of these have been instances of positively defective organization of brain and the powers of reason; and in other instances, still more numerous, reason itself has been found utterly unseated and disordered, though associated with ample natural powers, and not unfrequently with man-

ners and a daily life that would not readily reveal the sad secret of a mind diseased.

Genesee county, though exclusively agricultural in character, has sources of crime, and suffers losses by criminals which demand the same vigilant inquiry that is needed in the neighboring counties of Erie, Niagara, and Monroe. The jail in this county should, without delay, be so improved in its interior arrangements as to provide for the classification of prisoners as the statute of 1847 requires; and also provide facilities for personal cleanliness, and the means for security against escape.

GREENE COUNTY.

The county prison at Catskill was found in a perfectly clean and well-kept condition, and containing at the time of inspection only six prisoners, five of whom are in trouble as a direct result of chronic intemperance. These deserve and need workhouse treatment.

The apartments in this old jail are simply plain, well-lighted chambers; the criminal list of Greene county is small, and so is its pauper list (see statistical table at the end of this report).

LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

The county prison at Genesee was erected in 1820; a wooden structure, 36 by 40 feet. It has eighteen cells, which are in a clean and well-kept condition, although it is a miserably contrived jail.

There were ten prisoners at the date of inspection; one a woman aged twenty-two, four young men guilty of burglary, and one accused of rape.

The four burglars are types of reckless young men, American born, who have deliberately started on a career of crime; they are led by an acknowledged adept, who is a professional cracksmen and a prison graduate. Their last burglary was in one of the Livingston county banking houses.

The female prisoner, aged twenty-two, had received an academical education. She is charged with assault and attempt to kill; her case is that of a mistress acting under instructions, and with the weapon of her immoral and cowardly keeper; she makes no secret of her faults, but she is friendless, and has been without guidance from the time of her school days.

The sheriff and supervisors have just completed certain important means of security in this jail. And they were greatly needed for

holding such desperadoes as these four burglars. These well-secured culprits claim to be Eastern men, who had found their way into Livingston county under some pretence of business; but they acted under the leadership of a well-known contriver of crime.

MONROE COUNTY.

The old stone prison on the margin of the Genesee river at Rochester is well secured, and is as carefully kept as any county prison in the State. The main portion of the prison contains thirty-six cells, each containing 250 cubic feet of space. Most of the inmates were accused of serious crimes. They were orderly and cleanly, and at the writer's first inspection all of them were listening respectfully to the reading of the Scriptures by a refined Christian lady, who makes two visits weekly for this purpose and to converse with them.

The Monroe County Penitentiary does excellent service in preventing this jail from becoming overcrowded.

The House of Refuge also receives great numbers of juvenile delinquents, that, except for the municipal laws which provide for speedy trial and commitment to that reformatory, would necessarily increase the jail population. The Truant Home, the House of Refuge, the Home for the Friendless, and the Penitentiary respectively, offer their aid in preventing crime. But a glance at the police court in the morning hours, or an inspection of the cells at police headquarters, or an hour with the chief of police, will reveal the fact that the unrestricted traffic of dram-shops and the utterly unrestrained social slaughter of the ceaseless swarms of young women and girls in the bagnios, may before long give to Rochester great evils that may not easily be cured, but that certainly could now be controlled and prevented. The hideous murder which was described to the writer by the wife-murderer himself in the county prison, was a direct result of the unrestrained outrages of the bagnios. The shameless license that is enjoyed by the grossest vice incites to capital crime. Rochester, like most of the cities of Western and Central New York, needs to find an *Industrial Home* for girls, so that the police authority can safely arrest the tide of girl-prostitution.

NIAGARA COUNTY.

The county prison, at Lockport, is one of the most secure, well-lighted, comfortable and healthful in the State. It was erected in the central-block style.

It has thirty-two cells in the block, with a broad corridor upon three sides. The width of the corridor and the judicious arrangement of the gallery and the cell-doors enables the sheriff to maintain a fair degree of classification. The female apartments are in a separate portion of the edifice, but unfortunately they are accessible only by way of the main prison. The original plan of this jail admits of its being readily improved in such manner as to make it one of the best of such prisons. Its thirty-two cells for males and two large apartments for females are sufficient for the requirement of the county; but all access and sound should be shut off between the male and female departments; water and a bath-room for each of the two departments should be introduced, and the ventilation of the cells should be rendered as forcible as possible by means of turret arrangements for exhausting air from the cells and from the garret with which they are connected by ventilating shafts.

The prisoners, twenty in number, were found orderly and cheerful, and the jail cleanly and well kept, at the date of inspection. The only great wrong witnessed in this prison was the long imprisonment of three little boys, eleven years of age, by a city magistrate, for some alleged mischief, such as the throwing of stones at a school-house. For that act of boy-mischief, that ought to have been forever remedied by a strictly paternal method, these little lads were sentenced to thirty days' confinement in jail.

There was one professional foreign burglar and thief awaiting sentence. His assumption of the language and manner of injured innocence was instructive. The prompt and unflinching course of criminal justice in Niagara county, for some years past, is a fact fully verified upon the records of the courts. Though a frontier county, with unusual opportunities for crimes against property and persons, burglars and thieves are said to shun its seductions and its prosecuting officers. The criminal court records at the office of the county clerk show that, almost without exception, the criminal indictments are promptly called and prosecuted to final results. The direct influence of this wholesome promptness is felt as an increase of security to life and property.

Among the prisoners awaiting trial there was one, an adroit young itinerant burglar and thief, who had met his first arrest in this county, and whose own record of a short career of crime is too instructive to be wholly omitted in this note upon the jail inspection. The essential facts are as follows:—

C.—, a bright and prepossessing lad, eighteen years of age, under arrest for burglaries and larcenies. The proof of his crimes in two of the towns in this county is overwhelming, yet he had been nearly four months pursuing his course as an itinerant burglar and thief, and thinks he never came under suspicion until he reached this county. He had assumed the style and manners of a commercial traveler and agent, yet his sole aim was crime, and this course he had deliberately elected as a profession.

His mother died when he was nine years old, leaving his education and the care of his patrimony to a guardian. With a fair business education, he began to serve as a clerk in a large interior town. While so engaged, and still maintaining his good name as a Sunday-schooler, and promising youth, he planned and decided upon a career of crime that he determined should excel the adroitness of Jack Shepard and Dick Turpin.

His first experiment consisted in robbing the mail of the mercantile house in which he was clerk; and it was not until after he had left his clerkship, "to visit some relatives in a Western State," that suspicion fell upon him. Even when the mail robbery had been proved, the mere sentiment of mercy and pity was allowed to take the place of justice, and the lad proceeded West to begin his profession as a criminal against property. After three months of successful experiment and traversing three States, he reached Lockport, N. Y. His boldness had reached a rare degree of temerity, and his first stage in a criminal career was suddenly ended. But the secret and perilously strong propulsive source of this beginning of a life of professional crime did not cease its deadly flow and force of contriving thought and morbid desire. Frankly, and in tears, this young prisoner told the writer that the long unrevealed secret of his life could be read correctly in the light of his stealthy and absorbing passion for the literature of abandoned lives of such desperadoes as Jack Shepard; for in the past six or eight years he had accumulated and carefully read at least thirty such books. Also, that this unexpected arrest, and the certainty of a long penal sentence, failed to drive from his mind the schemes and desires for the prowess of burglary and robbery. He begged to know if the penal sentence and servitude could be made sure to efface the pictures of his fancy and desire, and restore the purity of his earlier years. That inquiry, as uttered to the writer of this note, would have filled any prison officer's mind with oppressive thoughts.

The Lockport jail is not altogether neglected by thoughtful residents in that city. The prudent and always acceptable labors of Mrs. Maxwell, the city missionary, are continued as in former years. Many a prisoner has left his imprisonment there wiser and better for the matronly and faithful instructions which that Christian woman has given.

ONEIDA COUNTY.

The jail at Utica receives rather more than half of all county prisoners for Oneida. That at Rome was not inspected. That at Utica contained twenty-four prisoners at the date of inspection, four being women—one a murderess.

This jail has twenty cells for males and two chambers for females. It is one of the worst planned and most insecure prisons in the State. No amount of care by the keeper can render it a secure or healthful structure.

The prisoners were found herded together in a grossly improper manner, but the narrow corridor in front of the cells offered no remedy for the evil. The murderess, a native of the county, forty-eight years of age, made a full statement of the circumstances and intention of her crime. The utterly unemotional and business-like style of narration, and her weird countenance, comported perfectly with the hideous deed by which she clave her drunken husband's skull with an axe, after meditating the blow for an hour while excluded from the house at midnight.

The strange medley of gross depravity, mandlin drunkenness, designing criminals, and impaired minds in this prison at the time of inspection would have supplied numerous pictures and characters for a Dickens; and they should have been studied by the grand jury as the personal part of one of the counts in an indictment against the wretched prison itself, a nursery and pool of crime and vice.

ONONDAGA COUNTY.

The county prison is administered in the penitentiary, and is economically and well administered.

The police prison has already been described as one of the most cleanly and well fitted of any in the State. But with its ample penitentiary and police prison, and one of the most judicious and prompt of city magistrates, the city of Syracuse and the populous villages of the county utterly fail to check and control the course of

disorderly, vicious, and vagrant life among girls and young women. To place them in the prison or penitentiary is to make them worse than hopeless; while to suffer them to pursue their openly vicious course, and turn even the dram-shops and lodging-houses into brothels and places of assignation, is to fasten lecherous pollution upon half the youth of the county. Onondaga, like Monroe and Erie, feels the want of a house of industry and correction for young females.

ONTARIO COUNTY.

The county prison at Canandaigua was found to be one of the most carefully kept, well-disciplined, and secure against moral evils of any in the State. The prisoners appeared conscious of the fact that the sheriff and some of the best people of the town regarded them with sincere concern for their welfare, and their restoration to honest and virtuous life.

An old structure, and not very secure, this prison presents a far better model in construction and management than most of the recently-built jails. It has sixteen cells for males, and a spacious well lighted chamber for females. The latter is badly located; voices in either of the two departments being readily heard by persons in the other, and the only way of access to the latter being through the main corridor of the male prison.

There were eighteen prisoners at the time of inspection, four being young females. One of the latter, an uneducated *deaf-mute*, illustrated in her personal history—made up of efforts and desire to be useful, disturbed by outbursts of petulance and passion—the fact that those indigent persons, whom Providence has deprived of the objective senses, need, most of any class of our fellow-beings, to be taught. In her rude pantomime this mute prisoner endeavored to apologize to the writer for the “disorderly conduct and assault” for which she had been committed; while she expressed her wishes to be usefully employed and advised. Humble and debased as the poor woman was, she could teach by such heartfelt expressions a lesson that social philosophers and legislators should heed.

The inmates of this prison receive instruction every Sabbath from the County Committee, of which Prof. Richards is chairman. Accompanied by Christian ladies, who constitute a volunteer choir, this gentleman, assisted by other members of the committee, conducts a service of instruction and worship that is greatly enjoyed by the prisoners, and which has been productive of much moral benefit.

Such duty, performed in the name of Him who went about doing good, is worthy of the cultivated and excellent community in which this example is witnessed.

The records of the criminal courts, and the returns made by the town magistrates of their convictions in special sessions, indicate a habit of prompt and faithful action upon the accusations of crime and misdemeanors in this county. The repeated and fruitless arrests of disorderly girls in the two chief villages prove that an industrial reformatory is urgently needed within accessible distance from this county. Three of the four female prisoners that were found in jail at the time of inspection could have been saved from their life of shame and crime, if, at their first arrest under the laws, they had been committed to such a reformatory as that at Middletown, Conn. There are sources and agents of crime and vice within the limits of this rich agricultural county which demand judicial inquiry and public vigilance.

ORANGE COUNTY.

The county prison at Goshen was crowded, close, and offensive at the time of inspection. There were twenty-five prisoners there, one an abandoned girl of sixteen years. Twenty of the prisoners were under twenty years of age. The half-shire jail at Newburgh contained thirteen prisoners at inspection. Their condition and apparent debasement were more deplorable and bestial than has been witnessed in any other jail in the State. Both of these prisons disgrace the county of Orange, and they are breeding criminals that will have permanent inheritance in the State prison. None of HOWARD'S descriptions of Newgate and the county Bridewells of England a century ago are equal to the scenes actually witnessed by the writer in each of these prisons.

Decency forbids a description of the manners, conversation and acts of the prisoners. Even upon the Sabbath day every cell in the Goshen prison was strewn with obscene prints, which some vile person supplies through agencies that should be arrested. Several of the prisoners had become almost constant boarders in the jail; one of the most stalwart and inexcusable men of this class was, at the time of inspection, suffering, or rather enjoying his thirteenth commitment (this time for six months) for petty offences, mostly in the nature of theft or mischief; and he states that already the county had boarded him two years and seven months under the sheriff's care.

The Newburgh prison is in the cellar of the court-house, and was filled with the most loathsome, lascivious, and despairing inebriates and feeble-minded prisoners. With such debauched vagrants and petty criminals as tramp through every district of Orange county, the people might discover at their jail doors that a workhouse is urgently required as the only rational means of relieving and reforming the jails. Newburgh needs a police prison or detention-house, and the interior of the jail at Goshen needs to be reconstructed, and a separate wing ought to be built for the female apartments;—and, waiting the arrangements for the penitentiary workhouse that is required in this portion of the State, the grounds pertaining to the rear of this prison ought to be suitably walled and fitted up for rude labor, like that of stone-breaking. Hard labor and habits of enforced diligence must be the first step in the return towards decency and virtue in such persons as Orange county magistrates sentence to the county prison.

ORLEANS COUNTY.

The county prison at Albion, received 410 prisoners in the year 1870; and of that number there were 220 committed for drunkenness and disorderly conduct; 28 for petty larceny; 10 for grand larceny; 96 for vagrancy, and 38 for assaults.

This prison, with its sixteen cells, would fail to hold any bold and expert criminals. It is in evidence upon its own records, that the worst of criminals whom it locks within its walls elect their own time for a safe jail delivery. Its interior and its windows should be reconstructed and made secure.

The great demands upon this jail for the mere purposes of a police prison, to serve the village and vicinity of Medina, reveal the instructive fact that the greater portion of the hundreds of drunkards and drunkards that are sent to Albion prison by railroad are means of emolument to the persons who thus move this wretched class of prisoners; and that as soon as the turnkey and police constables are satisfied, the prisoners are deemed to be safe to the community again. This endless arrest and mock punishment of the stupid inebriates, which the countless dram-shops of Orleans county produce, seems to be an unreasonable and very expensive business. Nearly all the counties in the State emulate, though none equal, this luxury of special sessions convictions for drunkenness. Regarded from a medical stand-point, nine-tenths of the imprisonments for drunken-

ness are acts of brutality. In Orleans county the most of this class of arrest and imprisonment occur among the Irish stone-cutters of the Medina sandstone; and if the writer is correctly informed concerning the drinking habits of that class, they are increasing, notwithstanding the imprisonments.

By referring to the statistical abstract at the end of this report, the fact will be noticed that only 80 convictions in special sessions were certified and returned to the county clerk by the magistrates in Orleans county, in the year 1870. Yet in that year there were 320 commitments to jail, almost entirely by the local magistrates.

OSWEGO COUNTY.

The old prison at Oswego was found in a very unsatisfactory condition. It is neither secure nor comfortable. There were fourteen prisoners at the time of inspection, several being women under arrest for drunkenness, and two being boys under sentence to the house of refuge.

In a former report there was some mention of an experimental workhouse managed by a contractor. No prisoners were employed at labor at the time of inspection. The scheme is said to have failed.

Though this prison will need to be reconstructed in due time like that at the halfshire town of Pulaski, the first want of Oswego county criminals or disorderly persons is a house of correction and a reformatory for girls. The penitentiary at Syracuse receives all that the courts of Oswego send to it; but the female delinquents that infest the chief towns of this county, and particularly the city of Oswego, need to be sent to a school and home of industry and correction. The present City Recorder and ex-Judge Harmon assured the writer that the arrest, conviction, and penitentiary or jail treatment of disorderly young women and girls tended to aggravate and hasten the very evils which such arrests would be intended to suppress.

OSWEGO COUNTY.

The county prison at Cooperstown is so badly arranged and insecure that its interior will need to be wholly reconstructed, to remedy the faults that now render it one of the most defective and loathsome jails in the State.

There are six cells for males, and two for females; and at the time

of inspection there were seven male prisoners, and one female. These prisoners had already been in jail during an average period of nearly four months. Several of them were badly damaged by the indolence, disgrace, and depressing influences of their jail-life, which was obviously preparing them for permanent pauperism.

The female prisoner, a young epileptic prostitute, should have been in the hospital of some reformatory or workhouse, as she was already outcast by her relatives. Four of the male prisoners were twenty years of age and under, and they greatly needed timely instruction and counsel, to rescue them from the first steps of a disorderly and criminal life.

All these prisoners could read and write, and one of them claimed to be a graduate of a New England college. With the manners of a gentleman, and the story of personal misfortunes, this young man had managed to become an expert horse-thief, while he was studiously arousing personal sympathies and acts of kindness in his own behalf. In the course of a few months he had stolen four horses, with carriages and equipage attached, and upon each occasion he had succeeded—under a thin disguise of pedantry, piety, or disturbed mental health—in commanding for himself sufficient morbid sympathy to delay the much-needed judicial action in his case in every county he had visited before reaching Otsego. Though not at first insane, this silly young thief had played the part of the dissembler so long that it would be difficult for any two experts to agree upon a medical verdict of his sanity. His case is one of a class that is found represented in several of the county prisons in persons awaiting trial and setting up the plea of insanity, but in which the evidence and possibility of mental disease are of such a nature that the ends of justice and humanity would be alike best served by the immediate commitment of the prisoner to the Asylum for the Criminal Insane at Auburn, by order of the supreme court, if the laws of the State would permit such commitment, for the purpose of exact and decisive observations, and an official report upon the facts. Had this young man been more promptly dealt with for his first thefts, the penitentiary physician would have saved him from the successful dissemblance by which he now attempts the rôle of moral insanity. Better still than the penitentiary would have been the asylum for the criminal insane, after the plea of insanity was raised in his second offense—for, while repeating his thefts in various counties, in which he has alternately pretended to be an itinerant preacher, a

classical teacher, a commercial agent for whiskey merchants, a theological student, etc., he has been doing serious injury to himself, as well as costing heavy bills and losses in four or five counties. This case forcibly illustrates the necessity for providing by law for expert inquiry, and a method of temporary commitment to an asylum, for decisive observation and test for evidence of mental alienation; and this instance is here mentioned for the purpose of showing the necessity for some adequate provision of law to answer the ends of humanity and justice in certain cases that enter the plea of insanity.

In the course of inquiries among medical observers in Otsego, Chenango, Delaware, and Broome counties concerning unpunished crimes and increasing causes of crime in that portion of the State, the fact was abundantly certified that hereditary pauperism, and an inheritance of vicious and criminal life are products of the same social soil of those purely agricultural regions no less than in the crowded cities. In Otsego and several of the rural counties, the almshouse has been the birth-place of numerous children that have grown up to be vagrants, criminals, idiots, or lunatics; their vices and personal calamities being actually their physical as well as social inheritance. The details of evidence upon this subject need no recital in this place, but they would go to prove that the problems of prevention of crime must comprehend the chief questions in the history of pauperism.

QUEENS COUNTY.

The county prison at North Hempstead is a dilapidated wooden structure that dates its erection in 1778. It constitutes the eastern half of the court-house building, and consists of eight cells and five small apartments. Some of the apartments, and all the cells, were crowded at the time of inspection. The prisoners were of strangely mixed qualities; from the most debauched and adroit villains to the most innocent and idiotic offenders. It is one of the most insecure and badly arranged jails in the State. Any able-bodied prisoner can break jail very readily if he deliberately undertakes it. Six of the worst in a company of nearly fifty did escape one night last summer.

Three-fourths of the prisoners found in this jail require treatment in a house of correction, at hard labor. Burglary and larceny are intimately associated with tramping vagrancy in Queens county; and a workhouse treatment for vagrants would greatly diminish the

breaking and robbing that are now so frequent in this county. The certified returns of convictions for crime and disorderly conduct, and the mere numbers of paupers relieved or in almshouse, constitute but a small part of the total sum of crime and pauperism in this county. (See statistical abstract at end of this report.) The average constant population of the jail is nearly forty daily, and the total number of tramping vagrants, who, though paupers of a dangerous and costly kind, get no record in the list, but live as vagrants, is scarcely less than the almshouse list.

Among the vagrant prisoners at the time of inspection there were three insane persons guilty of no crime. One of these, a German, under arrest for threatening violence, was found vigilantly patrolling an imaginary river Rhine that flowed past his grated window. He warned the inspector, as he had the people he used to seize and thrust aside, not to venture near while he kept "*Wacht am Rhine*." Hopeless insanity must inevitably result from imprisoning such a man; yet there he was solemnly awaiting the next circuit's grand jury.

As this county is about to expend \$150,000 upon the construction of a new jail and court-house, no description of the old prison need be given; and as such proof of public spirit evinces willingness to provide well for the prisoners, it is to be hoped that the county of Queens will join other suburban counties in providing a house of correction for the first, or first, second, and third congressional districts. The best-informed citizens of the three counties, comprising the first district, are ripe for this much-needed provision of a reformatory workhouse.

RENSELAER COUNTY.

The county prison in the city of Troy is one of the most important in the State. It has an average population of sixty and upwards, and as a considerable portion of these are boys, females, and hardened professional criminals, the thorough separation and classification of the jail prisoners is of the utmost importance; but this very essential point in the treatment of its inmates cannot be secured in this jail. The present sheriff recognizes the importance of this as a principle, and makes the best of his means for carrying it into practice.

There were sixty-eight persons in prison at the time of inspection; they presented every phase of criminal, disorderly, and depraved life.

The prison and its inmates were in a cleanly and orderly condition. Among these prisoners were individual cases of great interest; the following notes concerning three of them illustrate some of the unguarded sources of crime.

The first two cases relate to the organization and methods of stealing, receiving, and marketing stolen merchandise from the wharfs and stores of the city. The first prisoner, a young man, — — —, had for two years and upwards been engaged in the secret service of Mr. R., on Congress street, who had arranged a plan with all the necessary accomplices, including a trusty drayman, for the collection and storage of any and all merchantable goods which Mr. R.'s organized gang of thieves could report, day by day, to prisoner and the said drayman; this organized method of larceny commenced early in 1870, and was continued until the summer of 1871. The gang worked under instructions that were prescribed by the receiver of the stolen goods, and each thief, whether boy or man, porter, clerk, or vagrant, received as his reward a small fraction of the actual value of the goods placed upon the thieves' dray. One of the gang, a porter, who had enjoyed the confidence of his employers many years, informed the writer that he had personally caused to be stolen and removed to the receiver's store, 40 bbls. of pork, 1 chest of tea, 1 cask of butter, 2 bbls. of kerosene, and 1 bbl. each of sugar, flour, and whiskey.

The second prisoner, an elderly man, had assisted in the moving and storing of the stolen goods, and his record of facts entirely corresponded with that received from other sources. He particularly stated that boys of twelve to eighteen years of age rolled the barrels along to safe loading-places most successfully, and "when they were arrested by police it was no matter."

Further details of this case need not be given in this place. It is referred to simply to draw attention to the fact that the simplest forms of larceny are sometimes so organized as to enlist boys and men, and train them into the very art of crime. In this gang of thieves their paymaster was a nominally religious man, morally weak, and subject to any strong will of another person; and he informed the writer that some of the boys were the most successful of the gang; also that he pleaded with the master of the scheme to let him quit all relations to it, but was at last quieted and enslaved in his desperate task by threats of exposure, if he failed in his loyalty to the contriver and receivers, whose wealth, now amounting to a hundred thousand dollars, gave them power to tyrannize as they pleased.

The only other prisoner whose crime will be referred to in this note upon the Rensselaer county prison is the boy Asa Kittle, who killed both his father and mother in their wretched home in Stephentown. The details of the fray in which the homicide occurred have appeared long ago in the newspapers. But here is the key to the act and the character of this blind boy. He was born blind. His parents taught him, and ever used, the language of the most abandoned depravity. No acts and passions of beasts are equalled by the depravity of utterance and acts in which the parents indulged. All knowledge of God and His laws was banished from their dismal home. The blind lad had a gentle and impulsive disposition, and at a moment when he believed his father was intending to take the life of a grandchild, and was also beating him, he turned and beat in his skull, and in the fray the mother was also instantly and unintentionally killed.

This blind boy was in jail, at the time of our inspection, awaiting the report of a special commission upon the question of his mental and moral competency.* He had never been taught to read, had no idea how he could learn to read with his fingers, but *requested the writer to explain to him.*

He readily comprehended the explanation, and in the course of a few days the alphabet and easy lessons for the blind were being successfully mastered by him with no other teacher than the sheriff's little son. And as soon as he had learned (from a visitor) that God is the great Father of all living beings, and that their lives are His, he acquired for the first time a definite and deep sense of the offence

*The final report of the commissioners reads as follows:—
"Court of Oyer and Terminer in and for the County of Rensselaer: The undersigned Commissioners, appointed by the order of the Court to inquire into the sanity of Asa Kittle, a person now under indictment in said court for an offence, the punishment of which is death, and the degree of mental capacity possessed by him, the said Asa Kittle, do respectfully certify and report that we have personally examined the said Asa Kittle, with a view of ascertaining the truth of the several matters of and concerning which we were so before said assigned to inquire, and we called before us such witnesses as appeared to us most likely to possess knowledge upon those questions, and have examined such witnesses upon oath, after which we have duly deliberated upon the subject, and have arrived at the following conclusion:
"First—That the said Asa Kittle is not what may be called, strictly speaking, an insane man.

"Second—That the said Asa Kittle is possessed of but very feeble mental capacity; that he has been blind from his birth; that his parents were poor and illiterate, and that no effort was ever made toward his education or mental improvement; that he is about twenty years of age; that he was brought up in ignorance; that he is

he had committed. The development of a moral sense, and of religious ideas to which he could give clear expression, seems to date from this simple beginning in the acquisition of knowledge. His sorrow at the death of his mother had been unceasing, but he had regarded the killing of his father as entirely right until informed concerning the laws of God. The wish he expressed to the writer that God would forgive the violent act as the sheriff and other men have, was expressed with emotion that showed the nature of his knowledge and new conviction concerning a great moral truth. Feeble as the intellect of this lad is, his history is an epitome of truths that need to be known and acted upon respecting the *public duty* of educating and suitably training the mind and instincts of the blind, the mute, and the feeble-minded.*

The failure of justice, in its dealings with juvenile delinquents in the city of Troy and other river towns in this county, furnishes a striking commentary upon the defective administration of laws relating to child-criminals. Time and again the present sheriff of Rensselaer has had snatched from his custody, by writs of *certiorari* or of *habeas corpus*, some of the most noted thieves and rogues under sixteen years of age, just when ready to move them to the house of refuge under the proper forms of conviction and sentence. And although the *certiorari* might be supposed to secure the ends of justice, it is said to be resorted to simply to restore the vicious boy to his evil companionships. In view of evidence obtained in the course of inquiry, in the different counties, the corresponding secretary respectfully submits that this evidence indicates that it would be expedient

almost entirely ignorant of the world and its ways, and that he has not sufficient mental capacity to undertake his defence upon the said indictment.

* We subjoin hereto the evidence taken upon the said examination as a part of this report. All of which is respectfully submitted.

"LEVI SMITH,
 "LEROY McLEAN,
 "HENRY B. WHITTON."

"Dated Oct. 11th, 1871.

After examining the report, the Court, with the concurrence of District-Attorney Rising, granted a motion made by James Lansing, Kittle's counsel, ordering the prisoner to be sent to the State Lunatic Asylum for the detention of insane convicts, at Auburn.

*The judicial and moral difficulties which arose in the management of this case in the courts, led to a delay of proceedings upon it until an act of the Legislature was placed upon the statute-book of the State to provide for this and all similar cases. (See *Session Laws of 1871, Chap. 669.*)

for the people of New York to adopt the main features of the Massachusetts system in dealing with juvenile delinquents, as being more speedy, delicate, paternal, and unobjectionable than the method prescribed by the laws of New York.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

The county prison at Richmond Court-House, on Staten Island, contains twenty-eight cells; and twice, when visited the past year, it contained upwards of thirty prisoners. Though built and repeatedly repaired during the past twelve years, at a cost of \$20,000 and upwards, it is on the list of badly constructed jails. It consists of a central block two tiers in height, and with the cells for females simply cut off from one extremity of a corridor by a wooden partition.

The male prisoners herd together in the corridors, the insane and turbulent alone being kept locked in cells. The female prisoners vie with those of the other sex in rude lasciviousness and debasing conversation. There is no attempt or possibility of classification of the prisoners, except by confinement in the separate cells.

At each inspection two or three insane or demented persons were noticed. And the fact has been noticed in each inspection that every third prisoner is under twenty years of age. The presence of girls and boys under sixteen and eighteen years of age in this jail, and the repeated commitment of the same children for long terms of imprisonment, or until some exorbitant and unreasonable fine shall have been paid, supplies a scathing commentary upon the quality of justice in the village magistrates' courts whence such children were sent. The indignation of the people will be justly aroused when the nature and extent of such outrages against children are fully made known. Some of the local magistrates are already indicted for malfeasance in the matter of fees and fines.

The county prison needs certain interior alterations, which can readily be made, to secure classification of prisoners and provide adequate means of cleanliness. The sheriff, Moses Alston, Esq., would gladly help in reforming the evils that have long cursed the county prisoners in this jail; but the system and influences of the village courts are such as almost necessarily make the jail a place of turbulent and fretful discomfort. The only immediate and satisfactory remedy for the evils witnessed in this jail, and for the dangerous growth of crime and vagrancy in the county, must for the present be found in a district house of correction. In such a

method of escape from the pernicious influences of the jail and the sources that supply it, the best citizens of Richmond are ready to unite their efforts with those of the other two counties of the first congressional district.

SARATOGA COUNTY.

The prison at Ballston Springs has been twice visited, and seems to be kept with great care. It can readily be so improved as to make it in all respects a very good detention prison. At each visit there was a pernicious intermixture of various classes of criminals. A confirmed lunatic was found awaiting indictment for indecent exposure, and a little boy of twelve years was already some months waiting the sitting of a grand inquest, to determine the nature of the crime (which he frankly confessed) of obeying an accomplished thief in stealing and sharing with him a purse of \$25. The village magistrate admitted the responsible thief to bail, and for a show of justice committed this child to the county prison. Born of drunken parents, reared in the county almshouse from four years of age, wholly untaught in letters, and utterly ignorant of the meaning of the word God, the Saviour, and law, this bright-eyed boy spent three months in the Saratoga county prison, learning the thoughts and language of debased criminals, before the criminal courts could reach his case.

The condition of the records of indictments and convictions in this county was found less defective than in almost any other county visited by the writer. Yet numerous local magistrates have failed to make the returns of special sessions cases as the law requires.

SENECA COUNTY.

The jail at Waterloo and that at Ovid contained four prisoners each. The criminal list for the year had been small, but the judicial action had been prompt and faithful; 21 prisoners had been sentenced to the penitentiary (at Rochester), 2 to Auburn State prison, and 1 to the house of refuge.

Both of the Seneca jails need such interior reconstruction as shall give facilities for proper classification of the prisoners, and at the same time give increased security.

The penitentiary at Rochester has done much service in sheltering female county offenders, and the Prison Association Committee at Waterloo and Ovid will do what they can to prevent the released

inmates of the penitentiary from relapsing into criminal life when they return to the county.

Two of the Seneca county female convicts that the writer saw at the penitentiary were scarcely sixteen years old. They had been arrested and thrown into the Waterloo jail, nearly a year ago, for lewd behavior and vicious vagrancy. The criminal courts deemed it inexpedient to take up these two cases, consequently they remained in jail, notwithstanding the pleadings of mother and friends. But the restless and defiled young creatures themselves were frenzied at their imprisonment, and day by day they became more obscene and profane, until the jailor's family found their obscenity unendurable. But no court would take cognizance of them, and the last grand jury had failed to order them set free. Fortunately they broke jail by tearing up floors and ceilings, and then being arrested for the crime of "breaking," they were brought before the Oyer and Terminer at Ovid, and speedily sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the penitentiary. Comment upon such a state of laws, and such methods of inevitable destruction of the bodies and souls of young females, is unnecessary. Numerous and influential citizens of Seneca county mentioned to the writer that a reformatory house of industry is much needed in that part of the State. It appears impossible to induce magistrates and courts to send girls so far away as Randall's Island. They must have a reformatory Industrial School nearer home.

SCHUYLER COUNTY.

The jail at Watkins was found in a cleanly and well-kept condition, and containing only two prisoners. Both were expert criminals, yet gave an unreserved account of their entrance upon criminal practices. Though they assumed the garb and language of virtue in their ordinary intercourse with citizens, their consciousness and confession of almost hopeless entanglement in criminal thoughts, and practices, and companionships were startling.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY.

The county prison at Schoharie was found to be well kept; but the presence of a restless and shamefully salacious lunatic in the narrow corridor was justly complained of as a chronic nuisance. He has remained imprisoned here many months for safe-keeping.

Defective as was the original plan and finishing of the Schoharie jail, it permits some degree of classification of the prisoners. The

course of criminal justice in this county is not rigorous. Gross outrages against persons and property are beginning to demand prompt and decisive penalties.

STUBEN COUNTY.

The old jail at Bath needs to be reconstructed in its interior, so as to separate the prisoners and give more sunlight and fresh air. There were seven prisoners at the time of inspection, and they represented the average characteristics of the criminal and disorderly classes in this great county. Like Yates county, the vineyard towns gave no representatives in jail. Inquiry in those towns showed that, with universal industry and thrift—industry that entices youth into habits of diligence, and thrift that inspires them with hope of honorable life—crime and pauperism have become almost unknown.

The southern towns of Steuben yield most of its criminals. Hornellsville and Corning are fostering various hot-beds of vice and crime. In view of the importance of the sources of vicious life in certain portions of the county, the Committee of the Prison Association has been so organized as to represent four of the chief villages.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY.

The jail is unfit for its purposes, and unworthy of the city of Schenectady. It was clean and warm at the time of inspection (late in autumn), but the plan of the structure is bad and the security questionable.

The county records show that the course of justice is prompt and decisive, and that burglars and professional thieves make small demands upon the courts.

SUFFOLK COUNTY.

The brown-stone octagon prison at Riverhead is an insecure and badly-contrived structure. It was found to be in a cleanly and well-kept condition, and had eight prisoners at the time of inspection. Six of the prisoners were at work in a field (within a quarter of a mile of the jail), with a deputy-sheriff as keeper. Those quiet and well-behaved prisoners were part of the same company that had kept a previous keeper in terror, and armed to the teeth, with pistol in hand. Some of them were bad men, but no evil resulted from the test of obedience and manly behavior to which the present keeper put them. This experiment is quoted here for the lesson it teaches.

The people of Suffolk county are ready to join with the counties of the first congressional district in sustaining a district reformatory workhouse.

TIOGA COUNTY.

The prison at Owego is utterly bad, though only twenty-one years in use. It requires various interior improvements. These necessary changes can be effected at a moderate cost.

Tioga, like the other counties of the southern tier, needs a reformatory workhouse within a convenient distance. Viciously disorderly persons, mostly ungovernable and intemperate youth of both sexes, are growing up into criminal characters, in all the villages upon the railways in this county.

TOMPKINS COUNTY.

The prison at Ithaca was found tolerably cleanly and well kept, but it is an insecure and badly arranged structure. There are eighteen cells, and better facilities for classification than is usual in jails. There were only two prisoners at the time of inspection; one of these, a young man nineteen years of age, stated that he was in jail the eighth time for disorderly conduct and drunkenness.

The yearly criminal list in this county is not large, but some of its members reveal various uncontrolled sources of crime that need to be searched and treated by the citizens of the towns in which they exist. Such horse thieves as Morgan and Sullivan, and such a murderer as Fergusson, are representatives of classes and social conditions in particular neighborhoods, that are producing new growths of criminal character.

The prisoners at Ithaca are visited and kindly counselled by Prof. Wm. Channing Russel, and other members of the Prison Association Committee, and whether few or many are in the jail, they enjoy a privilege that only few can have in other counties; for the chairman of the committee has given to this jail a good library.

ULSTER COUNTY.

The prison at Kingston was found cleanly and well kept. It contained several important and characteristic cases of indicted but unconvicted criminals, and all were holding free intercourse with each other. The internal arrangement of the prison is exceedingly bad. The twenty cells are entered from a central corridor, which is the common sitting-room for prisoners. The female apartments are

upon the second story, and are entered from the men's corridor by a trap-door. Throughout this prison every feature of the original plan is thus faulty, but the outer walls and the grounds admit of improvements that would, at a moderate cost, give to Ulster a suit able and very secure jail. There is manifestly sufficient interest on behalf of the prisoners, by citizens of Kingston, to warrant an effort to make the needed improvements.

At the time of inspection there were three prisoners who had each deliberately destroyed the life of a fellow-being. One, a lunatic son, had killed his mother, without any discoverable motive. This prisoner was quiet, taciturn, and well-behaved, but his mind was hopelessly wrecked and filled with hallucinations. Another prisoner, an illegitimate and pauper mother, had (probably) killed her nursing infant. And the third prisoner, a deaf-mute, named Bodine, had deliberately killed his master, a wealthy farmer, by cleaving his skull with an axe. Indicted and tried before the criminal court, with full proof of the act and the intention, still this mute mulatto remained unconvicted, and was likely to become a permanent resident of the Kingston jail. The jury had once failed to agree to find him guilty, and at last the question of the murderer's mental competency and moral accountability came up for consideration, and soon after the writer's interview with the prisoner and county officials, action was taken under the law of April 21st, 1871 (see chap. 666, Session Laws). And this prisoner was transferred to the Asylum for the Criminal Insane.

Though a perfectly sane person, and an unusually bright lad, the judicial verdict of incompetency of mind and moral sense is an indictment against the county of Ulster for having permitted a deaf-mute to grow up in its almshouse, and be indentured as a servant without any attempt to give him sufficient rudimentary education to guide his moral sense, or to give him means of definite communication with his fellow-men. The erroneous ideas of his personal right to control certain cattle of his master's, his uncontrollable anger and vindictiveness at the loan of this mute lad's pet oxen to toil for a neighbor, and the rage excited by blows instead of rational signs by his master, sufficed to induce this poor and friendless boy with fettered senses, fettered tongue, and untaught moral nature, to meditate, and do the act of murder.* And this mute lad is one of

* This case of Levi Bodine, like that of Aaa Kittle—the blind boy-murderer, for whose benefit the act above referred to was passed by the Legislature,—raises questions that are of momentous import respecting the sources of criminal action, and

two illegitimate brothers born of a negro mother whom no official ever succeeded in persuading to reveal their paternity. The boys were reared in the county almshouse, and both there and in their indentured servitude they have been utterly excluded from every kind of useful education, though so quick to learn that the mute prisoner, when removed to the asylum for criminal insane, quickly acquired, by the aid of good Mrs. Wilkie, such use of the manual alphabet that he could spell his own name.

The Prison Association's Committee in Ulster will not let the relationships of pauperism and vice to crime and disorder, escape their inquiry. The proceedings of local magistrates in special sessions, and the almost total failure of their official returns, are legitimate subjects of inquiry in the town that render an account of the responsibility of society for much of the crime which the ignorant and low-lived commit.

Now, after each of these friendless, and partially senseless boys, had spent upward of a year in jail, the following note from the superintendent of the convict asylum shows that they are receiving aid to learn the simple truths that will prevent them from crime. How much less it would have cost the people to have paid the tuition of these boys at schools for the mute and the blind, than it has cost to defray the court expenses of either of them! And such instruction would not only have made them happy and useful men, but would have prevented three terrible homicides.

"STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE CRIMINALS, AUBURN, N. Y.

"DR. E. HARRIS:

"DEAR SIR.—Yours of the 21st, inquiring after the present condition of Ass Kittle and Levi Bodine, is at hand. We find Assa very quiet, inclined to make no trouble, and, I think, a very good-natured boy. I should think he had made good progress in reading. He feels a little above his old book, as he says he has '*learned it by heart*.' He attends chapel service every Sunday afternoon, and seems very attentive. He says he remembers Dr. Harris, and would like more books, and wants to learn to write. Mrs. Wilkie proposes to teach him writing. In his reading he hesitates some, but gets the words all correctly.

"The deaf-mute, Bodine, seems contented and happy with us, works well and regularly, running our steam furnaces. He is of a cheerful, happy disposition; his quick, violent temper being his only trouble. This seems almost ungovernable, but it is *transient in its duration*. I am not aware of any person here who would be able to teach him to read. Mrs. Wilkie has some knowledge of the alphabet, etc., and has taught him to spell his name. He is very quick to learn anything, and with a competent teacher would make rapid progress. I think our Legislature should provide ample means for enlightening and reforming all criminals, and certainly those who have been deprived in part of the means of communicating with the outer world, thereby impairing their opportunities of mental and moral culture.

"Yours very truly,

(Signed)

"JAB. W. WILKIE, M. D.,
"Supt. of Asylum."

hearings and convictions, and where able-bodied vagrants are turned into the almshouse. Ulster, Dutchess, and Orange counties are in very urgent need of a reformatory work-house.

WAYNE COUNTY.

The county prison at Lyons continues to be kept with a degree of care that is creditable to the sheriff; but the interior arrangements are faulty in several particulars, and especially in want of facilities for the classification and proper separation of the inmates. There are twenty-four cells, in a two-storied central block. They are well-lighted, and the location is healthful. The necessary improvements required for securing good ventilation, water-supply, and the proper classification of prisoners, can be effected without great cost.

There were fifteen prisoners at the time of inspection; one was a convict for murder; five were guilty of assault and battery; three of grand larceny; one of rape; one of arson, and four were accused of other offences. These prisoners, without exception, were frank and manly in their self-accusations respecting the beginning and causes of their offences against the laws.

In the first ten months of the year 1871 there were one hundred and seventy-nine persons committed to this prison; ninety of these were for drunkenness and disorderly conduct; nineteen were for assault and battery; three for assault with intent to kill, and five for rape. The number of commitments during the year 1870 was only one hundred and fifty-three. In the year 1863 the commitments amounted to only one hundred and nineteen.

Though Wayne county had the good fortune to be originally populated by a high order of moral and law-abiding people, it now nurtures some sources of vicious life that demand vigilant attention. The village magistrates and the sheriff at the county prison could point to the chief of these sources of evil.

WARREN COUNTY.

The basement of the court-house at Caldwell is the county prison. The people of this district must soon provide a new and more suitable house of detention, for this cellar is utterly unfit for such uses.

There were two prisoners at the time of inspection; one, an accomplished villain, who for six years had lived in the very atmosphere of contrived crime, and followed the business of "negotiating" stolen bonds and fictitious stocks, etc. According to his own state-

ment this prisoner had perfected his education in his ignoble business while serving under the Detective Agency of the United States Government.

In the same cell with this prisoner there was a young man who had learned no arts of crime previous to this imprisonment in close companionship with one of its teachers.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

The stately stone prison at White Plains is, unquestionably, the most constantly overcrowded, and also the most populous of any jail in the State—excepting, of course, the Tombs in New York.

At repeated visits of inspection there were one hundred and thirteen prisoners found in this jail, fifteen being females. At the last inspection seventy-two of the inmates were found lodged in the sixty-four cells, and the remaining forty-one were bunked in the corridors. The cells are a central oblong block, three tiers high, and with the corridor open all around. There is no attempt or possibility of separating the male from the female prisoners, except as they are respectively locked in their cells.

The rapid increase of crime and vagrant pauperism in Westchester county would justly alarm its citizens, if they would, at the jail and the almshouse, examine into the sources and nature of these evils. The fact would readily be seen, that it is not a new jail, nor a great almshouse, that is chiefly needed to provide in an adequate and proper manner for the five hundred inmates now in those two very expensive institutions. Four-fifths of all the able-bodied inmates of the jail deserve, and should have, a curative treatment in a workhouse, or an industrial reformatory. And whenever the jail population is reduced by such means, there will be no difficulty in so reconstructing the interior of that old jail that it might be a model detention-prison.

There is a record of facts relating to the sources of crime and disorderly life in Westchester county, the gross intermingling of criminal, vicious, and pauper elements of the population, the utter failure of reformatory results in the convicts, whether at White Plains jail or Sing Sing prison, and a record also of the actual cost of crime in this county, which must be carefully studied by thoughtful citizens. The facts gleaned by the Prison Association in regard to these points, have a special bearing upon the subject of industrial reformatories and district prisons; consequently there will be a further considera-

tion of the jail and prisoners of this county in the special report upon penitentiaries and reformatories.

With twice as many prisoners as it has cells, and with crime and vagrancy rapidly increasing in this county, and with an aggregate cost of crime and pauperism that is almost unparalleled, the work of reform and entire change in the methods of cure, and of prevention of these social ulcers will need to be skilful and thorough.

CONCLUSION.

The limits of this report require that the analysis and application of the facts observed in the several counties in regard to prisons, prisoners, sources and cost of crime, etc., should be presented in the special report upon Penitentiaries and Reformatories. Therefore these notes concerning the county prisons are allowed to remain as here given, as a condensed statement of the chiefly essential facts which each illustrates, and which in the aggregate will be found illustrated in the jail system of the State.

Several of the counties have not been mentioned in this abstract of observations. This omission is not from any lack of importance in the jails of those counties; a few of the counties were not visited; in a few others the inspection yielded no new information, and in others, as in New York and Kings counties, the task of inspection, of inquiry, and of analysis must be more extensive than ever before has been attempted. The report by the veteran Agent, Mr. Abraham Beal, which follows, shows how extensive the field of penal inquiry is in these two cities. The task has been commenced, and a result can be reached during the ensuing year.

In the Tombs, and in the Raymond street jail (Brooklyn), are epitomized the sad lessons of crime and vice for the entire human family. In the Tombs as the county prison of the metropolis, the whole lesson of the sixty-five other county prisons may be studied, though studied with less hopeful results. The following words of the late Hon. JUDGE DEER apply to-day even more forcibly than when he uttered them twenty-six years ago; and though this language particularly described the Tombs in Centre street, it applies very correctly to the jail system of the sixty counties:

"We now know that these prisons, instead of being places of salutary restraint, and rigid, but useful discipline, are schools of infamy, of corruption, of vice in its most horrid forms. We know that their wretched inmates, instead of being awakened to a sense

of their degradation and misery, and, perhaps, inspired with the hope of amendment and recovery, are subject to an influence, that, by an infallible process, hardens them in their iniquity. . . . The *Tombs!* where *living* men are buried, and, by a refinement of cruelty, the living are chained to the dying and the dead, until the whole becomes one mass of moral putrefaction. The *Tombs!* whence those who were buried, issue forth again, speaking, and moving as men, and bearing the form of humanity; but with death,—death spiritual and final—with death stamped on their visages, and reigning in their souls. These are strong words, but they are not stronger than the truth requires, not stronger,—not half so strong as the claims of that duty which our knowledge of the truth imposes.”

E. H.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS OF THE STATE.

The law passed by the legislature in 1866, requiring the careful keeping of jail records, and the law of 1847, which prescribes the forms of inquiry and registry in the record book of the jail, are not respected and complied with, as a general thing. Hence the corresponding secretary found it impossible in his jail inspection to obtain with accuracy the jail records for the year 1870 in most counties. New sheriffs had superseded their predecessors in office generally at the beginning of 1871, and had been left by them in ignorance of the numbers, names and offences of the prisoners in 1870. The occasional exception to this bad example or rule of official negligence, showed how practically useful a well-kept jail register may be, for in an instance of faithfully kept records like that which the secretary found at Riverhead, in Suffolk county, and at Lockport, Niagara county, the movements of crime, of courts and of criminals are readily seen, and a basis for useful inquiry and preventive effort is supplied.

In numerous counties the secretary found the papers and records relating to individual prisoners in such a condition of confusion and default that no official returns forwarded to the Secretary of State from such a basis of information would be in any manner complete or trustworthy. The same remark would be equally applicable to the returns from most of the counties in relation to the actions in the courts of special sessions, as reports of such actions reach the county clerk's office for transmission to the Secretary of State.

The elements for anything like a trustworthy and adequate basis for an annual report upon the criminal statistics of the State, do not exist. Therefore there do exist and grow up various wrongs and abuses which tend to defeat the legitimate course of justice and the interests of public morality. The irregularities and malfeasance that demand official investigation under this head it would be improper to examine in detail in this place. It is sufficient to state that they relate to uncertified and unreported fines and fees of magistrates in special sessions cases; to capricious fines, and the alternative of inordinately long sentences to jail as county boarders for

offences that cannot be justifiably so treated; to the capricious and hasty commitments of petty offenders, and an equally capricious discharge as soon as the transportation charges, turnkey's and justice's fees have been inflicted upon the county in which the records of these proceedings are little liable to revision by the light of official returns which are required by the Secretary of State from the sheriff and the magistrates, at the hand of county clerks; to excessive and needless detention of special sessions cases awaiting further examination upon frivolous or more serious charges, and to the shuffling of such prisoners back and forth ostensibly for their further examination, which generally ends in full release and a culpable accumulation of the usual fees,—this, without other record than that which the jail keeper may keep,—and, finally, repeated re-imprisonment of special sessions convicts and others, without any record of the previous commitments of the same prisoner, or of the other facts which are required by the eleventh section of the Act of 1866, relating to the history and character of the said person; thus, not only perpetually burdening the county with a class of criminal boarders in the county jail, that, under the laws, could be and should have been indicted and convicted for repeated offences punishable in the penitentiary or in State prison, were the action upon the cases guided by an actual record of the offences, and the character of the persons and their acts.

Already in one of the smallest rural counties, while writing this report, we have seen with much satisfaction and hope for reform, that three village justices, of different towns, have been indicted for the very malfeasances that have here been mentioned, and one of those magistrates is proved to have failed to make his official returns to the county clerk upon a vast number of convictions, and to have received upwards of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in fines, concerning which he had made no official minute or return.

These are specified as among the obvious evils which result from the prevalent neglect of the registration and official records and transcripts relating to crimes and imprisonment. But there are other and very far-reaching consequences which result from the inevitable ignorance and misapprehension concerning crimes and misdemeanors, and their relation to various causes. Exact or even trustworthy information concerning the preventable sources and circumstances of criminal and disorderly life is not at hand for the use of citizens and the officials of the State, when and where such

information is most needed, and from the imperfect records found in the archives of the Secretary of State, erroneous deductions are quite as likely to be made as correct and safe ones. Upon this point the Hon. Secretary Nelson gave explicit testimony in his annual report for the year 1887.*

After having faithfully endeavored to obtain correct and complete records of the jails, and the minor court proceedings upon which most of the imprisonments occurred in a considerable number of counties, and after obtaining an insight into the incomplete returns that are forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Corresponding Secretary of this Association was compelled to relinquish the expectation of obtaining and using the official records of the jails and court proceedings as a basis for the inquiry and work that might justly be expected from the Prison Association respecting the county prisons.

An examination into the nature and practical value of the criminal statistics of the Penitentiaries and State prisons reveals the fact that they may easily be rendered far more complete than they ever have been, particularly as respects the personal and criminal history of each prisoner. This is not the place to examine into the question what should be comprised in the official statistics of the penitentiaries and prisons, but any thoughtful citizen who can converse freely with the men and women convicted of felonies, will find it easy to dis-

* "As an illustration of the value of these reports, the fact appears that while in New York city the whole 650 are known (as reported) to have been favored with religious instruction, yet across the East river in Kings county, *none* are known to have received religious instruction. In eight counties, all the convicts appear to have been favored with such instruction, while in ten counties all the convicts seem to have been without instruction. One can hardly look over table P. without arriving at the conclusion that the placing of certain numbers in certain columns was the result of accident, and that those who have attempted to execute laws of the State, have failed to appreciate the importance of care and fidelity.

"There is doubtless much negligence and carelessness on the part of the officials required by law to report as to criminal matters, yet it is believed there are radical defects in the system by which the State attempts to collect the mass of statistics as to criminal administration. County clerks have or should have, under existing laws, a record of every criminal conviction, whether in courts of record or in courts of special sessions, in their respective counties; sheriffs, on the other hand, have no records of criminal convictions, nor means of information in respect to criminals not equally within the reach of the public."

And Hon. Secretary Nelson adds:

"A complete and accurate report of the criminal statistics of the State would be of great value to the statesman, the moralist, the statistician, and the magistrate, and it is believed that such statistics can be obtained at less expense than the cost of those heretofore received."

cover that every criminal and every criminal character has had definite sources and accessory causes which ought, as a matter of very practical knowledge, which the State and the people need, to be carefully entered upon the records of the prison. In a great State like New York, it is entirely practicable for the proper authorities to place on record the exact kind of information that will furnish the requisite basis for most useful deductions concerning preventable sources of crime, the history of relapsing cases, and the relation of them to sentences of various lengths, or to special conditions of life, the record of criminal companionships, and the record of the peculiarities of physical and mental character that should aid in guiding the reformatory and the penal treatment of the prisoner.

Competent physicians and chaplains could readily elicit a record of all such needed information.

As an illustration of the utility of a single element of information so obtained, the fact may here be mentioned, that in one of the State prisons the medical officer found that the entire body of records of that prison show that burglars and certain other criminals addicted to crimes requiring contrivance, relapse into the same kinds of crime with great certainty after very short sentences, and that, on the contrary, few relapses are reported from the districts, or in the persons, that for the same grades of crime are made to suffer a longer period of imprisonment, while, on the other hand, there are other crimes which obey no such law, but rather seem to conform to a converse rule; and all this is consistent with facts we observe in our intercourse with convicts.

Again, there are vitally important questions relating to the unchecked and steady growth of criminal character in the individual prisons, and facts showing the cost of crime when it goes on unarrested, which the laws relating to criminal records require to be inquired into and registered, but very seldom are mentioned. The cost of crime when it runs on uncontrolled for several years, as usually it does in the professional criminal's career, amounts to prodigious sums.

The Corresponding Secretary found in one of the county jails a stripling boy of eighteen years, who, though for the first time firmly held by the law, had been often arrested for thefts during the period when he could and should have been committed to the House of Refuge or Juvenile Asylum in the city, but had always been released upon pleas of a relative; and now, when about to be sent to a convict

prison, he recounted the money value of his larcenies as amounting in all to about six thousand dollars since he was twelve years old; yet this boy belonged to the lower order of street vagrants and truants of the Twelfth Ward in Brooklyn. Numerous instances of professional criminals were met with in this recent inspection of the jails, in which individual prisoners acknowledged that they had fallen into a life of crime, and had already shared in burglaries and larcenies amounting to many thousand dollars. The cost of crime needs to be a matter of public record, in order that the burden of it shall be understood and the economy of preventive measures be duly appreciated.

From these remarks the fact should be obvious that the statistics of criminal and disorderly life in the State should be faithfully gathered up and consulted as elements of an immensely important branch of political and social economy, and that the necessary laws and methods for securing these records from magistrates, sheriffs, wardens, and inspectors should be intelligently and universally respected and enforced.

In conclusion, it should be stated that notwithstanding the Act of 1866 (Chapter 723, Session Laws of 1866), relating to criminal statistics, made provision that the aid of the Prison Association should be made available in securing these important records from the sources whence they must be derived in the counties, no aid has been rendered or asked for, and this association continues its inspection of the penal institutions without power to regulate and secure the observance of that or any other law relating to prisons and prisoners. Personal inquiry and a close inspection concerning these records in the several counties, have given the Corresponding Secretary ample proof that, if the legislature can consistently impart to this Association the necessary authority, it could, by co-operation with the constituted judicial and administrative authorities of the people, procure a reasonably faithful compliance with the laws relating to criminal statistics, and also with the statutes of 1847 relating to internal regulation of the county prisons. Extensive intercourse with the county officials and leading citizens throughout the State warrants the Corresponding Secretary of this Association in saying that there is good reason to believe that the judicious exercise of such authority and instructions as the legislature could reasonably impart to the Association for these purposes, would be cordially sustained by a general endeavor at compliance with the statutes, and by the

cordial recognition of the importance and dutifulness of such a service. This, certainly, would be a service wholly in accordance with the well-expressed opinions of John Stuart Mill concerning the proper methods and purposes of "instructional and helpful interference" by State laws.

The Corresponding Secretary submits herewith an abstract of certain statistics of crime, which will be convenient for reference by persons who consult this report of the Prison Association. And while serving this purpose, it is desired that the nature and importance of certain defects in this class of records may be noticed.

The statistics of pauperism are more complete and accurate than those relating to crime; for the latter, as now required by law to be rendered to the Secretary of State through the county clerks, relate simply to *convictions* for crime, etc.; while neither the quantity nor the kinds of crime or misdemeanors that go unreported, after coming to official notice, are, in any proper way, registered or reported for public information. In short, there is no complete or adequate public record of crime throughout the State. The record of convictions and penal sentences for felonies is, of course, quite complete; but an annual record of the criminal indictments in the several counties is nowhere to be found until the district attorneys cease to hold, as they now do in many of the counties, the only records that exist in relation to a very large proportion of indictments. In numerous counties, the county clerks' books bear no record of the nature and names of indictments, except the indicted person has been actually brought to trial.

The abstract here annexed might seem to indicate that particular counties are almost free from the presence of criminals; for example, in Richmond county the official returns for the year 1870 state the criminal courts convicted three persons, and the courts of special sessions only twenty-one persons. The fact is, however, that at least one hundred felonies and several hundred special sessions convictions occurred in that county in the year just mentioned.

Now, if the reader will look down the second or third columns

An Abstract of the Statistics of the Population, the Convictions for Crimes and Misdemeanors, the Paupers, and the Cost of Pauperism, as reported officially, in the several counties of the State of New York, in the year 1870.

COUNTIES.	Total population of State.	Total number of persons convicted in criminal courts.	Total number of persons convicted in special sessions courts.	Total number of persons convicted in criminal and special sessions courts.	Total number of persons in jails and reformatories at close of year.	Total number of persons in almshouses at close of year.	Total number of persons in almshouses at close of year.	Ratio of population per 1,000 inhabitants.	Ratio of criminal convictions, per 1,000 inhabitants.
Albany	123,108	107	928	1,035	1,698			11.2	0.8
Albany	143,361	12	393	46	100			12.0	0.3
Broome	44,170	15	33	46	159			8.0	0.4
Cattaraugus	49,855	24	15	39	1,015			15.2	0.5
Chautauq	29,784	14	21	35	2,322			11.2	0.4
Chemung	50,379	22	32	54	312			10.2	0.3
Chemung	35,341	24	66	90	167			10.5	0.4
Chenango	40,613	14	17	31	492			10.5	0.4
Columbia	47,064	22	67	109	1,571			12.3	0.4
Columbia	25,222	6	48	54	831			10.0	0.4
Delaware	43,977	16	30	46	428			12.3	0.3
Dutchess	74,156	32	193	225	391			10.0	0.4
Essex	379,292	139	94	233	9,566			18.2	0.4
Essex	29,676	18	8	26	167			10.7	0.3
Franklin	30,287	17	9	26	386			12.0	0.3
Fulton	27,095	18	79	97	475			10.7	0.3
Genesee	38,700	17	39	56	878			10.7	0.3
Genesee	25,783	6	20	26	523			10.7	0.3
Herkimer	39,369	35	100	135	3,276			10.9	0.3
Herkimer	3,969				1,530			11.2	0.3
Jefferson	65,475	19	232	251	1,229			11.2	0.3
King	419,921	153	8,193	8,346	44,892			49.0	1.0
Lewis	38,659	27	23	50	323			10.6	0.4
Livingston	38,599	27	23	50	434			11.4	0.4
Madison	34,744	15	108	123	1,794			10.3	0.4
Madison	11,082	11	119	130	701			10.3	0.4
Montgomery	117,898	45	1,281	1,326	4,708			14.7	0.4
Montgomery	21,477	840	33,659	34,500	50,474			13.0	0.5
New York	1,000,000	33	451	484	6,398			13.0	0.3
Ontario	104,789	20	184	204	2,174			12.9	0.3
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Oran	67,159	18	103	121	1,373			12.9	0.3
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Oswego	77,841	21	97	118	347			13.0	0.3
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Otsego	67,269	12	19	31	310			13.0	0.3
Potomac	18,480	2	9	11	78			13.0	0.3
Potomac	18,480	2	9	11	78			13.0	0.3
Rensselaer	75,803	25	64	89	1,219			13.0	0.3
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Richmond	32,626	0	21	21	1,415			10.3	0.3
Richmond	32,626	0	21	21	1,415			10.3	0.3
Saratoga	21,529	22	44	66	376			10.5	0.4
Schenectady	52,317	12	61	73	1,008			12.3	0.3
Schoharie	32,340	7	10	17	267			10.5	0.3
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Schenectady	52,317	12	61	73	1,008			12.3	0.3
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Schenectady	52,317	12	61	73	1,008			12.3	0.3
Saratoga	21,529	22	44	66	376			10.5	0.4
Schenectady	52,317	12	61	73	1,008			12.3	0.3
Schoharie	32,340	7	10	17	267			10.5	0.3
Schenectady	52,317	12	61	73	1,008			12.3	0.3
Saratoga	21,529	22	44	66	376			10.5	0.4
Schenectady	52,317	12	61	73	1,008			12.3	0.3
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Schenectady	52,317	12	61	73	1,008			12.3	0.3
Saratoga	21,529	22	44	66	376			10.5	0.4
Schenectady	52,								

in the foregoing abstract, it will be observed that Wyoming county made a return, through its county clerk, certifying that twenty-six convictions had been found in its criminal courts (courts of record), and fifty-five in its courts of special sessions. Personal inquiry into the facts in each of the counties here mentioned, warrants the conclusion: 1st, that the records of conviction in both classes of courts in Wyoming county very correctly represent the actual number of persons guilty and worthy of conviction for the crimes and misdemeanors which came before the courts; and 2d, that the certified returns of convictions, in Richmond county, ought to have been tenfold greater than they actually were, and that the same degree of official faithfulness in the local police, the town magistrates, and the prosecuting officers which was exercised in Wyoming county, would have resulted in such a difference in its certified official returns of its statistics of crime. Indeed, several of the justices of peace and police magistrates, in Richmond county, are now under indictment for malfeasances that would have been impossible, had the special sessions returns been duly and fully certified and forwarded to the county clerk and the Secretary of State.

Again, it is proper to point to the statistical returns of convictions for crime in Niagara county, as an example of reasonably faithful official returns; while farther down the columns, in the same abstract, the statistics of conviction in Orange, Orleans, Schoharie and Schuyler counties, present numbers that would lead to utterly fallacious inferences concerning the actual amount of crime and misdemeanors, perpetrated in each of these counties respectively.

E. H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

The Prison Association of New York in account with WM. C. GILMAN, *Treasurer.*

1871.

CR.

Jan. 6.	By balance brought from last account.....	\$9,061 79
1872.		
Jan. 8.	donations received to date.....	3,767 00
	appropriations from city of New York.....	3,000 00
		<u>\$10,428 79</u>

1872.

DR.

Jan. 8.	To cash paid for prison visitation and inspection, including salaries.....	\$8,281 27
	cash paid for relief of discharged prisoners.....	966 58
	cash paid for fuel, rent, stationery, and office expenses...	2,032 68
	cash paid for expenses in connection with publication of annual and special reports and library.....	601 57
	cash paid for traveling expenses of committees.....	15 00
	balance carried to new account.....	531 74
		<u>\$10,428 79</u>

1872.

CR.

Jan. 8.	By balance brought from old account.....	\$981 74
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E. E.

WM. C. GILMAN, *Treasurer.*New York, *January 8, 1872.*

PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

Donations for the Year 1871.

Aspinwall, Wm. H.....	\$100	Brainerd, Cephas.....	\$20
Astor, Wm. B.....	100	Brown, James.....	100
Anthony, H. T.....	50	Brown, Stewart.....	50
Astor, Mrs. J. J.....	50	Brown, James M.....	25
Astor, Wm.....	20	Burr, Miss.....	10
Abeel, J. H.....	25	Badger, Jacob.....	10
Alsop, J. W.....	10	Bull, Eliza A.....	10
Arnold, Constable & Co.....	10	Boker, H.....	10
Adams, John T.....	5	Bradford, H. S.....	10
Blanco, B.....	15	Corning, H. K.....	100

Cooper, Edward	50	Oothout, Wm.	25
Clarke, B. G.	25	Opdyke, George	20
Cary, W. F.	25	Olymunt & Co., R. M.	20
Collins, S. B.	25	Oelrichs & Co.	10
20			
Carter, Robert	10	Prosser & Son, Thomas. (1870)	50
Clark, G. W. (Jury Fees)	10	Prosser & Son, Thomas. (1871)	50
Clarke, Hull	10	10	50
Cruikshank, James	10	Fisher, Geo. D.	25
Coulter, Samuel	10	Powers, T. J.	25
		Pavstedt & Co.	25
Dugdale, R. L.	40	Popenhusen & Koenig	25
		Paton, Wm.	10
Everts, Wm. M.	5	Palanca, H.	10
Farnsworth, Elizabeth	10	Perkins, Helen R.	10
French Consul-General	5	Parsons, J. E.	10
Gilman, Winthrop S.	50	Roosevelt, C. V. S.	100
Gilman, William C.	300	Rainelander, W. C.	100
Graves, R. R.	10	Rogers, Chas. H.	25
		Roosa, D. B. St. John	10
		Ryder, E. T.	5
Howland, Joseph	50		
Holl, V. G.	25	Spencer, Mrs. C. L.	200
Hunter, James	25	Shelie, Mr. and Mrs. J. F.	100
Hendricks Brothers	10	Shipman, C. H.	50
Hoe & Co., Robert	10	Swan, O. D.	25
Hegeman, William	10	Schiffelin, H. M.	25
Harper & Bros.	10	Schiffelin, S. B.	20
		Schiffelin, J. L.	20
Ishia, A.	50	Sturges, Edward	10
Irvin, Richard	25	Skidmore, S. T.	25
		St. Jacques	2
Johnston, John Taylor	100		
Jeap, Morris K.	50	Touney, Sinclair	50
Jewell, Harrison & Co.	5	Talbot, C. N.	25
Jones, W. R. T.	5	Tjable, Geo. T.	20
		Titus, James H.	20
Keyser, John H.	25	Tapscott Bros. & Co.	10
		Tappan, J. N.	10
Lenox, James	200		
Low & Bros., A. A.	00	Usher, Selden	10
Lenox, Miss.	25		
		Victor, F. & Achelis	5
Murray Fund	50		
Moore, W. H. H.	25	Wolfe, John David	200
Macy's Sons, Josiah	10	Woolsey, E. J.	50
Munn, O. D.	10	Willetts, Samuel	10
McBurney, R. B.	10	Wyckoff, Henry A.	10
Marsh, James	5	Wheelwright, B. F.	10
Millau, James	5	Winherling, Hugnet & Co.	5
Moran Bros.	5	Wiggins, Augustus	10
Norrie, A.	100	Young, Henry	50
Naylor & Co	25	Total	<u>\$8,767</u>
Owen, Thos.	25		

New York, Jan. 8, 1872.

WM. C. GILMAN, Treasurer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL AGENT.

OFFICE OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION,
19 CENTRE STREET,
NEW YORK, January 1, 1872.

HON. THEODORE W. DWIGHT, LL.D.,

Chairman of Executive Committee:—

DEAR SIR: We are placed under additional obligations to the Father of Mercies, and the Giver of every good and perfect gift, for the health, life, and multitudinous blessings vouchsafed to us personally, and to the Association generally, in its multifarious and manifold labors during another year, and the twenty-seventh year of its existence.

We submit, in conformity with former usage, the following brief report of our last year's operations, in the field of detention prison cases, as well as in the discharged convicts department, because the duties in each are of the same general character, and performed by the same persons—your general agent and his assistants.

The extent of our operations embraces every county in the State of New York; but to the two cities of New York and Brooklyn, Kings county, our time and attention are more immediately devoted.

The importance and dimensions of the work in which the Association has been engaged, with mining industry, the last twenty-seven years, can be but partially comprehended from any one standpoint; it must be seen in its various labors to be approximately understood and appreciated.

The following tables of statistics, from the report of the honorable Board of Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, throw much light on this subject, and conclusively demonstrate that the objects, aims, and consequent labors of the Prison Association of New York must be, if judiciously and well performed, a herculean task, and of an absolutely gigantic character.

TABLE A.

FIRST DISTRICT PRISON, HALLS OF JUSTICE.	White males.	White females.	Black males.	Black females.	Total.
Number remaining in prison Jan. 1, 1871.	210	118	10	3	341
Number received during the year.....	17,126	13,606	386	373	31,491
	17,336	13,724	396	376	31,832
During the year have been discharged....	7,670	2,441	246	388	10,725
Deceased.....	19	4	.....	23	23
Executed.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Sent to Blackwell's Island by Police and other Courts.....	2,713	1,280	103	1	4,097
Transferred to Blackwell's Island by Commissioners.....	6,312	9,376	.....	.....	16,088
Sent to State prison.....	477	30	31	2	540
Remaining in prison Dec. 31, 1871.....	245	93	15	5	358
	17,336	13,724	396	376	31,832
In addition to the number received at First District prison, viz.....	17,126	13,606	386	373	31,491
There were discharged from Second District prison.....	5,843	2,536	156	145	8,680
Sent to Blackwell's Island.....	404	247	11	11	673
Discharged from Third District prison.....	5,027	1,657	17	6	6,707
Sent to Blackwell's Island.....	6	5	.....	.....	11
Discharged from Fourth District prison.....	2,321	569	10	1	2,901
Sent to Blackwell's Island.....	50	51	.....	.....	102
Discharged from Fifth District prison.....	607	104	8	1	810
Sent to Blackwell's Island.....	60	28	2	1	91
Total number of commitments during the year 1871.....	31,534	18,808	590	539	51,466

TABLE B.

NATIVITY.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number received of native birth.....	11,825	5,265	17,150
Number received of foreign birth.....	20,239	14,077	34,316
	32,124	19,342	51,466
Number received who were married.....	12,820	7,163	19,483
do. do. single.....	17,459	7,885	25,374
do. do. widowed.....	2,296	4,245	6,541
do. do. whose social relations were unknown.....	19	49	68
	32,124	19,342	51,466
Number received who were of temperate habits..	12,187	6,572	18,759
do. do. intemperate habits.....	19,937	12,770	32,707
	32,124	19,342	51,466
Number received who could not read.....	1,825	1,974	3,809
do. do. read only.....	6,184	9,167	15,351
do. do. read and write.....	23,049	8,069	31,068
do. do. were well educated.....	1,087	113	1,200
do. do. whose degree of education was unknown.....	19	49	68
	32,124	19,342	51,466

TABLE C.

FOR WHAT OFFENCE COMMITTED.	FIRST DISTRICT PRISON.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Abandonment	111		111
Abduction	2		2
Arson	2		2
Assault	54	6	60
Assault and battery	1,746	278	2,024
do. do. felonious	298	11	309
Attempt to commit burglary	16		16
do. do. grand larceny	37	19	46
Bastardy	20		26
Bigamy	11	1	12
Burglary	327	1	328
Conspiracy	10		10
Contempt of court	5		5
Delirium tremens	14		14
Disorderly boys and girls	140	28	168
Disorderly conduct	3,679	4,159	7,838
Embezzlement	67		67
Escaped convicts	7	3	10
Felony	76	17	93
Felonious assault	11	2	13
Forgery	55	2	57
Fugitives from justice	4		4
Gambling	65		65
Grand larceny	833	200	1,143
Homicide	62	3	65
Illegal voting	4		4
Indecent assault	12		12
Indecent exposure of person	19		19
Insanity (committed temporarily for examination)	528	312	840
Intoxication	5,463	7,936	13,399
Juvenile delinquency	75	22	97
Keeping disorderly house	71	66	137
Larceny	63	12	65
Larceny from the person	54		54
Malignant mischief	37	13	50
Mayhem	1		1
Misdemeanor	367	41	408
Obtaining goods by false pretences	65		67
Perjury	3	1	4
Petit larceny	1,932	417	2,349
Rape	23		23
Receiving stolen goods	46	4	50
Robbery	109	2	111
Seduction	3		3
Vagrancy	1,007	645	1,652
Violation of corporation ordinances	25		25
Totals	17,512	18,979	31,491

TABLE D.

FOR WHAT OFFENCE COMMITTED.	SECOND DISTRICT PRISON.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Abandonment			
Assault and battery	29		29
Assault and battery, felonious	207	50	266
Arson	60	18	78
Burglary	3		5
Bastardy	35		35
Conspiracy	13		13
Disorderly conduct	3		3
Embezzlement	2,237		2,237
Felony	13		13
False pretences	30	8	38
Grand larceny	21		21
Homicide	88		88
Insanity	9		9
Intoxication	16	4	20
Juvenile delinquents	2,950	1,103	4,053
Misdemeanor	111	81	142
Petit larceny	187	57	194
Receiving stolen goods	122	43	165
Robbery	17		17
Rape	10		10
Vagrancy	3		3
Totals	280	183	463
Totals	6,414	2,969	9,383

TABLE E.

FOR WHAT OFFENCE COMMITTED.	THIRD DISTRICT PRISON.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Abandonment	32		32
Abduction	3	2	5
Arson	2	1	3
Assault and battery	284	123	412
Bastardy	17		17
Burglary	12		12
Disorderly conduct	2,251	907	3,158
Embezzlement	3		3
Felonious assault and battery	39	4	43
Felony	9	1	10
Forgery	2		2
Grand larceny	46	17	63
Homicide	1		1
Insanity	1		1
Intoxication	1,946	513	2,459
Keeping disorderly house	15	21	36
Mayhem	1		1
Misdemeanor	133	22	155
Obtaining goods by false pretences	2		2
Peit larceny	117	30	157
Perjury	1		1
Rape	2		2
Receiving stolen goods	6	1	7
Robbery	7		7
Seduction	1		1
Vagrancy	17	12	29
Violation of corporation ordinances	98		98
Totals	5,050	1,668	6,718

TABLE F.

FOR WHAT OFFENCE COMMITTED.	FOURTH DISTRICT PRISON.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Assault and battery			
Assault and battery, felonious	185	31	216
Abandonment	42	1	43
Arson	18		18
Bastardy	2		2
Bigamy	14		14
Burglary		1	1
Disorderly conduct	9		9
Embezzlement	948	139	1,087
Felony	4		4
Forgery	3	1	4
Grand larceny	2		2
Homicide	48	6	54
Insanity			
Intoxication			
Juvenile delinquency	893	372	1,225
Keeping disorderly house	9	1	10
Misdemeanor			
Obtaining goods by false pretences	41	2	43
Perjury	5		5
Peit larceny	1		1
Rape	48	10	58
Receiving stolen goods	7		7
Robbery	1		1
Seduction	8	1	9
Vagrancy	1		1
Violation of corporation ordinances	63	55	117
Totals	2,881	622	3,003

TABLE G.

FOR WHAT OFFENCE COMMITTED.	FIFTH DISTRICT PRISON.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Abandonment	8	.....	8
Assault	5	3	7
Assault and battery	92	10	102
Assault and battery, felonious	10	.....	10
Bastardy	2	.....	2
Burglary	1	.....	1
Disorderly conduct	376	52	428
Embezzlement	1	.....	1
Felony	6	3	9
Grand larceny	2	.....	2
Homicide	208	50	247
Intoxication	4	3	15
Misdemeanor	12	12	34
Peit larceny	52	5	57
Rape	5	.....	5
Robbery	19	16	25
Vagrancy	1	.....	1
Totals	767	134	901

TABLE H.

NATIVITY OF PRISONERS COMMITTED IN 1871.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ireland	13,798	11,855	25,653
United States	11,773	4,799	16,572
Germany	3,767	1,310	5,077
England	1,165	740	1,905
Scotland	230	231	551
Canada	245	193	378
Prussia	215	56	271
France	198	150	348
Italy	83	6	89
Russia	84	1	85
Sweden	79	2	81
Switzerland	71	10	81
West Indies	73	.....	73
Spain	57	3	60
Norway	33	21	53
Denmark	35	10	45
Wales	41	3	44
Austria	39	3	42
China	20	2	22
South America	19	.....	19
Mexico	9	.....	9
Cuba	1	7	8
Totals	32,124	10,342	51,466

TABLE I.

Classification Table of the Ages of the Male and Female Prisoners received during the year 1871.

AGES.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 15 years	1,371	259	1,630
From 15 to 20 years	3,418	2,328	5,746
From 20 to 25 years	5,667	3,594	9,261
From 25 to 30 years	5,039	5,243	10,282
From 30 to 35 years	4,697	3,539	8,236
From 35 to 40 years	3,426	2,105	5,531
From 40 to 45 years	2,947	753	3,700
From 45 to 50 years	2,323	451	2,806
From 50 to 55 years	1,452	397	1,829
From 55 to 60 years	917	262	1,179
From 60 to 65 years	538	191	729
From 65 to 70 years	231	124	355
Over 70 years	116	96	212
Totals	32,124	19,342	51,466

From the preceding tables it appears that 51,466 persons were arrested in New York city, and a proportionate number in the city of Brooklyn, county of Kings, during the past year (1871), charged with vice and crime, and who were disposed of by our police and criminal courts.

This numerous, expensive, and dangerous crowd of our erring fellow-beings were composed of varied nationalities, tongues, and races, from the precocious child of tender years to the enfeebled, aged, and hardened offender of threescore years and ten, or to fourscore years and ten, as follows:

NATIVITY.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number arrested, native born	11,885	5,265	17,150
“ “ of foreign birth	20,239	14,077	34,316
Totals	32,124	19,342	51,466

While immigration from the countries of the Old World has been of great permanent advantage to the agricultural and commercial interests and prosperity of the United States, it must, nevertheless, be conceded that vice and crime are most seriously increased by the influx of immigrants from other nations.

This state of things is to be deplored, as there are chances here for every honest emigrant, not afraid of work, to earn a respectable subsistence, and save money; and yet, there are found in all our large towns and cities, and in our penitentiaries, county jails, and penal institutions, thousands of men who do not appreciate their social or political privileges, but who thoughtlessly sacrifice each and all for less than a mess of pottage. Such persons are obstacles in the way of human progress; they are anything but a blessing to our country, as they only exist to ruin and destroy all that is good, and to perpetuate all that is evil.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number received of temperate habits.....	13,187	6,572	18,759
" " intemperate habits.....	19,067	12,770	32,737
Totals.....	32,124	19,342	51,466

These figures are startling. How many solemn questions instantly crowd our imagination, and what misery to themselves and others has been produced by the drinking practices of this reckless class!

What an enormous expense must there revolvers, spending by far more time in prison than they do out of prison. A large proportion of them take an active part in our elections, and deposit their vote at the ballot-box probably early and often. It is the deliberate judgment of your agent that an habitual drunkard (proven to be such) should be deprived of his franchise, and permitted to take no part in our elections, municipal, State, or national.

But the evils partially referred to dwindle into utter insignificance when compared with the wretched abject poverty, the disorder, the violation of all law, the vice, crime, and premature sickness and death, all produced by the use of strong drink; the sea of troubles from this cause are beyond the grasp of the largest mental conception. May the time soon arrive when the traffic in alcoholic beverages shall be suppressed, or so controlled that less injury may be inflicted on our population, and especially on the rising generation!

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number committed during 1871.....	1,835	1,974	3,809
do. who could not read.....	6,184	9,167	15,351
do. do. do. read only.....	1,037	113	1,150
do. do. were well educated.....			

It is a universally conceded fact that knowledge is power. It is also incontrovertibly truthful that ignorance is a great source of crime. The above figures show there were but 1,150 well-educated

persons arrested and found in prison during the year; whilst there were 50,316 persons accused of vice and crime, 3,809 who could not read, and other thousands were but poorly educated.

Oh, what a disgrace and burning shame it is in this country, where the National and State Governments have by wise and salutary laws made provision so abundant and ample for the mental improvement of all classes—for we have public schools accessible, appropriate books, and sound, solid, useful instruction given, as free as air, and other institutions of learning provided for persons in every condition of life—and yet these extraordinary facilities are by many thousands of our people neglected and set at naught. Parents who refuse or neglect to send their children to our public schools or to other good schools should be subjected to pains and penalties, fine or imprisonment.

The labors of your agent and his assistants during the past year are partially shown by the following condensed statement:

	Number of accused persons visited in their cells, who were poor and feeble, and required medical and commissal.	By means of which, respectively, they were enabled to be placed in a ward where appropriate to be visited, or to be removed to a ward of reformat conduct.	Number of convicts discharged in our service, the being of a Rhode Island convict, and a New York convict.	Number of discharged convicts and paupers who were employed on the reconstruction of the State Prison, and on other public works, but were unable to earn their subsistence.	Number of discharged convicts provided with work and situations in remote quarters.	Number of discharged convicts who had with working tools and clothing, and were enabled to support to their work an occupation.	
January.....(About)	400	57	27	9	110	49	13
February.....	350	41	11	12	137	41	9
March.....	490	36	11	14	126	46	9
April.....	450	61	9	13	136	53	18
May.....	490	39	18	14	119	17	8
June.....	350	27	13	17	106	35	7
July.....	250	31	12	9	83	24	13
August.....	200	24	10	8	76	31	10
September.....	350	63	17	11	104	67	10
October.....	350	52	10	12	110	46	7
November.....	500	40	11	13	112	63	8
December.....	450	33	9	16	90	17	5
Totals.....	4,350	504	158	148	1,310	519	111

MONTH, 1871.

DEPARTMENT OF DETENTIONS.

The following cases, taken from our Diary of Detentions, are given merely to illustrate the principles on which the Association is based, and the character of its work.

No. 1 was arrested on the complaint of his employers, who are dry-goods merchants in Brooklyn, and where he had been engaged

as salesman. He was detected in stealing a shawl, valued at thirty dollars, and arrested; and, after an examination, committed for trial. When brought up to plead to the indictment, his counsel induced the District Attorney to accept a plea of guilty to an attempt at grand larceny, and he was sentenced to the Kings county penitentiary for six months. After being sentenced, he begged your agent to take charge of his trunk; we consented, and, after paying his board-bill, the trunk and contents were removed to our office. On his discharge he came to us, when we procured him a situation, where he is now earning a respectable subsistence. He is a son of a Christian minister, and we trust he will yet live to honor his father. The chaplain who conducts the services at the penitentiary, and most of those Christian friends who co-operate with him there on the Sabbath, believe him to have undergone a great moral change. His case has been referred to in most of our city churches and city missionary meetings; elaborate articles have also appeared in several of our religious papers on the subject. May his future life confirm their hopes.

No. 2, a harness-maker, was arrested, charged with a felonious assault and battery. Several years ago he had married the sister of the complainant, who was a Catholic, and during all this time a deadly prejudice lurked in his, the complainant's, heart. Oftentimes has he gone to the residence of the prisoner and created a disturbance, which usually terminated in a fight; and although the prisoner always came off second best, yet he never appealed to the law. At the time of this last occurrence, the complainant, under the influence of liquor, went to the house of the prisoner, and, as usual, commenced an attack, throwing him on his back, and threatening to bite off his nose, and throw him out of a three-story window. The prisoner, fearful that he would carry his threat into execution, picked up a circle-knife, with which he worked, and cut him several times about the head and face. He was arrested, and to-day brought up for trial, after being in jail thirteen weeks. The jury found a verdict of guilty of felonious assault and battery, with intent to do some serious bodily harm. We had been present during the entire trial; and, after the jury had rendered their verdict, we addressed the court in behalf of the prisoner, contending that the complainant was most to blame.

No. 3.—On visiting the Tombs we find two remarkably bright boys, aged respectively fourteen and fifteen years, committed to the care of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction and destined for the school-ship.

We see the Commissioners and argue that these boys are untainted with crime, and that it is wrong to send them to the school-ship, where they will be associated with the worst class of juvenile criminals produced by our city. We also engage to provide them with situations and homes if they will turn them over to us. They consented. A benevolent gentleman of our city immediately took one of the lads

into his employ, and the other was furnished a home with a kind farmer in the west.

No. 4.—We visit the Tombs and find a young man in great anxiety and shame. He is a member of one of our city churches, an active Sunday-school teacher, and a man of hitherto unblemished reputation.

He is charged with larceny from the person of a custom-house official. It appears that he, in company with an old friend, the official referred to, were on board an English steamship, where they had taken several glasses of liquor. On leaving the vessel they were all somewhat intoxicated, the officer being the most stupid of the three, and whilst walking hurriedly up the street from the river he suddenly paused and charged the prisoner with putting his hand into his side-pocket and stealing therefrom seventy-five dollars. An officer was called, when he was taken into a house and searched, and only twenty-two cents found upon his person; the weeping, howling custom-house official was then searched, and the seventy-five dollars which he accused the prisoner of taking was found in his own pocket. He then asserted that the prisoner had taken it, but when detected had replaced it.

We immediately instituted inquiries, and on finding his story to be correct in every particular, hurried his case before the court, and procured his discharge.

No. 5 was arrested on suspicion of grand larceny. After being in custody for several weeks he was discharged, the grand jury deeming the testimony insufficient to convict him. On his discharge he called upon the Association and was aided to reach his home. He seemed to feel thankful for the advice and aid afforded him, and departed on his way rejoicing.

No. 6 arrived in this country from London, England, a few months ago. He obtained occasional employment during the first few weeks after his arrival, and at last procured a situation as assistant-janitor of a building on Broadway. He had been engaged there but a few months when he was arrested, charged with entering the room stealing his own, and which was occupied by two female help, and secreted therefrom several articles of clothing, which were found under his bed. It appears that the persons employed about the building had free access to his room, and that the women from whom the garments were taken daily made his bed.

When brought into court, the two women testified that they saw him coming from the room in question. He was not allowed to say a word in his own defence, the judge sentencing him at once to two months in the penitentiary.

He solemnly protests that he never entered the room, and never saw or touched the clothing; and if it was placed under the bed he occupied, some person besides himself must have placed it there. He also thinks the judge should be more careful, and not so hasty in

sending innocent persons to prison and ruin on uncorroborated testimony.

When arrested, he had a trunk of good clothing, worth to him one hundred and fifty dollars, which were left in the care of the janitor; there was also one month's wages due him. The janitor refused to deliver the trunk or to pay him his money. We sent him a note. When he gave up the trunk, we then sued him in the First District Court and recovered the amount of unpaid wages with costs.

No. 7, a German, was indicted for burglary in the third degree. We advised him to plead to an attempt; it was accepted, and he was sentenced to Sing Sing for two years and six months. He worked in the shoe-shop for some time, and was then transferred to the quarry by the principal keeper, to whom he complained. He says that his keeper in the shoe-shop was a brutal, ignorant, bad man, and that, while under him, he was subjected to various severe punishments, but that after his transfer he was never punished, the keeper in the quarry being a just and reasonable man.

On his discharge, he called upon the Association, and asked us to secure him employment, that he may provide for his faithful wife and children. We procured him work at one of our large shoe manufactories, and furnished him means to purchase the necessary tools.

No. 8.—Two females request the Association to aid them. They are inmates of Kings county jail, charged with introducing burglarious tools into the prison and aiding prisoners to escape.

We examined their complaint, and found the testimony to be clear and convincing against them. We therefore declined to say a word in their behalf.

No. 9.—We spent considerable time laboring with all our energy endeavoring to find employment for such discharged convicts as are leaning on the Association for food, lodging and work. It is exceedingly difficult, we find, to get even temporary employment for such persons whilst thousands of honest men are out of work and in want.

No. 10.—One of the lady visitors to our City prison, and a member of the Church of the Epiphany, calls and informs us of the death of a discharged convict whom we had requested her to visit.

This poor man was tried, convicted, and sentenced in the United States Circuit Court, some two years since, to six years in the Albany Penitentiary, for having in his possession a counterfeit bill. At the time of the sentence he was in poor health, and rapidly grew worse; his family were left in an utterly destitute condition, and his distracted wife frequently called upon the Association for aid, which was always cheerfully rendered.

In reply to a letter of inquiry concerning him, the superintendent

said that he was in a critical condition, and the physician thought him sinking fast.

Immediately on reception of this letter we waited upon the United States District Attorney, who conceded that the sentence was by far too severe, and on our urgent solicitation favored us with letters to the President, asking an immediate pardon. We wrote a strong appeal, and the papers were presented by one of our United States Senators, and the President at once granted the request. He had been at home but a short time when the sad intelligence reached us of his death. We at once repaired to the residence of the deceased, and on our return addressed a letter to the President of our Association, acquainting him with the above painful facts, and who, with his characteristic kindness, forwarded us ample means for the benefit of the widow and her four children. Other friends were raised up unto her, and clothing and many other necessary and useful articles furnished. A brother of the deceased also came forward and attended to the details of the funeral, furnishing undertaker, coffin, hearse and coaches, and as the family owned a lot in Greenwood, the poor unfortunate had a respectable burial.

We are glad to say that this family are now doing well, and that God has been to them a father to the fatherless, and a husband to the widow.

No. 11, a young lad aged sixteen, was arrested charged with grand larceny, taking fifty dollars from the safe of his employer. It appears that he found the safe open when he came to the store in the morning, and took from it an envelope containing the above-named sum. On the arrival of the proprietor he at once missed the envelope, and on instituting inquiries, the boy immediately returned it intact, confessing his fault. On conversing with him we found that he had no motive in taking the money, and did not know what disposition to make of it after it came into his possession. He yielded to the temptation when he saw it within his grasp, scarcely realizing what he was doing, and had long ago sincerely repented of his crime. This lad belonged to an excellent family, and the mother was almost frantic.

We saw the District Attorney, and had the case hurried before the grand jury, who found a true bill. When brought into court, we advised him to plead guilty, which he did, when the judge, on our interposition, suspended sentence.

No. 12.—A woman calls at our office, where she was sent by a citizen, and represents that on her way from Albany her pocket was picked, and by that little transaction she lost, as she says, twenty-five dollars. We were absent; John David Wolfe, Esq., the President of the Association, happened to be in our office at the time, heard her story, and gave her means sufficient to reach her home. For his sympathy and pecuniary aid we are told she felt very grateful, and evinced it by expressions of apparent sincerity.

No. 13.—Two brothers, who worked at home with their father, a sober, industrious shoemaker, were charged with entering a liquor store—the door of which stood slightly ajar—and taking from behind the bar an overcoat, a box of cigars, and six dollars from the money-drawer. These lads begged us to aid them, informing us that this was their first offence, and that they had never been arrested before. On questioning them, we discovered that when the younger lad saw his elder brother go behind the bar he immediately left for home, conscious that he was doing wrong, and that when he saw the overcoat on the following morning he expressed his regret at what the elder brother had done.

When brought up for trial we advised the elder brother to plead guilty, when we explained the facts in the case to the court.

The elder brother was sentenced to only one year in Kings county penitentiary, it being his first offence, and the younger was discharged. We felt that the court had acted wisely in the disposition of these two young men, and the complainant and the parents were glad this painful affair had terminated so favorably.

No. 14.—While visiting Kings county jail we saw a respectable looking young woman charged with petit larceny—stealing several bottles of pickles from the person from whom she had hired a furnished room. She represents that she had roomed at this place for several months, and had always entertained a high opinion of her landlady, until some two weeks since, when the lady aforesaid fell greatly in her estimation. She at once expressed her determination to leave the house, and started out to secure other rooms. On her return, and while packing her things, she found the several bottles of pickles returned to in her bed, and almost immediately after this discovery a police officer entered the room and she was charged with the larceny, which she denied most emphatically.

As it was impossible for us to be present at the trial, we secured the services of a lawyer to defend her, and she was discharged. We then advised her to bring suit against the landlady who brought this trumped-up charge.

No. 15.—A poor woman calls at our office and asks advice and counsel. She says that her husband has been out of employment for several weeks, and was unable to obtain work of any description.

One evening, after we had had a heavy fall of snow, he asked a neighbor to loan him his shovel that he might be enabled to earn a dollar or two on the following morning; consent was given. In the morning he called as arranged, when the neighbor demanded fifty cents for its use. He had but twenty-five cents, which he offered, promising to pay him the remainder when he returned the shovel; his neighbor still refused; they quarreled; her husband was knocked down and was being seriously beaten, when he pulled out his pocket-knife and cut his assailant in the breast. He was then arrested and taken to the Tombs, and his neighbor to the hospital, where he remained five days, when he was discharged, having entirely recovered

from his wounds. We engaged to see the prisoner, and after inquiring into the facts of the case, found them to be as above stated, and that he was more sinned against than sinning, and had only acted in self-defence. When brought up to be tried, we persuaded the jury into entertaining the same opinion, and the man was discharged.

No. 16.—We found in Kings county jail a German woman, charged with stealing a silver watch, which cost twenty-five dollars some five years since. During her incarceration she had had several hysterical fits, and when we saw her they followed one another in quick succession. We consulted the physician of the jail, and asked him whether she was "playing possum?" He replied that he thought not; that the woman was in a distressing state of nervous excitement, resulting probably from her arrest. She frankly replied to our inquiries, gave us her address, and stated that her husband had been out of employment for the last seven weeks; that he was not in good health; that they had two children, and this was her first offence. Inquiries were made, and her story found to be truthful in each and every particular. We then wrote to the judge before whom the examination was to take place, giving him the result of our investigation, and asking him to show her mercy. We suggested that the offence was but petty larceny, as the watch was now, after five years' wear, worth less than twenty-five dollars. The case was clearly proven against her, and at the close of the evidence the judge informed her that he had been urged to show her mercy, and, believing this to be her first offence, would send her to jail for twenty-nine days. As was apprehended, this sentence produced another fit; when the judge asked her if she could find the way home, she replied "yes." "Then go," was his rejoinder.

No. 17 had spent twenty-nine days in the City prison, awaiting the action of the grand jury on a charge of grand larceny preferred against him. We saw the District Attorney, who hurried the matter before them, and, as the evidence was deemed insufficient, the case was dismissed and the prisoner discharged. On his release he called upon the Association, and expressed his desire to return to his friends in Philadelphia. A ticket was given him.

No. 18.—We spent three hours in the City prison, and afterwards devoted more than four hours laboring to find employment for three discharged convicts, who are dependent upon the Association; but our efforts were fruitless. There are now, at this season of the year, thousands of honest laborers and mechanics out of employment, hence the difficulty in securing work for men bankrupt in character and reputation. We trust that business will soon revive.

No. 19 was in custody, charged with grand larceny. After examining the case, we could not believe the man guilty. We hurried the case before the grand jury, who regarded the testimony in the same light as ourselves—insufficient to convict. We then asked his

discharge. He was sent for, and at once restored to liberty. He was also appropriately aided.

No. 20.—We spent some hours in Raymond street jail, Brooklyn, conversing with the prisoners, and laboring to exert a moral influence over them, especially the young. This is occasionally possible, but with persons whose habits are formed it is a work both difficult and discouraging.

No. 21.—Our attention had been called to this young man, an inmate of the Tombs, who was committed for trial on charge of burglary. We made a thorough investigation of the case, and the facts, as we understood them to be, were in this wise: This young man had been in the employ of a merchant of this city for the past five years, and had hitherto borne an unblemished reputation, and his employer and friends could not regard him as guilty of the alleged crime. On New Year's Day he had made several calls upon his friends, they had treated him with wine, and he was somewhat under its deceptive influence; after midnight he resolved to make another call before retiring, and that was to be the last. He then repaired to the residence of an old friend who occupied rooms in a tenement house, he walked up-stairs, and when he reached, as he thought, their apartments, he knocked loudly at the door, calling out their names; there being no response, it occurred to him that they lived on the next floor; then he made so much noise shouting and knocking at the windows that he awoke most of the tenants; they left their beds, came out on the landing, and arrested the disturber; an officer was called, and he was locked up. When taken before the police magistrate he was committed on charge of burglary.

We waited on the District Attorney, who hurried up the trial, and the facts as stated above were proven. The District Attorney then asked his former employer, after all that had been alleged against the prisoner, "Are you willing to take him back into your employ?" He replied, "Most certainly." The case was then adjourned, and at the suggestion of the judge a verdict of "not guilty" was rendered.

No. 22.—The attention of your agent was called to an aged German, an inmate of the City prison, the last two months held on charge of grand larceny.

These were the facts: The prisoner had been engaged to assist a small family in their removal from this to another neighboring city; he represented that he had performed his labor faithfully, and when done, the party refused to pay him as agreed. To secure his payment he had conveyed away to the house of a friend a trunk, containing clothing; he returned and informed those who had employed him that he should hold the said property as a collateral security until paid. He was then arrested and held. No indictment had been found by the grand jury. The prisoner had informed the officer of the whereabouts of the trunk, which was restored without trouble to its owner.

We called to investigate the cause of so much delay, when it was ascertained the complainant was dead; that he died the second day after the arrest of the prisoner. The Board of Health furnished us with a certificate of his death and burial; this was left with the District Attorney, and the prisoner, at our request, was immediately discharged; he danced with joy. He was aided by the Association.

REMARKS ON DETENTIONS.

These few cases taken from our diary will suffice to show the character of our every-day labor (hundreds of others might have been adduced.) We candidly avow the principal object we have in visiting the inmates of our detention prisons is to bring the guilty transgressor to a speedy sense of the enormity of his crime, and not so much to save him from merited punishment, as to influence penitence and reform.

In this department of our varied duties we have visited probably no less than five thousand persons confined in our detention prisons awaiting trial. We carefully select those who are inexperienced in crime, their first arrest, strangers to prison life; the young, the penitent, the innocent, the friendless stranger, the young emigrant from the Old World, who knows neither the value of time nor money, spoiled and ruined by indulgent parents—those who never worked, or earned with their head or hand an honest yellow guinea. Such greenlings or goslings we have met with very frequently. They arrive in this city, having a few dollars in their pocket, many of them with a decent wardrobe; they engage rooms at a hotel, some are introduced to emigrant boarding-houses. Soon, very soon, their money is all gone, they owe a week's board, they apply for their trunks, a refusal is given them, and they are requested to leave, losing all they possessed in the world. Often these undeveloped mortals, for want of proper knowledge and common sense, become mere wrecks, and probably from the force of circumstances, and not from an innate depravity, they are driven into the society of reckless, bad men, who gladly make a cat's-paw of them. A crime is committed, the *assault* in every villainy escapes justice, whereas the spoiled child is taken and severely punished, producing a humiliation from which he seldom recovers. In such cases, during the last year, our interposition was beneficial and conspicuous, and many a poor fellow has ejaculated, "God bless you, sir; and the society so represented. I hope to retain a memory of your timely interposition and aid all my future days."

Much of our time and attention has been given to juvenile delinquents found in prison; to save them from a worse fate, we have induced the courts to send them to the House of Refuge for reformation, whilst we have secured the discharge of others from the same institution on the ground of their tender age, or that they were not guilty, the testimony being insufficient to fasten the alleged offence upon them, as we believed.

We feel personally obliged to the board of managers of the above-

named reformatory, for the promptitude with which our reasonable applications were regarded and favorably responded to.

It is a lamentable truth and a very great calamity, that there are in this city many thousands of young people, say from twelve to sixteen and eighteen years old, who neither fear God nor man; they are uncared for, untrained, uneducated—growing up like poisonous weeds—capable of doing no good, but harm, and that continually; and this class indulge in the perpetration of crimes the most serious known to our criminal calendar, and who will become experts, and consequently dangerous members of society.

It is a question of vital importance, and should occupy the best attention of good, intelligent men, *What means can be devised to save the rising generation from vice and crime?*

During the past year we have instrumentally benefited a large number of unfortunate persons accused of some offence, and this has been accomplished without compromising ourselves or the Association we feebly represent, and without injury to those complaining. We have been uniformly careful in the selection of proper objects of our care, always striving to have a conscience void of offence both "towards God and towards man," which is more satisfactory and enduring than millions of money and clusters of diamonds surreptitiously obtained.

Your general agent thankfully acknowledges the urbanity and attention of those connected with the administration of criminal justice in New York and Brooklyn.

The advice, counsel, and co-operation so promptly and cheerfully offered him in the prosecution of his labors by the District Attorneys and their assistants, both in our State and United States courts, he hopes to remember with sincere and hearty thanks.

To the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, to other benevolent institutions, the chaplains of our State prisons, and other kind friends, together with the active members of our Executive Board of Managers, for the aid and help so generously afforded me at all times, I feel personally obliged, and hope their disinterested kindness will be rewarded a hundred-fold.

In conclusion, may the Prison Association of New York be rendered, every succeeding year, more eminently useful in the reformation of the erring, and in the promotion of the glory of God!

I am, with great respect, yours,

ABRAHAM BEAL,
General Agent.

DEPARTMENT OF DISCHARGED CONVICTS.

Extracts from the Diary of the Agent on Discharged Convicts, 1871.

We have been at a loss in our selections from the Diary of the Committee on Discharged Convicts. On the one hand a desire to show the practical daily operations of this department of the Association, while on the other we have no disposition to merely increase the bulk of our report. Deeming the former object, however, proper in itself; yet we venture on the presentation of more "cases" than may perhaps prove of interest to some of our readers. We, however, cherish the hope and belief that those who undertake their perusal will find their sympathies invigorated in behalf of the fallen or unfortunate, who claim and receive our care.

No. 1 was arrested, charged with stealing a piece of cloth valued at one hundred dollars. When brought before the court on an indictment for grand larceny, he confessed his guilt. The judge, in consideration of his patriotic services during the war, and in view of the wounds he had received, and the fact that he was out of health at the time of the perpetration of this, his first offence, dealt mercifully with him, sentencing him to Sing Sing prison for two years. He worked in the shoe shop and secured the approbation of the warden, contractor and keepers, consequently he was promoted. On his discharge he received the usual amount from the State and forty dollars from the contractors. When he left the prison he started for New Orleans, but while there he was very sick, and consequently returned to New York.

We have felt much interested in this young man; he speaks four languages fluently, and writes an elegant hand.

The Association sustained him for some time. We procured him a situation with one of our large shoe manufacturers, provided he joined the St. Crispin Society, or Shoemakers' Protective Union. This sum—the initiation fee—we also advanced him, although somewhat reluctantly, having but little sympathy with any form of tyranny.

No. 2, a German, was arrested on a charge of manslaughter. The day on which this occurred he visited a friend of his who kept a restaurant; on his arrival he found him quite busy, and was invited to assist him, as at that time he was out of employment. During the evening some nine fellows of the baser sort came into the restaurant, when a brawl ensued, and he, in self-defence, fired into the crowd, with a pistol, and fatally wounded one man, who soon after died, and seriously injured another. When brought before the court on

an indictment, he was advised to plead guilty to manslaughter in the fourth degree. The court accepted his plea, and he was sentenced to Sing Sing for two years. He worked in the cabinet shop, and earned two months' commutation. On his discharge we procured him employment at his trade, which is that of a machinist, and aided him with money and clothing.

No. 3.—This man called at our office and represented that he was from Buffalo, where he had been residing for some time past, and where he "sowed his wild oats" without stint. He was at length arrested, charged with a mean petty theft—stealing a watch from a female friend; he had informed her that he was out of money, and begged her to loan him ten dollars to pay his board; she refused; he then took up her watch and asked the loan of it until the next day; she replied "no;" he then left her, taking it with him, immediately pledging it for five dollars. He was arrested, tried, and sentenced to the State prison at Auburn for one year.

He felt thankful that this trouble had occurred when he was comparatively unknown, and as he assumed another name he trusts that his relations and friends in Philadelphia may never know of his disgrace.

We like his appearance very much, and believe that he will settle down and become a respectable citizen.

He was supplied with suitable clothing and sent to his home.

No. 4 had spent three months in the Island penitentiary on conviction of petit larceny. He says that he was never before in such a plight, and could not feel worse had he just completed a term of twenty years in State prison. In the future he hopes to be kept from vice and crime. He was forwarded to his home.

No. 5.—This man had served one month in the penitentiary, asks the Association for sufficient means to enable him to reach an interior county. He acknowledges his guilt, and promises never to commit another offence while life lasts. His request was complied with.

No. 6, after serving a term of twelve months in the penitentiary, calls on the Association, having been informed that it sometimes helps an unfortunate, by taking him by the hand and lifting him out of the slough of despond. We told him that such was the object and design of the Association, provided the applicant evinced an earnest desire to reform and intended to live a higher and better life. He promised, and was enabled to reach his friends in New Jersey.

No. 7, a discharged convict from Sing Sing, called, and was enabled to reach his home. We have strong hopes of him, and firmly believe that he will never be found in similar circumstances. He pledges himself to work industriously, and to avoid the very appearance of evil.

No. 8 has spent three months at the Island penitentiary. He represents that he only reached this city a day or two before his arrest. Shortly after his arrival he met a friend who was about to leave for Memphis; they drank more than was prudent, and both were locked up. His friend produced his tickets, showing the judge that he was about to leave New York, and was discharged, but this man was sentenced to the penitentiary, as he says, because he refused to tell his name, or where he lived.

Clothes were furnished him, and sufficient means to pay his fare to his home, where he promised to lead an industrious and honest life.

No. 8¹, just discharged from the penitentiary, desires to reach his home in an adjoining State. He asserts that he never before saw the inside of a prison, and, God being his helper, he never will again; but will, in the future, act a wiser and better part. His requests were complied with.

No. 9, who had served a term of six months, calls to say that he is really tired of living a loose life, and asks, is it possible for him to improve and reform? We encouraged him to make the effort at once and persevere. The Association sustained him until employment was secured.

No. 10 calls on his discharge from the penitentiary, where he had served a short term, and says that he is twenty-nine years of age, and this is the first time in his life that he was ever arrested or deserved to be. We congratulate him, and much regretted that the vast number in this country of the same nationality cannot truthfully adopt the same language. He was aided to his home, where he expects to obtain employment.

No. 11, a young colored man, was arrested on a charge of grand larceny—stealing a suit of clothes from his employer. He represents that he was short of money, that he owed a friend a trifling sum, and was constantly being dunned for it, and that he took the clothes to liquidate this debt, intending to redeem them at the close of three months when he received his wages. As the clothes were pawned for only seven dollars, and he was receiving twenty-five dollars per month, he thought he could manage it without being discovered.

When brought into court he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and was sentenced to the State prison at Sing Sing for the term of three years.

On his discharge he received fourteen dollars, and after this was spent he calls upon the Association for aid. He was sustained for a few days until a situation was procured for him. We hope and trust that he will do better in the future than in the past, as he has been more favored than the majority of his colored brethren, having a more liberal education.

No. 12, a German, was arrested charged with burglary. He had entered a house where he formerly boarded, and was detected as he was about leaving with a pair of pantaloons in his possession belonging to the proprietor. He pleaded guilty to the indictment, and was sentenced to Sing Sing for five years.

Shortly after his discharge he calls on the Association and says that he has become indebted to the amount of nine dollars for board, which he asks us to pay, and to forward him to Chicago, where he expects to obtain a situation. His requests were partially complied with, and he departed hopeful.

No. 13 had served six months in the penitentiary. Calls and asks, "Can the Association provide him with employment?" We reluctantly reply that it is not possible—as he is a clerk and bookkeeper, and not an expert either. He represents that most of his troubles would cease, could he but reach his former employer in another State, and for whom he worked three years, and who, he thinks, would take him again in his employ, should he promise to abstain from intoxicating drink. We administered to him the temperance pledge, and gave him a certificate, and if he can but persuade his employer that he is sincere and resolved to lead a different life, all will be well.

Suitable clothing was furnished him, and money sufficient to reach the place desired.

No. 14, when discharged from the penitentiary, where he had served one month, calls at our office. He cannot imagine why so many persons are sent to the penitentiary, for if they are of irregular, bad, and vicious habits, or given to dishonest practices, that is not the place to improve them, and although he has no desire to find fault with the institution, as it is good enough for bad men, yet there is no wise means used to make them better—hence, they are more likely under such imperfect government to become worse. He thinks highly of the Commissioners; but their subordinates, who, for lack of interest in their work, do all the mischief—their conduct kills good desires and strangles honest aspirations for a better life. Means were furnished him to enable him to reach the country, where he hopes to obtain employment.

No. 15, who has just been discharged from the penitentiary, where he had served a term of one year, calls to thank the Association for the timely aid rendered him when brought up for trial; but for such interposition he might have been consigned to the State Prison for a term of years. The kindness shown him he believes will constrain him to live a better life.

He was furnished with suitable clothing and other necessary aid.

No. 16 was arrested in Fonda, and tried in Oneida county on an indictment for grand larceny—stealing when under the influence of strong drink \$200 from a saloon-keeper. He was tried, convicted,

and sentenced to Auburn State prison for a term of two years. He worked in the shoe shop, but did not acquire sufficient knowledge of the business to earn his subsistence at the trade. He applied to all of the large manufacturers, but none of them would employ him. He was advised to call upon the Association and make known his condition. This he did—when we immediately forwarded him to his friends in the northern part of the State.

No. 17, on his own confession of forgery—passing a two dollar counterfeit bill—was dealt leniently with, being sentenced only one year in the State prison.

He assures us that he had fallen into bad hands—that he never before willfully and knowingly passed a bad bill. He was first induced to drink, and was then roped in to pass or attempt to pass a very bad counterfeit; he trembled and betrayed himself. But for this manifestation he would have succeeded, and success would have resulted in his ruin.

He feels thankful to the court for showing him so much mercy, and he now seems determined to devote himself to honest industry to secure his daily bread, and especially to attend to his religious duties and become a useful member of society.

He was furnished with clothing and means to reach his mother and sisters in another State. He wept with apparently grateful emotion.

No. 18, who had served a term of two years in Sing Sing State prison, says that he was never before inside a prison, and that those two years were the most miserable of his past life.

Most of his young days were spent in the association of good men, and until he was seventeen years of age he loved the Sabbath school prayer-meetings and the public services of the church, although not a member; but he slipped aside and transgressed the moral law, voluntarily making the gulf wider between himself and God. He feels heartily glad to get out of prison, and thinks that he has learned something that will be of great benefit to him during all his future life—teaching him to avoid vice and crime.

He was provided with clothing which improved his personal appearance, and means sufficient to reach his folks in a distant county, where he hopes to recover himself and make amends for his past misconduct.

No. 19 calls at the office of the Association, and says that he was arrested in this city charged with stealing a quantity of clothing and a small amount of money. He was tried in the Court of General Sessions, convicted and sentenced to Sing Sing State prison for a term of two years and six months. While there he worked at stone-cutting, and by his uniform good conduct saved three months under the commutation law, and on his discharge received the usual four dollars from the State. We procured him employment at stone-cutting, and furnished him with means sufficient to defray his expenses until he received his first wages.

No. 20 was arrested on a charge of burglary. When arraigned on the indictment we asked the District Attorney to please accept a plea of an attempt, it being his first. He complied, when the judge sentenced him to the State prison for two years and six months.

He worked in the cabinet shop, where he earned fifty-seven dollars as overwork; fifty dollars of his money he had drawn and forwarded to his mother. On his discharge he received the remaining seven dollars, besides the four dollars allowed him by the State. After his money was exhausted he calls upon the Association. We obtained for him a situation and rendered him pecuniary aid. He expressed great thankfulness for the sympathy shown him, and promises with apparent sincerity never to commit another dishonest act.

No. 21, who had served three months in the penitentiary, asked the Association to please help him to reach a distant county, where he had been employed by the same firm for the past six years. The request was complied with. He represents that he is tired of prison life; the three months just passed seemed a long year to him; he promises to avoid such a living hell all his future life.

No. 22 had been an inmate of the city prison, charged with grand larceny; the grand jury considered the testimony insufficient to convict him, and he was discharged by order of the court. He was pecuniarily aided by the Association and enabled to reach his home in a distant part of the State.

No. 23, a young man of decent and respectable appearance, aged 22 years, was arrested, charged with forging a check for \$182.50. He presented it himself, was detected, and when called to plead to the indictment, pleaded guilty and threw himself upon the mercy of the court. He made it appear to the satisfaction of the judge before whom he was tried, that this was his first offence, and as he appeared deeply penitent it secured him a lenient sentence—one year to Sing Sing State prison. While there he worked in the shoe shop, and on his discharge received \$78 for overwork, besides the \$4.08 given him by the State. This foolish young man deserved rebuke for staying at a hotel until all his money was exhausted, he having spent \$82 in a month. He then called on the Association and was pecuniarily aided; means were also placed at his command to visit a relative in another State. He has since called and informed us that he has had an excellent situation and is doing well.

No. 24 had served a term of six months in the penitentiary, and, on his discharge, calls at the office of the Association, and asks the loan of money sufficient to reach his home. We expressed our regret at seeing a young man of his culture in so disgraceful a condition; he wept and expressed his shame and regret, promising on bended knees to reform, and to begin now without delay. He was urged to lay aside every weight and the sins which have so easily beset him, and become at once a man who abhors that which is evil and cleaves

to that which is good. An entire suit of clothes was furnished him, and his fare was paid to his home.

No. 25, a young woman, was arrested on complaint of a druggist in this city. She was indicted for grand larceny, convicted, and sentenced to the State prison at Sing Sing for one year.

On her discharge she calls at our office, and says that she has learned a useful lesson, and one never to be forgotten, and promises, that whatever may be her circumstances or condition, to steal no more.

She is entirely destitute of means, and is staying with an elderly couple who are janitors of the building where they reside. She asks the loan of a few dollars until she obtains work on a sewing-machine. The Association loaned her the required amount.

No. 26 was tried on an indictment for embezzlement, convicted, and sentenced for one year to the penitentiary. He worked in the carpenter's shop, and, when discharged, left with empty pockets, and ashamed of himself. He, however, hopes to recover lost ground, but apprehends that it will never be with him in the future as it was in the past; but is firmly resolved to leave no stone unturned in his efforts to recover his lost reputation, and to begin at once. He feels much relieved that his mother and family know nothing of his offence and its punishment. The Association enabled him to reach another State, where his friends reside, and where he expects to obtain employment, and begin life anew.

No. 27, when discharged from Sing Sing State prison, calls at our office and asks for pecuniary aid, in order that he may go into the country, and search for employment. He has travelled the city over, looking anxiously on every hand, and willing to accept any situation, however menial, that will keep him from the streets.

This young man was arrested in an adjoining county, and subsequently indicted for burglary in the third degree. When brought up to plead he begged the court to show him mercy, and, in consideration of this being his first offence, a plea of an attempt at burglary was accepted, and the judge sentenced him to Sing Sing prison for one year. Not having undergone any punishment for violation of prison rules, he saved one month under the commutation law. He was aided.

Finally, the last two or three weeks, and especially the past few days, has been more embarrassing than any previous period in our humble history. Discharged convicts, and unfortunate men, committed as vagrants to the Island workhouse, have called on us for aid, and they are those, in most instances, of grovelling and degraded habits, such as were difficult to reach by kindness. More than one hundred of this class have visited the Association within the last week, begging for pecuniary aid, and whilst we feel great compassion for the erring and fallen, and a strong desire to lift them out of their poverty and wretchedness, we feel the work to be a difficult one.

It will be seen by a preceding table that one thousand three hundred and ten discharged convicts, and other unfortunates, when released from prison after the expiration of their respective sentences, were aided by the Association with pecuniary means, by which they were enabled to reach their friends, or employment remote from this city, and far distant from their former associations, and where they are now industriously earning an honest subsistence.

Many others were furnished with board until employed; in such instances we tax our ingenuity, by all judicious and active means, to introduce them, with as little delay as possible, to such work as can be obtained for them. We are painfully exercised to know that several discharged convicts, released during the year, have returned to their former bad practices, and are again consigned to their former prison abode. This does not surprise us, knowing, as we assuredly do, that but little is done in prison to reform them, and when released and discharged, but few persons are disposed to sympathize with and employ them.

Five hundred and nineteen discharged convicts were provided with work and situations. An unusual number of females, homeless and without money or friends, were introduced by the Association to some one of our useful and neighboring benevolent Christian homes in the city.

One hundred and eleven discharged convicts were supplied with clothing adapted to their occupation, and many, as soon as work could be had, were provided with necessary business tools, thus affording prompt facilities for them to begin the battle of life anew.

We have often said, and we repeat it, that the discharged convict has our best sympathies, for they need them much, and just as soon as they leave the prison walls especially.

There are but few conditions in life more trying and embarrassing than his. Although his first offence, he tremblingly seeks his wife and little ones; they cannot be found; his former acquaintances are changed, they appear not to know him; he contrasts the past with the present; his conscience smites him; he is sensible of his fall, his crime, and consequent degradation; he hates himself, he is afraid of himself and all he meets, and concludes it would be a relief were the earth to open and swallow him up. Ah! this is an important moment; show him a slight or neglect, appear unconcerned and unmoved in such a desperate case as his, and the probability is the man is lost, and may be, lost forever. Meeting with discouragement he returns to the society of those whom he desired to avoid, and is soon detected in crime, and again consigned to his old quarters in the State prison, a worse man than before.

We know whereof we speak; when a man is discharged from prison he more than ever needs a friend; he wants kind words, "for they will never die;" let them be expressed with warmth and without stint, accompanied with food if he be hungry, and clothing if he be naked, and so help him that he may soon be enabled to help himself; in such case, under the blessing of Almighty God, you may bring him back to right paths, and effectually save him from again

walking in the ways of vice and crime. We know of no lever so powerful as that of love; let us, then, be actuated and controlled by the law of human kindness and Christian sympathy toward the erring, and the worst men may be reached and probably saved; we have met with many blessed illustrations of the above truth.

We have endeavored to walk by this rule, and in very many instances have succeeded in bringing back the wanderer to his father's house and to the father's heart. We need increased facilities by which employment may be secured for those who appear anxious to earn an honest subsistence by the sweat of their brow.

We endeavor to keep up a correspondence with discharged convicts; we often remind them that they have steadfast friends in the Association; we mail many copies of the religious press weekly to them in various parts of the Union, and they are received with joy and gladness.

In this department of our labors we desire to make no boast; we have done the best we could, though imperfectly accomplished; Providence has blessed our efforts; we rejoice that so much has been done in the midst of difficulties so great.

Thankful for every aid afforded us in the past, and courageously hopeful for the future, still conscious "that Paul may plant, and Apollos may water, but that God alone giveth the increase," we will, with renewed confidence, supplicate His interposition, and humbly crave His blessing whilst we labor in turning the hearts of the disobedient to the love of whatsoever is good and pure and right. Almighty God does favor appropriate agencies and instrumentalities; may His blessings be more abundantly our portion; so prays

Very respectfully, your agent,

ABRAHAM BEAL,
General Agent.

The Death of Abraham Beal.

ABRAHAM BEAL tested from his labors February 25th, 1872. He died, as he had lived, in the triumphant faith of the Christian, and with his thoughts given to friendless prisoners, and the means for restoring penitent criminals to honest and useful life. He died after an illness of a week. His last words, uttered in the apparent delirium of the last moments, to the prisoner whom he imagined in his presence, were these: "I am a dying man; I can do no more for you now, my friend; you must go to the Governor yourself, and plead for your own pardon."

The two official papers that are here printed were completed only a few days before his final illness. They are strikingly characteristic of this zealous, unselfish man, who was known throughout the State as the Prisoner's Friend. These records of his eighteenth and last year of service in the prisons of New York and Brooklyn, show how vast is the field from which this faithful laborer has been removed by death. They evince the fervent sympathy and noble philanthropy that inspired him.

The following letter from His Excellency Governor JOHN T. HOFFMAN, pays a merited tribute to the memory of Mr. Beal, and to the value of his labors:—

"STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
ALBANY, Feb. 27, 1872.

"MY DEAR SIR: Your letter, announcing the death of my dear old friend, Abraham Beal, was received this morning. I am much grieved. I had known him so well since my election as Recorder in 1860, had met him officially and personally so often, had watched his course as agent of the Prison Association so carefully, had tested so frequently his good judgment and his big heart, and had found him always so faithful, honest, just, discreet, and true, that I feel not only a personal grief, but that the community in which he lived, the wretched prisoners for whom he labored, and the society whose devoted servant he was, have all met with a very great loss.

"I wish I could leave here to attend his funeral to-morrow, but am so bound by official engagements that it is impossible. Please say to his family and friends how deeply I sympathize with them.

"Very truly yours,

"JOHN T. HOFFMAN.

"To Wm. C. Gilman, Treasurer Prison Association, New York."

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association, held March 7th, the following minute was directed to be entered upon its official records:—

"\$8 BIBLE HOUSE, New York, March 7, 1872.

"The Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York, by this Minute, desire to record our sense of the loss which we have sustained by the decease of Abraham Beal, our general agent and fellow-laborer.

"Familiar intercourse with Mr. Beal, in connection with his labors in the Association for the past eighteen years, not only warrants but demands this testimony to his eminent worth as a man; to the truthfulness and simplicity with which he adorned the profession of a Christian; to the disinterestedness and untiring diligence with which he consecrated himself to the relief of the poor and the suffering; and especially to the overflowing and yet well-regulated sympathy with which he sought the welfare of the prisoner, whether detained for trial, undergoing punishment, or re-entering upon the duties and temptations of life.

"To these noble traits of character, as well as to the shrewdness with which he penetrated into the motives and arts of the criminal, and the readiness with which he discerned honest misfortune when overborne by suspicious appearances, was due the confidence and respect uniformly extended towards him by magistrates administering criminal law.

"To his other excellences it is rightly a claim of his memory, that we make mention of his usefulness in all his relations with our committee. The broadest charity, the purest and most disinterested motives seemed ever to guide him in the discharge of his arduous duties.

"In the review of his life, as it has passed under our daily observation for eighteen years, we cannot doubt that he has gone to enjoy the reward of those who shall be welcomed by the King—"Well done! good and faithful servant; . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

E. H.

LOCAL COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE.

Albany county: residence, Albany.—REV. RUFUS W. CLARK, MAURICE E. VIKER, HON. ISA HARRIS, EDWARD SAYAGE, H. S. GRADDING.

Allegheny county: residence, Angelica.—J. S. GREEN, DR. E. M. ALBA.

Broome county: residence, Binghamton.—S. C. HITCHCOCK, DR. JOHN G. ORTON, SARIN MCKINNEY, B. N. LOOMIS, E. M. NOTES, REV. W. A. HITCHCOCK, E. K. CLARK.

Cattaraugus county: residence, Ellipticville.—DR. HARLAN S. SMITH; residence, West Randolph.—REV. F. A. C. BERRY, DR. A. B. PARSONS.

Cayuga county: residence, Auburn.—JAMES S. SETMOVER, R. S. HOLMES, DR. WILLARD, MR. FORD, DR. J. W. WILKIE, HON. W. B. WOODIN, WILLIAM C. SMITH.

Chautauque county: residence, Mayville.—WILLIAM CHASE; Fredericks—M. S. MOORE.

Chemung county: residence, Elmira.—HON. LUCIUS ROBINSON, DR. W. C. WET, REV. F. C. HOSKINS, E. S. PALMER, REV. DR. KNOX, REV. G. K. MCNIGHT, DR. T. H. SQUER, DR. J. F. HART, REV. O. Z. CASE, F. G. SUBBRIDGE.

Chenango county: residence, Norwich.—ISAAC NEWTON, DR. H. K. BELLOWS, DR. H. H. BEECHER, REV. S. SCOVILA.

Clinton county: residence, Plattsburgh.—HON. M. K. PLATT, P. S. PALMER, GEN. STEPHEN MOPFATT; residence, Keeseville.—HON. EDMUND KINGSLAND, M.

Columbia county: residence, Hudson.—A. S. PEET, THOS. TALLEY, FULTON PAUL.

Cortland county: residence, Cortland.—HON. HORATIO BALLARD, FRANK PLACE, DR. FREDERICK HYDE, LEWIS S. BOUGHTON; residence, Hamlet.—HON. G. W. BRADFORD, DR. CALES GREEN, THOS. S. RASSETT.

Delaware county: residence, Delhi.—DR. CALVIN HOWARD, HON. CHARLES HAYTAWAY, REV. E. B. RUSSELL, E. S. GALLER, DR. H. N. BURLLEY, DR. D. H. MANN, W. R. BURROUGHS, T. W. BROWN.

Dutchess county: residence, Poughkeepsie.—JOHN J. PLATT, MITCHELL DOWNING, REV. J. H. LOOMIS, JR., DR. EDWARD H. PARKER.

Erie county: residence, Buffalo.—EDWARD BRISTOL, F. P. WOOD, HUGH WEBSTER, JAMES LYONS, P. J. FERRE, SEVE CLARK, DR. JOHN D. HILL, DR. WITT C. WREED.

Essex county: residence, Elizabethtown.—DR. S. E. HALE, A. C. HAND, ABRAHAM PERRY, REV. G. W. BARROWS; ROBERT W. LIVINGSTON.

Franklin county: residence, Malaga.—HON. W. A. WHEELER, F. T. HEATH, JOHN J. GILBERT, DR. S. P. BATES.

Fulton county: residence, Johnstown.—HORACE E. SMITH, JACOB BENTON, DR. FRANCIS BURDICK.

Genesee county: residence, Batavia.—DR. L. B. COYER, REV. CHESTER W. HAWLEY, PROF. G. FULLER.

Greene county: residence, Catskill.—GEORGE H. PENFIELD, JOHN HORTON, REV. W. C. MCCARTHY.

Hamilton county: residence, Wells.—G. R. MORRISON.

Herkimer county: residence, Herkimer.—EDWARD M. DAVENPORT.

Jefferson county: residence, Watertown.—RICHARD G. KEYS, JESSE M. ADAMS, M. CONGDON, DR. CHAS. M. JOHNSON, DR. GEO. F. BATES, JOHN F. MOPFATT, JOSIAH B. MOULTON.

Kings county: residence, Brooklyn.—ALMON MERVIN, DR. J. HOBART BOURG, S. B. HALLIDAY.

Lewis county: residence, Lowville.—DR. F. H. HODGE, REV. G. L. ROOP, CARROLL HOSIE, DAVID H. WATSON; residence, Croghan.—AMOS REED.

Livingston county: residence, Genesee.—F. DE WITT WARD, D. H. BISSALL, PROF. MILNE, DR. W. E. LAUDERDALE, G. N. SPRADGE, G. W. PADDOCK.

Madison county: residence, Morrisville.—D. D. CHASE, H. P. MEADE; residence, Oneida.—W. R. WILLIAMS.

Montgomery county: residence, Fonda.—Wm. D. SCHOLCRAFT, W. FROTHINGHAM, H. S. SPARKS; residence, Amsterdam.—C. C. WETSELL.

Monroe county: residence, Rochester.—Hon. HENRY R. SELDON, DR. W. L. ELY, Dr. H. W. DEAN, Gen'l J. V. MARTINDALE, Rev. J. V. VAN INGEN, P. BARRY, JAMES T. STEWART, L. S. FELTON, QUINCY VAN VOORHIS.

Niagara county: residence, Lockport.—J. T. BELLAH, H. KELRONNE, THOMAS HALL, E. P. MARVIN, J. W. HELME, Mrs. J. T. BELLAH, Mrs. D. C. MAXWELL.

Oneida county: residence, Utica.—Hon. Wm. BAIRD, DR. JOHN P. GRAY, CHAS. B. WARREN, EDWIN HUNT; residence, Rome.—SIMON G. VINCIGER, A. P. GOODENOUGH.

Oswego county: residence, SYRACUSE.—Hon. P. BURNS, M. C. PALMER, Dr. H. B. WILBUR, Dr. M. D. BENDER, Rev. M. BAIRD, Dr. R. W. PEASE, P. W. EDENS, A. C. WASHINGTON; residence, Salina.—Dr. DIDAMA, THOMAS R. PORTER.

Ontario county: residence, Canandaigua.—Prof. BENJAMIN RICHARDS, Prof. DICKSON, Mrs. Dr. JEWETT, Prof. EDWARD TYLER, Hon. JAMES C. SMITH, Rev. F. B. ALLEN.

Orange county: residence, Goshen.—C. E. MERRILL, Dr. Wm. P. TOWNSEND, C. R. MILLSAUGH, Dr. J. H. THOMPSON, Dr. H. H. ROBINSON; residence, Newburgh.—Dr. R. V. R. MONTFORT, GRANT EDGAR, Rev. WENDELL PRIME, WILLIAM MCCREA.

Orleans county: residence, Albion.—Hon. E. K. HART, DANIEL W. FRYE, TRUMAN CLARK, Dr. E. P. HEALY.

Oswego county: residence, Oswego.—Hon. O. J. HARMON, G. C. McWHORTER, Hon. J. A. PLACE, J. H. COE, G. MOLLISON.

Otsego county: residence, Cooperstown.—ELIOT PRINCEY, Dr. H. LATROFF, S. M. SHAW, G. P. KEENE, Miss SUSAN COOPER, CHARLES HENRYCK.

Queens county: residence, Hempstead.—Rev. Wm. M. MOORE, Dr. JOHN M. DAVIDSON; residence, Mineola.—Dr. SAMUEL TREADWELL.

Rensselaer county: residence, Troy.—AMASA R. MOORE, H. W. HUGHTON, Dr. LEROY McLEAN, Dr. H. B. WHITON, N. R. REMICK, Rev. Wm. IRVIN.

Richmond county: residence, Richmond, C. H.—Mr. FRANKLYN, Dr. I. L. MILLSAUGH, Dr. A. D. EDGAR, STEPHEN STEPHENS.

Rockland county: residence, Stony Point.—Dr. Wm. GOVAN; residence, Haverstraw.—A. S. FREEMAN; residence, New York.—A. A. DEMAREST, CYRUS M. CRUM.

Saratoga county: residence, Ballston Spa.—T. M. MITCHELL, J. W. HORTON, Dr. MORGAN LEWIS; residence, Saratoga Springs.—SAMUEL E. BUSHNELL, HIRSH A. WILSON.

Seneca county: residence, Waterloo.—Hon. S. G. HADLEY, Rev. Mr. DOTY, Dr. O. S. WELLS, Rev. S. H. GRIDLEY; residence, Ovid.—Hon. GEORGE FRANKLIN, Dr. JOHN B. CHAPIN, Dr. A. BOLZER.

Schoharie county: residence, Schoharie.—Dr. PETER S. SWART, JOHN GERHARD, Rev. JACOB BECK, PETER OSTERHOFF.

Schenectady county: residence, Schenectady.—Dr. B. L. MYNDEBS, NICHOLAS CAIN, Rev. Dr. BACKUS.

Schuyler county: residence, Watkins.—Dr. C. T. BLISS, FRED'K DAVIS, Rev. Dr. MANS; residence, Burdett.—Dr. NELSON NIVISON; residence, Havana.—Prof. AMOS BROWN.

St. Lawrence county: residence, Canton.—Dr. J. C. PRESTON, GEO. ROBINSON, JAMES GARDNER, H. H. JUDD; residence, Ogdensburg.—Dr. SHEPARD, Prof. R. G. PETHIBONE; residence, Potsdam.—Prof. McVICKAR, Dr. C. C. BATES.

Steuben county: residence, Bath.—Hon. GUY McMASTER, Z. L. PARKER, Rev. O. K. HOWARD, Rev. JAS. M. PLATT, C. F. KINGSLAY; residence, Hammondsport.—Rev. Mr. STODDARD; residence, Corning.—Dr. H. C. MAY, Rev. Dr. NELSON, F. A. WILLIAMS.

Suffolk county: residence, Riverhead.—N. W. FOSTER, Dr. R. H. BENJAMIN.

Sullivan county: residence, Monticello.—Dr. B. G. McCABE, Rev. T. M. DAWSON, F. G. SNOOK; residence, Grahamville.—Dr. J. M. LAMBORN.

Tioga county: residence, Owego.—E. W. WARNER, H. L. DEAN, Dr. L. H. ALLEN, Hon. Wm. SMITH, Hon. T. I. CHAFFIELD, Rev. M. CLARK, G. R. GOODRICH, A. COLEMAN, H. D. POMEROY, J. W. LAMOREAUX.

Tompkins county: residence, Ithaca.—Prof. Wm. CHANNING RUSSELL, Hon. ALEX. H. SELKROG, Hon. MILLS VAN VALKENBERG, Prof. Wm. D. WILSON, Rev. RUFUS STEERING, W. O. WYCKOFF, W. E. JOHNSON.

Ulster county: residence, Kingston.—Hon. AUGUSTUS SCHOONMAKER, Rev. GEO. WATERS, Hon. R. LOGGIAN, J. D. KEYSER, Dr. E. KEYSER, Dr. C. W. DEYO.

Warren county: residence, Caldwell.—Dr. CROMWELL, M. ARCHIBALD.

Washington county: residence, Salem.—R. G. ATWOOD, JAMES BLASHFIELD, E. P. SPRAGUE, C. R. HAWLEY, Dr. C. H. ALLEN.

Wayne county: residence, Lyons.—D. W. PARSHALL, Rev. S. B. BELL, Dr. E. W. BOYFON, Dr. H. D. VOSSBURG, L. H. SHENWOOD; residence, Palmyra.—ISAAC BRONSON, L. LYONS, Mrs. FLINT SEXTON, CHARLES McLOUGH, residence, Watworth.—Hon. LUCIE T. YODKANS.

Westchester county: residence, White Plains.—Dr. A. M. CLARK, M. FREDMOND, Dr. H. R. SCHMID, Rev. Dr. VAN KLEEK; residence, Poughkeepsie.—Misses GLAISE and HARRIET SCUTTLER; residence, Sing Sing.—Hon. GAYLORD B. HUBBELL, Dr. G. J. FISHER and Mrs. CATHERINE E. VAN CORTLANDT.

Wyoming county: residence, Watervou.—Hon. AUGUSTUS FRANK, Hon. Wm. E. MERRILL, C. P. BUXTON, J. E. NASSAU, J. V. STRYKER.

Yates county: residence, Penn Yan.—Hon. D. A. OGDEN, MYRON HAMLIN, F. HOLMES, EBEN JONES.

CHARTER AND CONSTITUTION
OF THE
PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

AN ACT to incorporate the Prison Association of New York.

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE I.

The objects of the association shall be—

1. The amelioration of the condition of prisoners, whether detained for trial, or finally convicted, or as witnesses.
2. The improvement of prison discipline, and the government of prisons, whether for cities, counties or States.
3. The support and encouragement of reformed convicts after their discharge, by affording them the means of obtaining an honest livelihood, and sustaining them in their efforts at reform.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the society shall be a president, vice-presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, a treasurer and an

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

ARTICLE III.

The officers named in the preceding article shall be *ex officio* members of the executive committee, who shall choose one of their number 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 not less than five dollars shall, owing to such contribution, be a member thereof. A contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute a life patron; a contribution of one hundred dollars shall constitute an honorary member of the association for life; and a contribution of fifty dollars shall constitute a member of the association for life. Honorary and corresponding members may, from time to time, be appointed by the executive committee.

ARTICLE VII.

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

ARTICLE VIII.

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

ARTICLE IX.

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

ARTICLE X.

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

ARTICLE XI.

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

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

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

§ 3. The said executive committee shall have power to establish a workhouse in the county of New York, and in their discretion to receive and take into the said workhouse 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 workhouse, not contrary to law, as they may deem proper; and may appoint such officers, agents and servants as they may deem necessary to transact the business of the said association, and may designate their duties. And the said executive committee shall make an annual report to the Legislature, and to the corporation of the city of New York, of the number of persons received by them into the said workhouse, 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 workhouse, to bind out the said persons, so being minors as aforesaid, as apprentices or servants, with their consent, during their minority, to such persons, and at such places, to learn such proper trades and employments as, in their judgment, will be most conducive to the reformation and amendment and future benefit and advantage of such persons.

§ 6. The said executive committee, by such committees as they shall from time to time appoint, shall have power and it shall be their duty, to visit, inspect and examine all the prisons in the State, and annually report to the Legislature their state and condition, and all such other things in regard to them as may enable the Legislature to perfect their government and discipline. And, to enable them to execute the powers and perform the duties hereby granted and imposed, they shall possess all the powers and authority that, by the twenty-fourth section of title first, chapter third, part fourth of the Revised Statutes, are vested in the inspectors of county prisons; and the duties of the keepers of each prison that they may examine shall be the same in relation to them as in the section aforesaid are imposed on the keepers of such prisons in relation to the inspectors thereof. *Provided*, That no such examination or inspection of any prison shall be made until an order for that purpose, to be granted by the chancellor of this State, or one of the judges of the supreme court, or by a vice-chancellor or circuit judge, or by the first judge of the county in which the prison to be examined shall be situate, 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. GARDINER, *President.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
IN ASSEMBLY, *April 24th, 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,

W M. C. CRAIN,
Speaker.

Approved this 9th day of May, 1846.

SILAS WRIGHT.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
SECRETARY'S OFFICE. }

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

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

ARCH'D CAMPBELL,
Deputy Secretary of State.

(Revised Statutes, Part IV, Chap. 3, Title 1.)

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

BY-LAWS OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

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

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

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

1. The reading and approval of the minutes of the last preceding meeting.
2. Report of the treasurer.
3. Reports from standing committees.
4. Report from the corresponding secretary.
5. Reports from special committees.
6. Report from the general agent.
7. Miscellaneous business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

deavor to improve both the physical and moral condition of the prisoners in all suitable and practicable ways.

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

1. To correspond with prison agents or superintendents relative to the character and trades of prisoners, and to ascertain, previous to the discharge of each prisoner, his feelings, views and capabilities, with a view to making the best arrangements for his future employment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

XIV. The treasurer shall receive and safely keep all moneys belonging to the association; shall pay over the same as directed by the finance committee; shall report at each stated meeting of the executive committee, and shall give such security for the faithful discharge of his duty as that committee shall require.

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

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

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