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FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS,

OF THE

PRISON DISCIPLINE SOCIETY,

BOSTON, JUNE 2, 1826.

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FOURTH EDITION.

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1827.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Society held its First Annual Meeting, in the Vestry of Hanover Church, Boston, on Friday, June 2, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Hon. GEORGE BLISS, President of the Society, took the chair, and at his request, the Rev. WILLIAM JENKS, D. D. addressed the Throne of Grace.

The Treasurer, Mr. ASA WARD, read his Report, and the certificate of its correctness by the Auditors, Mr. WILLIAM G. LAMBERT and Mr. GERARD HALLOCK. By a vote of the Society, the Report of the Treasurer was accepted.

The Officers for the ensuing year were then elected, and the Society adjourned, to meet in the Church at 4 o'clock, to hear the Report of the Managers, and Addresses.

The Society met according to adjournment. The Hon. GEORGE BLISS took the chair, and, at his request, the Rev. FRANCIS WAYLAND addressed the Throne of Grace.

The Report of the Managers was then read by the Secretary.

On motion of Rev. RUFUS ANDERSON, seconded by WILLIAM ROPES, Esq.

RESOLVED, That the Report which has now been read, be accepted, and referred to the Committee to be published, or used in any other way, as in their judgment, shall best promote the interests of the Society.

*On motion of Rev. WILLIAM JENKS, D. D. seconded by
Rev. FRANCIS WAYLAND,*

RESOLVED, That the facts presented in this Report, showing that one cause of the increase and frequency of crime, is the degraded character of the coloured population, deserve the particular consideration of the friends of Africa.

*On motion of Rev. RICHARD S. STORRS, seconded by
Rev. WARREN FAY,*

RESOLVED, That the object of the Prison Discipline Society, as expressed in the 2d Article of its Constitution, to wit, "THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC PRISONS," claims the attention of the community, because the evils existing in these Institutions, and not necessarily connected with them, are inconsistent with the purposes of justice and the principles of religion.

*On motion of Rev. FRANCIS WAYLAND, seconded by
Rev. HEMAN HUMPHREY, D. D.*

RESOLVED, That solitary confinement, at least by night, with moral and religious instruction, are an obvious remedy for the principal evils existing in Prisons.

*On motion of ALDEN BRADFORD, Esq. seconded by
WILLIAM ROPES, Esq.*

RESOLVED, That the Managers be requested to inquire whether any, and if any, what measures ought to be adopted to encourage good conduct in convicts when they leave the Prison?

Addresses most animating to the officers and friends of the Society were made by Rev. Mr. STORRS, Rev. Mr. WAYLAND, and Rev. Dr. HUMPHREY.

ANNUAL REPORT.

WITH devout acknowledgments of gratitude to Almighty God, for his continual smiles, and the unexpected success with which the efforts of this Society have already been crowned, the Managers present their First Annual Report. And while they offer praise to God for all the tokens of his favour, they would remember with resignation his righteous judgments, in removing two of their number by death. Deacon JOSIAH SALISBURY, and Mr. RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN, were among the earliest and most constant friends of this Society, and were seldom absent, till they died, from the regular meetings of this Board. And though we cannot recal the sweet counsel, which we received from them, on such occasions, without grief, that we shall meet them here no more ; we shall never forget how cordially they approved the object of this Society, how affectionately they sympathized in our joys and our sorrows, and how earnestly they implored the blessings of Heaven upon our labours. We hope to feel as they felt for the miseries of their fellow men, to imitate their lovely example, and to die with the same consolations which they experienced. We should love to linger at their tombs and weep ; but we hear them say, weep not for us, but weep for those whose miseries you seek to alleviate, and prepare to follow us into the eternal world.

The object of the Society, in which they were associated with us, is "THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC PRISONS." This object, we have reason to believe, is approved by the Saviour of the world ; for he will say to his disciples on the

day of judgment, "*when I was hungry ye gave me meat ; when I was thirsty, ye gave me drink ; when I was a stranger, ye took me in ; SICK AND IN PRISON YE VISITED ME.*" These words, we regard as our authority, and our encouragement ; teaching us to *go forward* in the work in which we are engaged, and to expect, if we do it, with penitent and believing hearts, to meet the approbation of him whose favour is life. We learn also, from these words of the Saviour, the guilt of those who neglect or oppose the performance of the duties, in which we are engaged. And, as we proceed, and see from month to month, the disclosure of facts of which we had never heard, or formed a suspicion, we feel that the Saviour knew vastly better than we can ever know, how great the necessity of practical obedience to the duty implied, in the benediction which he has promised to pronounce upon those, who in memory of his sufferings, seek to relieve misery, wherever it shall be found. We earnestly pray, that we may be sustained, "*by looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God ; where he ever liveth to make intercession for us ;*" for we are sure, that we must visit places and discharge duties, in the prosecution of this work, where there can be no sufficient support, but the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. With this acknowledgment of the Divine Redeemer, as our support and our guide, we proceed to develop those principles and facts, concerning Prison Discipline, which we believe to be important. These are arranged under the following heads, viz.

Construction of Prisons :

Rules and Regulations :

Progress of Crime, with some of the causes of it ; including the evils of the Penitentiary System :

Remedy for these evils :

Brief History of the Society.

CONSTRUCTION OF PRISONS.

In the *construction* of Prisons there should be particular regard to *Security, Solitary Confinement at night, Inspection, Ventilation, Light, Cleanliness, Instruction and Sickness.*

SECURITY.—In the construction of Prisons, particular regard to *security* requires that there should be a court or yard, surrounded with a high and strong wall. This is so obviously important, that it is surprising that so great a number of Prisons in this country, particularly in the southern States, are exposed to persons in the streets. It is a general fact, in regard to the County Jails, in the Atlantic States, south of the Potomac, that they are destitute of courts. In these, and in all others like them, the windows are exposed to persons without, and implements of mischief or escape, as well as ardent spirits to excite the turbulent passions, and money to bribe the turnkey, may be furnished secretly to the prisoners by their friends. From a Jail of this description in Virginia, probably by means furnished in this manner, all the prisoners made their escape in the winter of 1824-5. From other Jails, in other parts of the country, escapes have been effected, in consequence of the same defect in construction. And what renders the defect more palpable, is the fact, that the business of stealing and passing counterfeit money is already reduced to system in this country, and when one of the villains from any of the gangs thus systematically organized, is confined in such a Jail, if he can hold communication with his accomplices, without the knowledge of the keeper, he can procure those means, which in one way or another will usually release him. An accomplished villain from a family of counterfeiters, offered a jailer, in an obscure town, in one of the northern States, one thousand dollars for his liberty. If the jailer had been corrupt, he could have released his prisoner without suspicion. This same villain was removed to a Jail which was supposed to be more secure, from which he soon made his escape. Against such villany, Jails without courts are not secure.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—Particular regard to security requires, also, a sufficient number of apartments to confine each prisoner by himself. In this case, there can be no concert, and therefore the purpose of one is not strengthened by another. Besides, if any injury is done to the apartment, or any implements of mischief are found in it, the responsibility rests on an individual, and thieves do not like individual responsibility. It may, also, be remarked, that solitary confinement (if any thing will do it) is likely to lead such men to reflection and remorse, which is a state of mind unfavourable to mischievous designs. But even if we could suppose, that a prisoner in solitary confinement, should gather resolution enough to attempt his escape, and the time fixed upon should be, when the turnkey comes to unlock his door, the prisoner is alone and he must encounter the turnkey alone. Such cases rarely occur, and even then the purpose of the prisoner is generally thwarted; but when several prisoners are in the same room, cases frequently occur, in which they escape by concert in action, or by rushing upon the turnkey. Provision for solitary confinement therefore increases the security of a Prison.

It also prevents prisoners from forming an acquaintance with each other. An acquaintance formed in Prison, has led many youth to houses of ill fame; to a familiarity with the names, places of abode, principles of trade and language of counterfeiters; to the arts of pickpockets and thieves; to dangerous combinations in villany, and to personal degradation, which the most hardened prisoner has blushed to name. All this evil communication may be prevented by proper regard to solitary confinement, in the construction of the Prison.

INSPECTION.—In order, however, to prevent these great evils by the construction of Prisons, it is necessary to arrange the apartments, in such a manner, as that they can be inspected, while the prisoner is ignorant of the fact that he is under inspection. For want of attention to this principle

there are many important Prisons in this country, where the keepers cannot approach the apartments of the convicts, without giving notice of their approach by the unlocking and moving upon its hinges of some heavy door. In such cases, whatever illegal or nefarious designs or acts, occupy the prisoners, the moment the great door is heard to move, all cards, dies, implements of mischief, false keys, plates, and materials for altering bills, &c. are concealed, and the keeper when he comes, finds all things in order. It is therefore necessary so to arrange the apartments, that the keeper can inspect the convicts without being himself inspected.

VENTILATION.—While proper attention is given in the construction of Prisons to prevent crime among the convicts, all should be done which humanity requires to prevent suffering and sickness. It is therefore necessary to provide sufficient ventilation. In several Jails, which have been visited, there are apartments, without windows, without chimnies or pipes, and with no other places for the admission of air, except a small orifice in the doors, and a few apartments have been found, in which there was no orifice in the doors, and the only place where the convicts within could get breath, was through the cracks around the door. In one of these dungeons, three men were placed, and the keeper, after a few hours, found them apparently lifeless. They were brought into the fresh air, and in a few minutes revived. It is apparent from this fact, as well as from another ascertained by careful experiment, that a man requires to sustain life, about four barrels of fresh air, in an hour, that every apartment in a Prison should have a chimney, pipe, or window communicating with the open air. A small orifice in a door, much less the cracks of a door, opening into a close and narrow passage, do not afford sufficient air to sustain life. There should, therefore, be particular care in the construction of a Prison to provide free ventilation.

LIGHT.—It is, also, important, that prisoners should have sufficient light to enable them to read. There are a consid-

erable number of dark dungeons in the Prisons which have been visited, where no light can ever enter, except from a torch or candle. It is not, however, a common thing, in the Prisons in this country, to find convicts immured in dungeons. In those Prisons, where such apartments are found, they are not frequently used; but are kept as places of terror to the disorderly. It has been represented in Europe, that the solitary cells in the Prison at Auburn, New York, are dark dungeons, such as that humanity would shudder to see persons confined in them. This is an important mistake in point of fact. Out of five hundred and fifty five cells, only a few are dark, and these are seldom used. All the others are lighted sufficiently to enable the convicts to read the small print in their Bible, with which they are furnished by a law of the State. The wisdom of so constructing a Prison, that the convicts may have sufficient light to enable them to read the scriptures, will not probably be questioned.

CLEANLINESS.—It is, also, important, that there should be particular regard to cleanliness, in the construction of a Prison. In many Prisons in this country, both in the northern and southern States, there has been an effort so to construct the different apartments, that there might be a vault in each. All the Prisons constructed in this manner, which have been examined, are excessively offensive. In some, a person from the wholesome air without, is scarcely able to breathe; in others, vomiting is produced; in all, the filthiness is such as to lead to the conclusion, that there should never be a permanent vault in a room where human beings are expected to live and breathe, to sleep and eat. It is almost impossible, that there should be any cleanliness, where they are.

Want of a sufficient supply of water, is another cause of filthiness in Prisons. In some large Prisons there is no bath, and the prisoners' clothing is seldom washed, and consequently they are covered with vermin. In others, prisoners have not been allowed water enough to wash their hands and face, and

scarcely enough to quench their thirst ; and this their suffering condition has been permitted, because water was not convenient. In the construction, therefore, of a Prison, there should be particular regard to a good supply of water.

INSTRUCTION.—It is, also, important to provide a convenient place for communicating instruction. In many large establishments there is no place of the kind. In one State Prison, the chapel has been converted into solitary cells ; in another, into a weaver's shop ; in many large Jails there is no way of addressing the men, except through the holes in the doors. In such cases, instruction is not regularly communicated to the convicts, and when it is occasionally communicated, it is under circumstances so unfavourable, as to lose a part or all its effect. There should therefore always be a chapel, or a convenient hall, where the convicts may be assembled for divine worship.

SICKNESS.—There should, also, be a place for the sick. Instead of this, the sick are not unfrequently found in rooms thronged with other prisoners. In three of the most important towns in this country, the Jails have no sick room, and the sick prisoners were found lying, in their filth, on the floor, surrounded by convicts, whose noise and filthy communication was not restrained by the sickness and sufferings of their fellow prisoners. In one instance, a man was lying on the floor, apparently dead, without a bed and without covering. About twenty of his fellow prisoners were standing around the room, apparently indifferent whether he was dead or alive. No physician had visited the sick man for several days. As a general fact, in those Prisons, where no hospital is provided for the sick, there is a corresponding inattention to them in regard to medicine, and an attendant Physician ; and their situation is deplorable. If in the construction of the Prison, there is particular regard to the sick, these evils are greatly diminished.

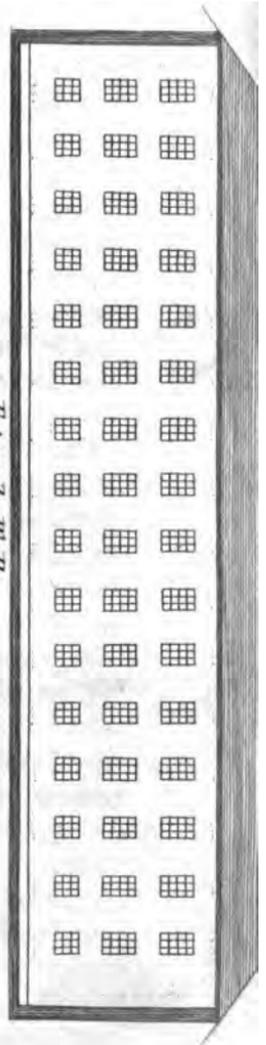
These considerations and facts render it apparent, that in the construction of a Prison, there should be particular regard

to *security, solitary confinement, inspection, ventilation, light, cleanliness, instruction, and sickness.*

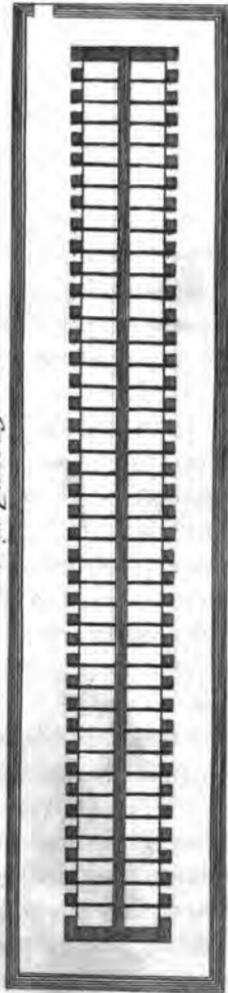
For a Prison securing the important advantages required, we recommend the plan exhibited in this engraving. It represents a building, designed to contain four hundred cells, on the plan of the north wing of the Prison at Auburn, in the State of New York. Retaining the same principle of building, it may be enlarged for a Penitentiary, or diminished for a Jail.

The external wall, in the first figure, is two hundred and six feet long, forty six feet wide and three feet thick. In this wall are three rows of windows, which are four feet by six, except the lower row, which are four feet square. These windows are glazed and secured by a strong grating of iron. They are sufficiently large and numerous to afford perfect ventilation and light to the cells.

The ground view, in the second figure, exhibits the foundation of the cells, and the open area around them. The centre is a solid wall, two feet in thickness, on each side of which the cells are arranged. The walls between the cells are one foot in thickness; those between the cells and the open area, which are broken by the doors, are two feet. The cells are seven feet long, seven feet high, and three and an half feet wide. The only opening from the cell, except the ventilator, is the door, in the upper end of which, is an iron grate, about eighteen by twenty inches. The bars of this grate are round iron, three fourths of an inch in diameter, placed about two inches asunder, leaving orifices smaller than a man's hand. Through this grate all the light, heat, and air, are admitted to the cells. The ventilator which is about three inches in diameter, extends from the back of the cell to the roof of the building. The door of the cell, of which the grate is a part, closes on the inner edge of the wall, leaving a recess between the door and the outer edge of the wall, two feet deep. This recess, in front of each door, increases the difficulty of conversation between the prisoners; pre-



External Wall



Ground view



Breast-work of Cells

Scale 1/4 inch to 10 feet.

vents them from making signs to each other, 'or from seeing far to the right or left on the galleries ; and furnishes a convenient place, for an officer of the Prison to converse with the prisoner, without being seen or heard by those in the adjoining cells. The fastening of the door is by a strong latch, connected by a hook with a bar of iron placed over it. This bar extends from the latch, two feet horizontally to the outer edge of the wall, thence at a right angle eighteen inches horizontally to the lock, which is beyond the reach of the prisoner, three and an half feet from the door.—The area around the cells, which is ten feet wide, is open from the ground to the roof, in front of five stories of cells. Of this area, three feet adjoining the cells, is occupied by the galleries. A convenient Hospital may be formed in this building, by dispensing with the partition walls between four cells in the upper story.

The breastwork of cells, in the third figure, exhibits all the cells, on either side of the centre wall ; that is, half the cells in the building, together with the galleries and staircase.

The advantages of this mode of building, (besides that of solitary confinement,) are its security and economy.

The security is fourfold ; for the prisoner must first escape from his cell ; then avoid the sentinel in the open area, who has every advantage for seeing him ; then force the external wall ; and after all he is in the yard. The security is such, that, during two years, in which the men have been confined, at night, in these cells, at Auburn, no breach has been made upon one of them.

The economy is great in regard to the space occupied, and, also, in heating, lighting, and guarding. Four hundred cells will cover only 206 by 46 feet of ground. At Auburn, five small stoves, and six large and twelve small lamps, placed in the open area, in front of the cell, beyond the reach of the prisoners, afford heat and light for five hundred and fifty five cells ; and one sentinel is found sufficient to guard four hundred prisoners, and cut off communication between them!

The space in front of the cells is a perfect sounding gallery ; so that a sentinel, in the open area, on the ground, can hear a whisper from a distant cell, in the upper story.—This experiment has been tried again and again, in the presence of the person furnishing this description.

A building, in which these important advantages are secured with so much economy, is great gain.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

These should relate to a *thorough Cleansing, when the convicts enter the Prison ; to Classification, Clothing, Diet, Employment, mode and power of Punishment, Government.*

CLEANLINESS.—*The Rules and Regulations should relate to a thorough Cleansing when the convicts enter the Prison.* This remark is particularly applicable to the State Prisons. A case occurred, as we are credibly informed, in which an old negro, who was covered with sores, whose clothes were filthy rags, and on whom were seen afterwards swarms of vermin, was thrust into a State Prison, and locked up, night after night, and week after week, in a narrow and filthy dungeon, with blacks and whites, old and young, and made their constant companion. Nothing was done, when this poor old man entered the Prison, either to cleanse or clothe him. He groaned out a miserable existence for several months, among his fellow prisoners, when it became necessary to remove him to the Hospital, where for the first time his body was cleansed and comfortably clothed ; but he soon died.

In the Prison of an adjoining State, where this poor old man died, it is no part of the regulations ever to change the clothing, or cleanse the bodies of the prisoners when they enter it ; and the consequence is what might be expected, according to the statement of the Commissioners in their last Report, “vermin of various kinds abound ;” and when the prisoners can endure it no longer, they carry their clothes to the forge of a smith’s shop, and there smoke and bake them till

the vermin are mostly destroyed.—This process was repeated several times, the last season ; but it was not effectual for the extermination of this plague. Nor is it believed to be possible, in a State Prison, where a great number of convicts are to be confined continually in narrow and crowded rooms, to keep the place clean, without a standing rule, that every prisoner shall be thoroughly cleansed, when he enters the Prison.—Where this is done, there is no complaint of the evil above described.

CLASSIFICATION.—It should be a part of the Rules and Regulations, that there should be some classification of the prisoners. It would be better, if Prisons were so constructed, that there could be a perfect separation, at least by night ; but till they are so constructed, it is necessary that there should be some classification. The obvious principles of classification, require that males and females, old and young, condemned and uncondemned, blacks and whites, debtors and criminals, should be separated. This is so evident, that it would not be supposed that it is in any case neglected, where the Prison admits of its being done : but the fact is not as we should suppose. Even the first mentioned classification, *the separation of men and women*, is neglected. In a principal town in one of the northern States, the door of one of the apartments of the Jail was opened to a Clergyman, who found confined in the room, a female with a base villain, from whom, she intreated him, that she might be separated. Several other cases might be mentioned, in which men and women have been found, in the different Prisons, confined in the same apartment, whose guilty countenances indicated their character and habits. Even in the State Prisons, cases are not wanting to prove that female convicts should be separated from the men, and put under the care of a MATRON.

The old and young should, also, be separated. In the arts of villany, there are men, who have grown old. The first principles of the art are as familiar to them as the alpha-

bet. These principles are perfectly simple ; and if the object to be attained by the knowledge of them was good, they would be as beautiful as the first principles of any art. They are principles, too, which time alone, and powerful intellect, have developed. There are men in Prison, (it were to be wished that they were not so numerous,) to whom these principles are familiar, who are never so happy as when they are teaching them. From such men, the novice in crime may learn more in a week, than he could discover by his unassisted reason in an age. A man of powerful mind, who had been ten years in league with wicked men, said that he learned more in five days after he was committed to Prison, than he ever knew before. How great then is the folly of having classes, or congregations, or committee rooms, in Prison ; where the old and young are mixed together ; where such men are teachers, and such things are taught.

It must also be added, that in numerous instances, the youth in Prison, who are the attentive pupils of these old villains by day, are their injured companions by night.

In view of this fact, the National Gazette says, " we have before us a letter of recent date, which exhibits a view of the interior of Prisons, such as that, if we durst unveil even a part, would strike aghast every virtuous citizen and practical Christian, and at once compel the respectable classes of society to a common and decisive effort towards a complete reform of these schools of fell and hideous depravity." While enough has come to our knowledge to justify the strong language of Mr. WALSH, it is to be remembered, that these are deeds of darkness of which very few ever come to the light. There are enough, however, and more than enough, to show that the old and young should never be associated in Prison.

The condemned and uncondemned, should also be separated. It not unfrequently happens in this country, that this is not the fact. A man condemned to several years' imprisonment for robbing the United States' Mail, who escaped the gallows, while his companion was hung, has been found

in the same apartment of a Jail, in one of our principal cities, with others who had not yet been proved guilty. This man appeared like the captain of the room, and complained that HE was liable to have any body put in the same room with HIM.

In another instance, a man condemned to death, who was to be executed in a few days for murder, was found in the best apartment of a Jail, reading newspapers, with his fellow prisoners, some of whom might have been uncondemned, and others imprisoned for debt.

In another instance still, a man condemned for murder, was found roving about the different apartments of the Prison, enjoying the liberty of the yard, accompanied by an attendant, and apparently feeling more self complacency and pride, than most men feel, who are not accused of crime. These are a few only of the numerous instances which might be mentioned, in which the purposes of justice are thwarted, by a want of those rules and regulations, which separate the condemned and uncondemned.

Blacks and whites, should also be separated. The propriety of this rule arises from circumstances which it is not necessary to mention; but the fact is not as propriety demands that it should be. In a populous town in the northern States, in a Jail which contained a large number of apartments, unoccupied, a black man was found without a garment, in a room with ten or eleven prisoners. This had been a subject of frequent complaint by a benevolent gentleman, who had visited the Jail; but still the evil was permitted.

Instances of a similar kind have been frequently found, in which there was not that classification of prisoners of which the building would admit. It is apparent from these facts, that the standing rules and regulations of Prisons, should require as much classification as the construction of the building will admit. That males and females, old and young, blacks and whites, condemned and uncondemned, murderers and witnesses, debtors and criminals, should be crowded to-

gether, is as inconsistent with the purposes of justice, as the principles of religion. The interests of society require, that prisoners should be classed, if they cannot be separated.

CLOTHING.—The feelings of humanity require, that prisoners should be clothed.—In many Jails in the larger towns, the prisoners are furnished by law with no clothing, and in many Penitentiaries, where they are required to labor hard, during the week, they are furnished with no change of clothing for the Sabbath. In the former case, prisoners are often found with no other covering than blankets, and these blankets very filthy and ragged. In some cases, persons have been found in this situation, who were detained as witnesses; and in other cases, children, who were not accused of crime; and in the Penitentiaries where no change of clothing is allowed, there is a filthiness which the community would not justify, if it was acquainted with the fact. It is an act of justice, however, to the Penitentiaries generally, to state, that but one has been found where vermin abounded, and this it is believed, will be soon purified. But there are several, (and among them, some of the best,) where the men have not a change of raiment for the Sabbath, and they consequently appear in the place of worship, in a dress not corresponding with the duties of the place. This is a subject of complaint, in some instances, by the Officers, who are perfectly aware of the good effect of cleanliness, but, who have not been able to obtain for the convicts this indulgence. In those cases, in which the indulgence has been granted, the good effects of it have been seen, in the greater propriety of behaviour, on the part of the prisoners, during the religious services of the Sabbath, and in the more cheerful and faithful performance of the duties of the week.

The expense of doing this should not be made an objection to it; because the whole expense of a prisoner's clothing and bedding for a year, in the New Hampshire Prison, which is very superior in these respects, was, during the year ending May 31, 1822, only \$5 27. A mere change of

clothing for the Sabbath, would increase this expense very little, and this trifling additional expense, would probably be more than repaid, in the encouragement it would afford to industry during the week. That the prisoners, then, should be clothed, and furnished with a change of clothing for the Sabbath, seems to be required by the feelings of humanity, if not of sound policy.

DIET.—They should, also, be fed with wholesome food, in sufficient quantities to preserve life and health. This subject is not introduced here because prisoners have been found in this country complaining of hunger. Very few, if any, cases of this kind have been known to exist, except where food has been taken away as a punishment. The common allowance of food in the Penitentiaries, is equivalent to one pound of meat, one pound of bread, and one pound of vegetables per day. It varies a little from this, in some of them; but it is generally equivalent to it. It should, also, be stated, that this food is generally wholesome and well prepared. The subject is therefore not introduced because there are known to be great abuses in this country, in regard to the food of prisoners: but, because an opinion prevails extensively, that the convicts in our Penitentiaries have *too much* food, of a quality better than they ought to receive. This opinion, which is entertained by highly respectable individuals, may lead to an evil widely different from that of which they complain, and of greater magnitude. In the Milbank Penitentiary, in Great Britain, an experiment has been made on *MAN*, as to the quantity of food necessary to keep him alive. In such extensive establishments a step once taken, may lead to fatal consequences before it can be retraced. In this establishment, near London, the advocates of a severe discipline, demanded a reduction of the diet of the prisoners, and a calculation was made about the close of the year 1822, to ascertain how little food would sustain human life. There was at that time in the Prison about 800 convicts, and their diet was reduced to half a

pound of bread per day, and the soup made of ox heads, in the proportion of one ox head to one hundred males, and the same to one hundred and twenty females. A general decay of health was apparent ; but the scurvy did not appear till January, 1823. The cases of disease increased rapidly, and on the 28th of February, one hundred and eighteen were sick, and on the tenth of April, more than four hundred. It was found on inquiry, that the meat of an ox head, weighed only eight pounds, which being divided among one hundred, allows only one ounce and a quarter to each prisoner. To this diet, the College of Physicians after long delay, ascribed the production of the disease. It became necessary at length to remove every prisoner from the establishment, which was done, and the whole was purified. In consequence of this sickness, the House of Commons resolved to give to the future inmates, a full and nutritive diet, as to quality and amount. This experiment on human life, may be of great use on this side of the Atlantic, by preventing a severity as dangerous to life, as excessive indulgence is injurious to morals. The experiment shows, that eight ounces of bread and one and a quarter of meat, cannot sustain life ; it does not show, however, that three pounds of food per day is necessary to life and health, and it may still be a question of great importance, whether the Milbank Penitentiary was not in one extreme, and the Penitentiaries in the United States in the other ; so that the subject is still open for consideration and experiment ; though it is apparent from the experiment at Milbank, that it should be conducted with great discretion, when human life is at stake.

There has been an experiment at Lamberton, New Jersey, upon the men in solitary cells, which resulted differently than that at Milbank. At Lamberton, the men on whom the experiment was tried, were confined the whole term of their sentence, in solitary cells. Some of them had been confined eighteen months, and some two years. Their allowance of food was only half the allowance of the men, who were em-

ployed in the shops, and the allowance of the men in the shops, was only half a pound of meat, together with one pound of bread, one gill of molasses, and about half a pound of vegetables per day ; but even this reduced allowance had no other effect upon the men, than to subdue their passions ; it did not injure their health. They appeared as well, at least, as any class of prisoners, who have been visited, in this country ; and the keeper, who has been thirteen years in the institution, stated, that the effect of solitary confinement, with this diet, had been very good, and that the prisoners all left the cells with a strong determination never to return to them, and no one had yet returned, nor did he believe that any one would ever return. If he was correct in this opinion, and there was every thing in the appearance and conversation of the prisoners in the cells, to induce the belief that he was correct, then this mode of punishment, with reduced allowance of food, is much better than where one half, or one third of the whole number of prisoners are committed a second, third, fourth, fifth, or sixth time, which is the fact in several Penitentiaries in the United States, where the men are fed abundantly.

The subject, therefore, of the prisoner's diet, is one of great importance, concerning which, there is a considerable diversity of opinion and experiment ; but which seems not yet to be established by any common rule of acknowledged worth.

EMPLOYMENT.—The best mode of employing prisoners, next claims our consideration. And on this subject, the first thing that demands our attention is the variety of curious trades, which are introduced into some of our Penitentiaries ; particularly in the metals ; such as whitesmiths, locksmiths, gunsmiths, brass founders, coppersmiths, &c. &c. which are all admirably adapted to furnish implements of mischief and skill, in the arts of counterfeiting money and picking locks. For instance, in a Penitentiary in an adjoining State, a convict of many years' experience in the arts

of villany, who had been associated with gangs of counterfeiters, and was possessed at the time of his arrest, of great quantities and varieties of curious tools, and plates, and bills, was located, in the Prison, to which he was condemned, at the head of the whitesmith's shop. This shop was well furnished, at the expense of the State, with all the instruments which such an artist would desire to use, and had a window in it opening into the street, through which he could deliver any altered or counterfeit money, and receive materials to alter it.

Take another instance. A copper plate printer, was arrested for being possessed of copper plates for making counterfeit bills, and for being largely engaged in the trade.— He was sentenced to the State Prison, and there, as a matter of particular favour, he was permitted to have a room fitted up by himself, where he could place his copper plate press, and carry on his former occupation of copper plate printer.

Take another illustration. The locks for Leveret-street Jail, Boston, were made in the State Prison, at Charlestown. The reason for this was, that locks of more curious construction could be obtained there, than elsewhere. Of course, the first principles of this curious art were better understood; and if understood, taught; and if taught, tested. These principles, thus tested in Prison, might afterwards be reduced to practice, wherever the pupils in so good a school, should have their lot cast; not so much, however, to furnish locks, which no keys could open, as to furnish keys, which no locks could resist. We only allude to this subject, in this place; as our only object here is, to illustrate an obvious principle, viz: that all curious arts, in the metals, are out of place, in a Penitentiary.—They greatly facilitate the means of rendering Penitentiaries, what they have often been called of late years, schools of vice.

Against other trades, which are pursued in these institutions, no such objection is found. Coopers, weavers, shoe-

makers, taylor, hatters, and stone cutters, cannot so easily pervert the design of their employment. The instruments which they use, are few and simple, and not easily converted into implements of mischief. These trades, therefore, are much more safe in a Penitentiary, than the curious arts of whitesmiths, lockmakers, and copper plate printers.

Another objection to the latter class of trades is, that the tools, necessary to a successful prosecution of them, are numerous, complicated and expensive. Not so with the tools used in the other arts ; they are few, simple, and cheap.

Besides, the curious arts are difficult to learn, while the simple arts are not. And the more curious arts are not in the same general demand, after the convicts leave the Prison. A shoemaker, taylor, or stone cutter, may easily find employment. A whitesmith, lockmaker, or any other curious artificer, in the metals, not so easily. Besides, the most simple arts are the most profitable. In those Penitentiaries, where there is a great variety of employment, the expense to the State is much greater, than where some one simple and useful trade occupies the time of a majority of the men. This shows not only the inexpediency of introducing a great variety of curious arts into a Penitentiary ; but brings to view another principle, of great importance in the successful management of these institutions, viz.

Unity of employment is of greater importance than variety. If the employments are various, the overseers of the shops must be numerous, and this is expensive. The number of men, too, engaged in each branch of business, must be small, and the profits from their labour will not pay the master of the shop. A few shoemakers, a few hatters, a few comb and brush makers, a few nailmakers, &c. requiring in each shop a superintendent, employed at considerable expense, will explain in part the fact, that Penitentiaries have been so great a burden in regard to expense : while either of the trades, occupying the attention of a majority of the men, under one superintendent, might have yielded an income.

If the correctness of these remarks be admitted, the question may still arise, Which of the most simple and common arts, is on the whole to be preferred? And in answer to this question, there is no hazard in saying, that where the material is easily obtained, and the market good, the stone cutting is the best. In regard to this business, it is worthy of remark, that the raw material is cheap; it is not easily injured; the art of cutting it is soon learned; it is laborious and healthy; it requires little superintendence; the tools are few and simple; the demand for the work is great; the business on the whole more profitable to the institution; and the knowledge of the art very useful to the convicts after they leave the Prison. This is the principal employment in the New Hampshire and Massachusetts' Prisons, which are the least expensive, or rather, which yield the greatest profit to the State.

Another employment, to which there are few objections, which has been found profitable in several Penitentiaries, is weaving. This is the principal employment in the Vermont and Maryland Penitentiaries. The article is such as cannot be manufactured in the steam loom, or by water power; it therefore pays well for manual labour. It is besides a business which furnishes the old and infirm, as well as the young, a profitable employment. It also permits the men to be so located in the shop, that it is not difficult to prevent communication between them. It is, too, a safe employment, easily learnt, requiring but few, simple, and not expensive tools, and it is useful when the men leave the Prison. With this business, the Vermont Prison has nearly supported itself, for five years, and the Baltimore Prison has been less expensive to the State than many others.

The other common trades, in the Penitentiaries, in this country, such as the shoemaker's, cooper's, taylor's, hatter's; have never been pursued with much profit, and in some instances they have involved the State in heavy annual expenditures. Whether this is to be attributed more to the nature

of the employment, or the mismanagement of the business is doubtful.

If these statements in regard to the employment of the convicts in our Penitentiaries are correct, it appears that the curious arts in the metals are out of place ; that stone cutting is the best business where it can be pursued ; that weaving has been found very good ; and that the business of shoemakers, taylor, hatters, coopers, &c. though they are not particularly objectionable, have not been found very profitable.

MODE OF PUNISHMENT.—The punishments used in these institutions, now claim our attention. These are stripes, chains, and solitary confinement, with hunger. In regard to these different modes of punishment, there is a considerable diversity of opinion and practice, in this country. In some extensive establishments, chains and stripes are dispensed with altogether. In others, both are used severely. In others still, stripes alone are used. At Auburn, stripes are almost the only mode of punishment. In Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York city, Charlestown, and Concord, solitary confinement mostly, with a small allowance of bread and water. In Connecticut, stripes, chains, solitary confinement, and severe hunger. If the efficacy of these different modes of punishment were to be judged of, by the discipline of the respective institutions, punishment by stripes, as at Auburn, would be preferred. The difference, in the order, industry, and subdued feeling, as exhibited by the prisoners, is greatly in favour of the prison at Auburn. This difference, however, is to be attributed, not so much to the mode of punishment, as to the separation of the convicts, at night, and several other salutary regulations, which are not adopted elsewhere. At the same time, a part of the difference is supposed by the friends of this system, to arise from the mode of punishment. In favour of this mode, the advocates of it urge the following reasons: it requires less time ; the mind of the prisoner does not brood over it, and

settle down in deliberate resentment and malignity ; it is in some cases more effectual ; it is less severe ; it can be more easily proportioned to the offence.

That it requires less time, there can be no doubt ; and if in other respects, it is as good or better, it is for this reason to be preferred.

That the mind of the prisoner does not brood over it, as over solitary confinement and hunger, there can be no doubt. But then it would be said by the advocates of solitary confinement, that this is an argument against stripes, because the effect is not so permanent. It may be said in reply, that if the effect of punishment is bad, it ought not to be permanent, and men often appear subdued by solitary confinement and hunger, merely for the sake of being relieved, while in their hearts, there is a rankling enmity against the mode of punishment, and the person inflicting it. If this effect is produced, the punishment, so far as the convict is concerned, is injurious. That this is the fact, in many instances, those who have been conversant with prisoners have melancholy evidence.

But while this is admitted, it is also true, that the instances are numerous, in which solitary confinement, with low diet, have not failed to subdue men, who appeared to be hardened against every other mode of punishment. The officers of the New Hampshire and Philadelphia Penitentiaries, bear testimony to this. And moreover, that the end is often gained, in much less time, than it was supposed would be necessary.

It is objected, however to solitary confinement, that it is a mode of punishment which operates unequally. If a man has been fond of society ; if his mind has been cultivated ; if his sensibility is acute ; solitary confinement is a terrible punishment. If, on the contrary, the man is a mere animal ; if he is stupid, and ignorant, and carnal ; if the operations of his mind are dull and sleepy ; if, in one word, he is like the

torpid animals, (and there are men of this description,) solitary confinement is much less severe than stripes.

Nor is solitary confinement, in the former case, a more severe and effectual mode of punishment, especially if the convict is a proud man ; nor is it as much so, as stripes. A man in a narrow cell, which was almost a dungeon, where he had been in heavy chains, on a small allowance of food, three months, was asked whether he had rather remain three months longer, in the same situation, than receive a small number of stripes on his bare back. He said he had rather remain.

It should be stated, however, that his allowance of food had not been so much diminished, as greatly to reduce his body, as is sometimes the case. In those cases, where the allowance of food is six or eight ounces of bread per day, with water only ; and in those cells, which in winter are warmed by no fire, solitary confinement produces the most intense and aggravated suffering. In such cases, there is nothing but death, which the most obdurate villain would not endure to be relieved from it, after a confinement generally of less than thirty days. In these cases, it is difficult to tell, whether the cold, the hunger, the pangs of a guilty conscience, the fear of death, the wretchedness of being subject to revenge and malignity, is the greatest cause of suffering, and whether each of them is not equal to the pain of solitary confinement. Stripes, in comparison with solitary confinement, in such circumstances are not severe.

It is obvious, from these remarks, that the severity, and effect, and adaptation of punishment to crime, depends more on the manner, than on the kind of punishment. Stripes may be made, and it is believed in more instances than one in our Penitentiaries, have been made, to result in death. Solitary confinement has brought the men to a state of insensibility, and in some cases produced diseases, which have terminated in death.—Chains so heavy have been used, and for so long a time, as to mar the flesh, and produce most

painful wounds. It is perfectly obvious from these remarks, that punishment, of whatever kind, should be committed to persons of discretion, and that there should be some checks to prevent abuses.

It is, also, obvious, that different modes may be adapted to different individuals and circumstances, and that discretionary power, as to the mode, as well as the manner, ought to be left with the government of the Prison.

It is obvious, too, that the best security, which society can have, that suitable punishments will be inflicted in a suitable manner; MUST arise from the character of the men to whom the government of the Prison is entrusted.—There are men, whom no laws would restrain from indiscretion and cruelty, if not barbarity, in punishment. There are others, whose humanity is excessive, and they would never punish at all. To men of either class, the power of punishment, and the management of Penitentiaries, should not be entrusted.

POWER OF PUNISHMENT.—One question remains, of no small importance, viz. where the power of punishment should be vested: in the turnkey, in the warden, or in the directors. If in the directors, there is a want of promptitude, and sometimes a difference of opinion between them and the warden; if in the warden, great power is committed to one man; if in the turnkeys, they are, in numerous instances, possessed of too little judgment and character to use it wisely. From observation of the present state of the Penitentiaries, it is evinced, that there is not much discipline, if it is in the directors. There is not strict propriety of government, where it is assumed by the turnkeys; and there are not many objections to the discipline, where the power of punishment is vested in the warden, if he is a man worthy of the place. In New Hampshire, in New York, at Singing and Auburn, the power of punishment is in the warden, and in these Prisons the discipline is admirable. It is to be remembered, however, that there are other causes to produce this admirable discipline in these institutions, of which we shall have occasion to say more

hereafter. If these statements are correct, it appears, that in those cases where the warden has the power of punishment, the fewest evils exist, and the security that they will not exist, is found in the character of the officer to whom the power is entrusted.

These remarks on punishment have been made to show the difficulty of the subject and the vast importance of committing the power to wise and good men.

GOVERNMENT.—Having made the above statements and remarks upon the mode and power of punishment in Prisons, the next subject which claims our consideration is the government of these institutions. On this subject, the following remarks from a commissioner of a Penitentiary, in an adjoining State, are worthy of particular consideration. “One of the most serious difficulties,” he says, “which has presented itself, is the subject of the Prison government. Where shall it be lodged? If in a warden only, subject to no supervision, except that of the Legislature, or the Council, we have a Board to examine, not acquainted with the subject, selected without reference to their qualifications for the task, and holding their offices but for a short period. This control will therefore amount to very little. The advantages of this plan will be, great efficiency, the concentration in the hands of one man of all the responsibility and all the power. And if he is a good and faithful man, I should expect greater prosperity to the institution in this way than in any other. This is substantially the case with the New Hampshire Prison—but how rarely do we see a man like the superintendent of that Prison, who can so manage such an institution.

“If we create a board of directors, acting concurrently with the warden, but who do not possess the power of appointing the warden, we must expect that state of things, which must result from divided responsibility, jealous if not hostile feeling, and distracted council; but we secure the advantages of mutual inspection and watchfulness. This, if I mistake not, is the condition of the Prison at ———.

“ If on the contrary we constitute a board of directors, who appoint and control and direct the warden, and who take an active part in the management of the Prison, the warden will become their creature and tool ; one of the directors will insensibly become the acting man, and the others mere cyphers, and there is then no intermediate board who can inspect or control, the responsibility is divided, and every species of abuse will creep in. And this is the condition of the Prison at ———.

“ What can be done ? Can a board of visitors or a committee of humanity be instituted—if they are invested with any power will they not interfere with and embarrass the warden ? I should fear it, and yet the prisoner ought to have some protector against the mal-treatment of his keeper.

“ I have on the whole come to the conclusion, that a permanent board of three directors, was best. This board to overlook the warden, to approve or reject the by-laws proposed by him, and to leave all the management to him, who should be solely responsible for the condition of the institution. As a check upon him, I would have the directors in succession attend at the Prison every Monday morning, and settle with the warden the concerns of the preceding week, look carefully to the condition of the Prison and the prisoners, have frequent private examinations of the prisoners, and act in all respects as a committee of humanity.

“ I believe after all, this simple arrangement will accomplish more than a complicated arrangement ; but I would on no account allow the directors to control the warden, as to employment of prisoners, government, purchases or sales ; I mean in individual cases or articles.”

The plan of vesting the government as proposed in this communication, is proposed by a gentleman of careful observation, who has devoted much time to this subject, and whose judgment is worthy of particular consideration. The plan is simple, it is well provided with checks and balances, and with men of integrity to fill the places of directors and war-

den, it will without doubt be successful. Without such men, neither this plan nor any other can save the State from continual fraud. In all Penitentiaries, and in every plan for their government, the officers, if they are destitute of moral principle, can find opportunities for deception and iniquity. This is sufficiently apparent from the history of the past. It is therefore of the utmost importance, that men of great integrity should be entrusted with the execution of the plan, or even the plan proposed will fail.

In regard to the choice of proper men to assist the warden in the government, as subordinate officers, there has been great difficulty. Men destitute of humanity, men of violent and virulent passions, men of obscene and profane conversation, men who have been detected in acts of villany and nefarious plans of wickedness with prisoners, men who would accept a bribe, men who would make a league with counterfeiters, men who would defraud the State, such men *have been* connected with the government of these institutions. These declarations are founded in fact, in facts which *have been proved*, and the guilty perpetrators of such wickedness have been accused, condemned, discharged, and left to feel the stings of their guilty consciences. In saying this, no allusion is made to those who have not been *proved* guilty. These are sufficient for the present purpose, and show the immense importance of entrusting the government of these institutions to men of integrity. To no officer, in any one of them, who has not *been proved* guilty, is any allusion made in the above statement. If any offence therefore is felt, it should be with the condemned, whose conduct has laid the foundation of it, and not with the illustration of an important principle. It is perhaps unnecessary to say any thing to guard against being misunderstood, for the statement is perfectly plain, and if men are conscious of integrity, they will not be suspicious that allusion is made to them, and if they have not *been proved* guilty the statement *does not* apply to them. At the same time, it would be improper to make any explanation of what has been

said, which should have a tendency, in any degree, to relieve a guilty conscience. If men of the character described are still in places of trust, in our Penitentiaries, it is time that their consciences should prompt them to change their character and conduct, or to leave their station ; for they must know, better than we, that none but men of integrity ought to hold the offices of which they are incumbents.

Having considered the place, where the power should be lodged in the government of a Penitentiary, and the character of the men who should hold these places of trust, we make a single remark concerning the *number* of men proper to be employed in the government. There are instances in our Penitentiaries of extravagant expenditure to support a number of men altogether disproportionate to the duties, and the number of prisoners. In one Penitentiary, with nearly one hundred convicts, is found five keepers ; and in another, with about the same number of convicts, twenty two keepers ; and in another, with more than four hundred convicts, twenty three keepers : if therefore the first and last have a sufficient number, the second has many more than a sufficient number. If it be said, that the construction of the Prison and the employment, in the second make it more difficult for twenty to guard one hundred, than for five to guard the same number, in the other Prisons, this affords a strong argument for a reformation in regard to construction and employment ; especially when it is added to the above statement, that in the institution, where the keepers are as one to five, the expense to the State is seven thousand dollars for one hundred convicts, and in the institution where the keepers are to the convicts as one to fifteen, the income to the State is five thousand dollars from sixty. It is evident from this statement, which might be confirmed by many more, if it were necessary, that the keepers should be to the convicts as one to fifteen or twenty, which is enough, if the construction of the Prison and the employment of the prisoners is as it should be.—We have now finished our remarks concerning

in 1820, 1,049,000; so that in Pennsylvania the number of commitments has multiplied no faster than the population.

In New Jersey, during the twenty years ending 1819, the average number of convicts to the Penitentiary was 38; during the six years ending 1825, the average number was 40. The population had increased, during the same time, at least one sixth, while the number of commitments had increased only one twentieth; so that in New Jersey, the number of commitments has not increased as fast as the population.

From these facts it is apparent, that the increase of crime has not so far exceeded the increase of population, as has been sometimes represented. If this be true, notwithstanding the great defects in the Penitentiary system, the inference is reasonable, that *the Penitentiary system IMPROVED*, if it does not answer all the valuable purposes, which its early advocates anticipated, *will retard the growth of crime.*

But though the increase of crime has not exceeded the increase of population, still it has greatly exceeded the desires and hopes of all benevolent men, and it becomes a subject of earnest inquiry and deep interest, what have been the causes of this increase? Some of them are found in the state of society, and some in the defects of the Penitentiary system. It will be practicable in this Report to present only those which are most obvious and important.

DEGRADED CHARACTER OF THE COLOURED POPULATION.—The first cause, existing in society, of the frequency and increase of crime, is the degraded character of the coloured population. The facts, which are gathered from the Penitentiaries, to show how great a proportion of the convicts are coloured, even in those States, where the coloured population is small, show most strikingly, the connexion between ignorance and vice.

In Massachusetts, the whole population is	523,000
The coloured population less than	7,000
The whole number of convicts	314
The coloured convicts	50

that is, 1-74th part of the population and nearly 1-6th part of the convicts are coloured.

In Connecticut, the whole population is	275,000
The coloured population about	8,000
The whole number of convicts is	117
The coloured convicts	39

that is, 1-34th part of the population is coloured, and 1-3d part of the convicts.

In Vermont, the whole coloured population is only 918 souls, from whom, twenty four have been furnished for the Penitentiary.

In New York, the whole population is	1,372,000
The coloured population	39,000
The whole number of convicts in the State	
Prison in the city is	637
The coloured convicts	154

that is, 1-35th part of the population is coloured, and about 1-4th part of the convicts.

In New Jersey, the whole population is	277,000
The coloured population	20,000
The whole number of convicts	74
The number of coloured convicts	24

that is, 1-13th part of the population is coloured, and 1-3d part of the convicts.

In Pennsylvania, the whole population is	1,049,000
The coloured population	30,000
In 1816, the whole number of convicts	407
The number of coloured convicts	176
In 1819, the whole number of convicts	474
The number of coloured convicts	165

that is, 1-34th part of the population is coloured, and more than 1-3d part of the convicts.

It is not necessary to pursue these illustrations. It is sufficiently apparent, that one great cause of the frequency and increase of crime, is neglecting to raise the character of the coloured population.

We derive an argument in favour of education from these facts.—It appears from the above statement, that about one fourth part of all the expense incurred by the States above mentioned, for the support of their criminal institutions, is for the coloured convicts.

We will therefore, look a moment at the amount of the expense thus incurred.

In Massachusetts, the whole expense of the State, for the support of its convicts, in the last ten years, has been \$106,405; of which, one sixth part, or, \$17,734 has been expended for the support of its coloured convicts.

In Connecticut, the whole expense of the State for the support of its convicts in the last fifteen years, has exceeded \$118,500; of which, one third part, or \$37,166, has been expended for the support of its coloured convicts.

In New York, the whole expense of the State, for the support of its convicts, at the city Prison, in the twenty seven years ending December, 1823, was \$437,986; of which, one fourth part, or, \$109,166, was for the support of its coloured convicts.

The whole coloured population of the three States above mentioned, viz. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, has been less than 54,000, and for the support of the convicts from this small population, in the time specified above, the three States have expended \$164,066.

Could these States have anticipated these surprising results, and appropriated the money to raise the character of the coloured population, how much better would have been their prospects, and how much less the expense of the States through which they are dispersed, for the support of their coloured convicts.

The expenditure of \$164,000, in so short a time, for the purposes of education, among a people consisting of only 54,000 souls, would very soon raise their character to a level with that of the whites, and diminish the number of convicts from among them, about ten fold.

If, however, their character cannot be raised, where they are, a powerful argument may be derived from these facts, in favour of colonization, and civilized States ought surely to be as willing to expend money on any given part of its population, to prevent crime, as to punish it.

We cannot but indulge the hope that the facts disclosed above, if they do not lead to an effort to raise the character of the coloured population, will strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts, of all the friends of colonizing the free people of colour in the northern States.

CROWDED NIGHT ROOMS.—Another cause of the increase of crime, is the crowded state of the night rooms, in the Penitentiaries. In the New Hampshire and Vermont Penitentiaries, from two to six are lodged in each room; in Massachusetts, from four to sixteen; in Connecticut, from fifteen to thirty two; in New York city, twelve; in New Jersey, ten or twelve; in Pennsylvania, twenty nine, thirty and thirty one; in Maryland, from seven to ten; in Virginia, from two to four.

The rooms, in which so many convicts are lodged, are none of them large, and some are very narrow and insufficiently ventilated. In Philadelphia, the rooms are eighteen feet by twenty, and it is a common rule, to allow to each convict, a space on the floor, six feet by two; as large as a coffin. In Massachusetts the rooms are so narrow that the only mode of lodging all the men, in some of them, is by swinging hammocks one above another, and in Connecticut, during the hot weather, in July, 1825, thirty two men were lodged, in a basement story room, twenty one feet long, ten feet wide, and less than seven feet high. All the ventilation of this room, was one small window, and a narrow space over the door. It would have been said, before the experiment was tried, that thirty two human beings could not live in this room, a single night.

At the same time, the whole number of prisoners at Newgate, i. e. 109, were lodged in five rooms. These rooms

are all in the basement story, and the dimensions of each of the rooms, are less than the dimensions of the room above described.

These rooms are not only narrow and crowded, but filthy, in the extreme ; and the commissioners of the Legislature, in their recent report, state, that "vermin of various kinds abound in them."

If a convict is not already lost to virtue, it is difficult to conceive, in what manner his ruin can be consummated more speedily, than by thrusting him into such a place. Accordingly we find great unity of opinion among all well informed and practical men, in regard to the evils of this miserable system, and the importance of solitary confinement, at least by night.

The superintendent of the New Hampshire Penitentiary, **MOSES C. PILSBURY**, who has been seven years in that institution, says, he has thought much of the benefits, which would result from solitary confinement at night. The plots which have been designed, during his term of service have been conceived, and promoted, in the night rooms. He has spent much time in listening to the conversation of the convicts at night, and thus has detected plots and learned whole histories of villany.

Judge COTTON, the superintendent of the Vermont Penitentiary, says, I feel satisfied, that great evils might be avoided, could our State Prison be so constructed, that the convicts might lodge separately from each other. Solitary confinement, during the night, would be an effectual bar, and have a great tendency to suppress many evils, which do exist, and ever will exist, so long as prisoners are allowed to associate together in their lodging rooms.

The directors of the Massachusetts Penitentiary, in their last Report, say, that the erection of an additional building, within the Prison yard, where each convict may be provided with a separate apartment for lodging, has long been a favorite object with the government of this institution.

The Commissioners of the Connecticut Legislature, say that the great and leading objection to Newgate, is the manner in which the prisoners are confined at night—turned in large numbers into their cells, and allowed an intercourse of the most dangerous and debasing character. It is here, that every right principle is eradicated, and every base one instilled. It is a nursery of crime, where the convict is furnished with the expedients, and shifts of guilt, and with his invention sharpened, he is let loose upon society, in a ten-fold degree, a more daring, desperate, and effective villain.

The superintendent of the New York Penitentiary, **ARTHUR BURTIS, Esq.** speaking of the crowded state of the night rooms, said, how can you expect reformation, under such circumstances? As well might you kindle a fire, with a spark, on the ocean, in a storm. If a man forms a good resolution, or feels a serious impression, it is immediately driven from him in his night room.

The superintendent of the New Jersey Prison, **FRANCIS S. LABAW,** says, the greatest improvement, that has been made, or can be made, in Prison Discipline, is by solitary confinement. The solitary cells in this Prison, in which one fourth part of the whole number of prisoners, are placed under the sentence of the Court, have answered all the purposes, which it was ever expected they would, so far as trial of them has been had. No person, who has been once confined in them, has ever returned to the Prison.

The Senate of Pennsylvania, say, for want of room, the young associate with the old offenders; the petty thief becomes the pupil of the high way robber; the beardless boy listens with delight to the well told tale of daring exploits, and hair breadth escapes of hoary headed villainy, and from the experience of age, derives instruction, which fits him to be a terror and a pest to society. Community of design is excited among them, and instead of reformation, ruin is the general result.

The superintendent of the Virginia Penitentiary, **SAMUEL O. PARSONS**, says, I consider separating convicts at night, of all others, the most important feature in the Penitentiary system of punishment, and one, which should every where claim the first consideration in erecting such institutions.

With the opinions thus expressed, of the practical men placed at the head of these institutions, the opinions of the governors of the respective States, of the judges, and legislators, and benevolent men, so far as they have been expressed or known, perfectly coincide.

Governor PLUMMER, of New Hampshire, says, effectual measures should be adopted to separate, in the Penitentiaries, old offenders from the young and inexperienced.

Governor LINCOLN, of Massachusetts, in a late message, recommended, that immediate provision be made for the erection, as soon as may be, in the prison yard, of a building, with sufficient cells for the separate confinement of the present, and any future probable number of convicts.

Governor WOLCOTT, of Connecticut, stated to the Legislature, in May, with reference to the improvements at Auburn, that there were few subjects upon which their deliberations could be bestowed with higher advantage to the best interests of the State.

Governor CLINTON has formerly expressed his opinion of the importance of solitary confinement, and in his late message to the Legislature, he expresses an opinion concerning the institution in New York city, for the reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, which is constructed on the plan of the building at Auburn, that it is probably the best Prison in the world.

Judge WOODBURY, of New Hampshire, says, that "Prisoners, during the night, should be wholly separated from each other."

Mr. HOPKINTON, of New Hampshire, says, "a novice, who, if kept from company worse than himself, might have

been reclaimed from his first attempts, is here associated with old, hardened, and skilful offenders; he hears with envy and admiration, the stories of their prowess and dexterity; his ambition is roused; his knowledge extended by these recitals; and every idea of repentance is scorned; every emotion of virtue extinguished."

Judge THATCHER, of Boston, says, "by the confession of those who administer our Penitentiaries, it is found, that most of the evils of this system of punishment flow from the almost free and unrestrained intercourse, which subsist among the convicts."

THOMAS EDDY, of New York, says, "if a number of ingenious men were requested to suggest the best possible mode of increasing the number of thieves, robbers, and vagabonds, it could scarcely be in their power, to fix on any plan, so likely to produce this effect, as confining in one collection, a number of persons already convicted of committing crimes of every description."

Hon. EDWARD LIVINGSTON, says, "it is a great point to produce the conviction of the important and obvious truth, denied only by a false economy, that Prisons, where there is not a complete separation of their inhabitants, are seminaries of vice, not schools for reformation, nor even places of punishment."

ROBERTS VAUX, of Philadelphia, lays down five fundamental principles of Prison Discipline, the *first* of which is, "that convicts should be rigidly confined to solitary life."

There is no disagreement between the opinion of these distinguished individuals, and the opinions of various commissioners, directors, &c. who have written on this subject.

The Commissioners of the Massachusetts Legislature, in 1817, ask, "how it is to be reconciled, that in any civilized country, convicts are brought into promiscuous association, to pass years together, all united under the influence of a

public opinion, as strong in its support of vice, as that which rules the community, is, in its support of virtue?"

The Commissioners of the Connecticut Legislature, in a very able Report written by MARTIN WELLS, Esq. say, "it is in the cells, that every right principle is eradicated, and every base one instilled. They are nurseries of crime, where the convict is furnished with the expedients and shifts of guilt, and with his invention sharpened, he is let loose upon society, in a tenfold degree, a more daring, desperate and effective villain."

The Commissioners, SAMUEL M. HOPKINS, STEPHEN ALLEN, and GEORGE TIBBETS, of the New York Legislature, say, "we believe that we do but repeat the common sentiment of all well informed men, when we say, that as long as it is necessary to confine several prisoners in the same room, our State Prison at New York, can be no other than a college of vice and criminality."

A highly respectable committee of the Society for the Prevention of Pauperism, in the city of New York, in a Report on the Penitentiary System, which is one of the most valuable documents ever published on the subject, in this country, have the following language, "Our Penitentiaries are so many schools of vice, they are so many seminaries to impart lessons and maxims, calculated to banish legal restraints, moral considerations, pride of character, and self regard." "They have their watchwords, their technical terms, their peculiar language, and their causes and objects of emulation. Let us ask any sagacious observer of human nature, unacquainted with the internal police of our Penitentiaries, to suggest a school, where the commitment of the most pernicious crimes could be taught with the most effect; could he select a place more fertile in the most pernicious results, than the indiscriminate society of knaves and villains, of all ages and degrees of guilt?"

The correctness of these opinions, in relation to the evils arising from a crowded state of the night rooms, is supported

by a comparative view of the Penitentiaries in the United States, in regard to the recommitment of convicts, where the night rooms are crowded, and where they are not.

In New Hampshire Penitentiary, the whole number of prisoners received from November 23, 1812, to September 22, 1825, was two hundred and fifty seven; of whom, eleven only were committed a second time.

Twenty one have been pardoned; of whom only one has been guilty of a second offence.

The number of prisoners, September 22, 1825, was sixty six; of whom only three were for a second offence, and none for a third.

In this Prison from two to six are lodged together; generally, however, not more than two.

In the State Prison at Auburn, New York, the whole number of prisoners, in August, 1825, was four hundred; of whom less than twenty were committed a second time.

In this Prison, the convicts are lodged separately: there are more cells than men.

In the Penitentiary, in New York city, the number of females, in November, 1825, was sixty six; of whom twenty were committed a second time; six a third; two a fourth; and one a fifth.

Here they are lodged ten and twelve in a room.

In the State Prison, in New York city, in 1802, out of one hundred and ninety one convicts received, forty four were committed a second time, and two a third.

The whole number of recommitments to that Prison, for a second offence, is four hundred and ninety four; for a third or more offences, sixty one, and the number pardoned after having been convicted two, three, or more times, is one hundred and eight.

In this Prison, the average number in the night rooms is twelve.

In the Philadelphia Penitentiary, the number of prisoners, August 24, 1819, was four hundred and sixteen; of whom

seventy three, had been twice convicted ; twenty five, three times ; seven, four times ; and two, five times.

In the female department, the number of convicts was sixty three ; of whom seventeen had been convicted twice ; and two, three times.

Of the whole number of convicts in this Prison, from 1810 to 1819, four hundred and nine had been convicted twice ; fifty four, three times ; and two, six times.

Of four hundred and fifty one convicts, in this Penitentiary, in 1817, one hundred and sixty two had been before committed or pardoned.

In this Prison, twenty nine, thirty, and thirty one, are lodged in most of the night rooms.

In the Massachusetts Penitentiary, in 1817, out of three hundred convicts, then in Prison, ninety were under commitment for the second, third, or fourth time.

In this Prison, from four to sixteen are lodged in each of the night rooms.

In view of these facts, the question arises, whence so great a difference in the number of recommitments ?

In New Hampshire, the recommitments are less than one to twenty.

At Auburn, less than one to twenty.

In the New York Penitentiary, almost one to two.

In the State Prison in New York city, almost one to four.

In Philadelphia Penitentiary, in 1817, more than one to three.

In Massachusetts Penitentiary, nearly one to three.

Again, then, we ask, whence so great a difference ? Without controversy, one great reason is, the difference in the night rooms. Where the recommitments are numerous, the night rooms are crowded ; where the recommitments are few, the night rooms are not crowded.

In view of these strong expressions of opinion, from sources so respectable, supported by so many facts, concerning the evils of a crowded state of the night rooms in the Peniten-

tiaries, the question arises why a defect so great, and obvious, so justly and universally deprecated, and so easily removed, why is it not removed? There may be several reasons, and the following among others afford encouragement to our exertions.

The opinions here collected may not have been collected before, or if collected, not published, or if published, not extensively circulated; and as public opinion is the only power in this country, and public attention has not been strongly and perseveringly turned to the magnitude of the evil, it has not been corrected. If any thing has been said on the subject by the superintendent of a Penitentiary, he is but an individual; his time is much occupied with other subjects; he could not alone so far produce conviction in the minds of the members of the Legislature, as to cause them to appropriate the money necessary for the erection of solitary cells.

If a board of directors have said any thing on the subject, they may have expressed an opinion merely, without stating facts; and they could not devote themselves to the work of reformation till it was accomplished.

If the committee of a society or a board of commissioners have taken pains to prepare an elaborate report, in which they have exhibited with great ability the enormous evils arising from a promiscuous intercourse of villains of all ages and degrees of guilt, these Reports have been of very limited circulation: few men have known that such reports existed, unless they were making the subject an object of particular attention.

If the Executive of a given State has incurred considerable expense to obtain information from different Penitentiaries, the information, thus obtained, (though valuable,) has not been brought to bear upon the public mind; it has remained in the Secretary's Office, on file, ready for examination whenever an individual sought the information in question.

It is not to be admitted for a moment, if there had ever been any systematic, persevering exertion to lay before

the public mind, the enormous evils growing out of this great defect in the Penitentiary system, it would have been suffered to remain as it is. And the opinions of the wise and practical men, collected above, expressed in language so strong, each corroborating what the other has said, and all agreeing, that the crowded state of the night rooms is one of the greatest evils of the Penitentiary system, could not fail to produce the conviction, that there must be a strong necessity for reformation.

And if these opinions had ever been followed by a disclosure of facts from the interior of these schools of fell and hideous depravity; if the community had known *what* is *taught* in these seminaries of vice, and what is *done* in these places of darkness, it is not to be supposed that there is so little virtue in this country as to neglect the remedy. This is evident from the fact, that so soon as it is known, that dreadful personal vices are practised among the convicts, which are not fit to be named among Christians; that crimes are engendered within the walls, which are perpetrated by convicts after they obtain their enlargement; that false keys and various implements of extraordinary ingenuity and contrivance for breaking houses and stores have been and are fabricated in Prison; that tools and instruments for counterfeiting bank bills and for making and debasing the current coin, are also made; and that owing to the construction of the Penitentiaries, and other causes, the ingenuity and contrivance of the makers and dealers in these prohibited articles, exceed the vigilance of their keepers and escape detection; so soon as these things are known, the proper authorities have applied themselves to correct the evil.

In Massachusetts, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia, efficient measures are already either adopted or in progress for a thorough reformation.

DAILY TASKS.—Another cause of the increase of crime is what is called in the Penitentiaries *overstent*. It is customary to assign the men daily tasks, to be done for the State.

After their tasks are done, their time is their own. An account is kept of all their earnings, in the leisure time, and for these earnings, they receive a liberal compensation. It is often the fact, that a convict can, (if he chooses,) earn as much for himself, as for the State. Cases not unfrequently occur, in which prisoners earn for themselves from three to five dollars per week, and in which they can do all the work, which they are compelled to do, for the State, by 12 or 1 o'clock. The amount of monies earned by the prisoners, in one of our Penitentiaries, in their leisure time, exceeds three thousand dollars annually.

The objections to this over-stent are numerous. It induces the prisoners to practice deception in relation to the work, which they are able to perform, before their task is assigned. Accordingly, prisoners, who honestly do what they are able to do before they know what their task will be, are a by-word among their fellow prisoners. After their task is assigned, it induces them to slight their work, that they may redeem time for themselves.

It is a fruitful source of complaint against the officers, because they have not assigned the task on equitable principles, or have not had sufficient regard to the circumstances of the case.

It is a laborious business to open accounts with so many labourers ; to ascertain every day when the task is done, and how much credit is due to each prisoner for the labour performed after he has done his task.

It requires the utmost vigilance to prevent deception. There are various modes of cheating in relation to their tasks.

It is productive of great insubordination ; for if a prisoner chooses to lounge, or play, after he has done his task, how can it be prevented ? The time is his own. He has done all which is required of him. He is master of himself the remainder of the day.

It is a fruitful source of corruption ; for three thousand

dollars a year, in a single Penitentiary, distributed among the prisoners, can purchase many indulgencies, and bribe those who have access to prisoners, to do many unlawful acts. If a few packs of cards, or a little rum, or a few bills to be altered and the materials to alter them are wanted, money will purchase these things.

Should it be said, this money is not paid to the prisoners ; it is paid to their order for the use of their families, and the prisoners do not receive it. How then is the fact to be explained, that individuals among the prisoners have some sixty, some one hundred, and some two or three hundred dollars ? so much money, that a brisk trade is carried on among them, and gambling for a considerable amount is not uncommon ? Some of these things are familiarly known to some of the officers, and are spoken of not with that surprise, which many citizens will feel, at the bare suggestion ; but as a thing, which cannot be prevented, nor the manner in which it is effected, satisfactorily explained.

A director of a Penitentiary, which has stood high among its sister institutions, mentioned that several dollars had just been taken from one of the convicts, but it was only a drop to the ocean in comparison with what he had in his possession. With this testimony, in relation to this convict, there is undesigned coincidence of testimony, proving the same thing from many witnesses.

That a considerable part of this money came into the Prison indirectly, as the reward of labour performed by the prisoners, after their tasks were done, is evident from the fact that in those Penitentiaries, where there is no overstent, there is little or no complaint of the mischiefs resulting from the use of money in the Prison.

Hence the question arises, whether the overstent is necessary ; for if some Penitentiaries are conducted successfully without it, others may be. And of this fact there can be no question. The obedience, industry, subordination, and profit

of those institutions where oversten is not allowed, are extremely satisfactory.

It is an important question, therefore, whether this regulation does not defeat its own object. It was intended for good; is it not productive of evil? The former superintendent of the Prison at Auburn, Capt. LYNDS, whose skill in Prison Discipline is great, does not introduce it nor admit its necessity.

INADEQUATE SUPPORT OF SUBORDINATE OFFICERS.—Another cause of the increase of crime is the inadequate support of the subordinate officers in these institutions. This is a reason suggested by a keeper, who stated that the men received a compensation so small, from the State, that they were obliged to do favours for the prisoners, and sometimes they would be led to do that which is forbidden, and then the prisoners having got a hold upon them, would say, if you refuse to do what we require, we will blow you up, i. e. inform against you, and thus the subordinate officers would become the tools of the convicts. As money to the convicts is of comparatively little value, till this system is introduced, no price is too great to introduce it, and afterwards it will proceed at a reasonable rate.

It is true that no evil would arise from this source, if the men obtained for these places of trust were men of incorruptible integrity. This brings us to another cause of the increase of crime, viz. the want of sufficient care and scrutiny, in the selection of the subordinate officers. A regulation therefore, requiring that the men, who are to fill these places of great responsibility, should come from the different counties in the State, and should bring with them the certificate of the selectmen and clergymen of the town where they live, concerning their high and well known character, as men of peculiar integrity and faithfulness, might afford some security, that the institution would be what it was designed to be. It would at least furnish to the different counties some confidence, that the system was well administered.

WANT OF MORAL AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.—Another cause of the increase of crime is the inadequate supply of moral and religious instruction to prisoners.

In the New Hampshire Penitentiary, which has afforded to the State, from one to five thousand dollars income, for the last six years, twenty five dollars only are appropriated annually, to supply the institution with the means of grace.—It is worthy of remark, however, that the warden, of his own accord, causes the scriptures to be read publicly to the men, twice every day ; and on the Sabbath, if no clergyman can be obtained to perform the service of the sanctuary, the warden does it himself. The influence of these measures, which have been adopted voluntarily by the warden, has been powerful in raising the institution to its present elevated character.

In the Vermont Penitentiary, which has nearly defrayed all the expense of its management for five years, one hundred dollars only, are appropriated for religious instruction. The chapel has been converted into a weaver's shop. The service on the Sabbath is irregular, and the scriptures are not daily read to the assembled convicts. This may be one reason why there are so many more recommitments in Vermont, than in New Hampshire, and why there are so many more prisoners, in proportion to the population.

In the Massachusetts Penitentiary, which has given an income to the State, of more than thirteen thousand dollars in the last two years ; two hundred dollars a year only, are appropriated for the religious instruction of more than three hundred convicts. There is only one short service on the Sabbath, and the remainder of this holy day, the men are locked up in their cells and left to their wicked inclinations. There is no reading of the scriptures daily to the men ; nor is such provision made by the State for the chaplain, as to enable him to devote much of his time, during the week, to the appropriate duties of his profession.

In the Connecticut Penitentiary, which has been a continual and heavy burden to the State, from its first establishment, a liberal provision, in proportion to the number of convicts, has been made for their religious instruction; but the chaplain has not resided in or near the Prison, and for various causes not suitable to mention, the moral and religious influence exerted over the prisoners has been very far from what it should have been.

In the State Prison in New York city, the duties of the chaplain have devolved upon the Rev. Mr. STANFORD, a venerable man, more than seventy years of age, who has been relied upon to supply the following institutions, containing the following number of inmates: State Prison, more than six hundred; Penitentiary, more than three hundred; Bridewell, from one to two hundred; Debtors' Jail, number variable; City Hospital, from one to four hundred; Alms House, from one to two thousand. Vast as is the praise and honour of this worthy and venerable man, who preaches regularly, at least ten times a week, how inadequate is the provision of religious instruction for all these humane and criminal institutions. Clergymen from the city sometimes preach at the State Prison.

In the New Jersey Penitentiary, there is no provision whatever by the State, for the moral and religious instruction of the convicts, and not unfrequently month after month has passed, without a religious service on the Sabbath.

In Pennsylvania, no provision is made by the State for the religious instruction of the wretched inmates of their almost incomparably wretched County Prison. The Prison here spoken of, is the old County Prison in Philadelphia, used by the State as a State Prison, for which the new one now building, but not yet finished or occupied, is intended as a substitute. In this old Prison, almost four hundred men were found occupying sixteen rooms, which in the night were an emblem of the pit, and on the Sabbath the men came forth from their rooms into the yard, and were there seen engaged

in various sports, without regard to the sanctity of the day or the presence of the officers. All the religious instruction given to these men is given gratuitously, by benevolent individuals or societies.

In the Baltimore Penitentiary, no provision is made by the State for moral and religious instruction. The friends of the Methodist church have gratuitously, and very regularly supplied most of the instruction which has been communicated.

In the Virginia Penitentiary, no provision is made by the State for religious instruction; the scriptures are not read to the men daily; nor has there been a religious service on the Sabbath, sometimes, for three months together. The chapel has been converted into solitary cells.

It is believed that the exhibition of the condition of the Penitentiaries, in regard to moral and religious instruction, furnishes the second, if not the first great cause of the partial failure of the Penitentiary system.

But the most overwhelming view of this subject is still to be presented. It appears from a careful examination of authentic documents, that the whole number of convicts, who have been condemned to the Penitentiaries, in the last twenty years, is about twenty thousand, and from the best estimate, which we are able to make, about six thousand of them are now abroad in society. If the increase of crime shall be equal for twenty years to come, to the increase of population, the number of convicts condemned to the Penitentiaries, in the twenty succeeding years, will be about forty thousand, of whom, at the close of that time, about ten thousand will be in society. What will be the state of society, when ten thousand men, trained in these seminaries, shall be let loose upon it.

In view of these facts, we should be overwhelmed with the magnitude of the evils in the present system, and should be driven to the conclusion, that the whipping post, and the gallows, must again be resorted to, were we not furnished with another view of the subject, as delightful, as the above

is distressing : by which it appears, with the demonstration of experience, that there is a remedy for the enormous evils of the present system.

REMEDY FOR THE EVILS OF THE PENITENTIARY SYSTEM.

The facts showing what this remedy is, are derived from the Female Department of the Baltimore Penitentiary, the Penitentiary in New Hampshire, and that at Auburn, in the State of New York : but principally from the latter.

In the Female Department of the Baltimore Penitentiary, a work has been done within three years, which if it had been done in Europe, would probably have caused the name of the person, who has done it, to resound through the world. Mrs. RACHEL PERIJO, entered this Prison in February, 1822, and took charge of about sixty female convicts. There had been previously some vile abuses practised among them, and as the directors state, this department was wretchedly managed. The Records show, that the average annual expense before the matron came into office, was \$1099 51, and that the annual average income since, has been \$492 51, making a difference to the institution from her services, of \$1581 66, annually.

There has been, not only a saving of expense, but a saving of health. An examination was made of the Records of the Hospital, for four periods, of twenty seven weeks each ; by which it appears, that the matron has prevented, in three years, more than seventeen years' sickness—i. e. the number of days spent in the hospital by the sick, has been diminished, what is equal to the sickness of one person, more than seventeen years.

The convicts have not only been saved from sickness, and made profitable to the State ; but they have been taught those useful arts, by which they can earn a subsistence when they leave the Prison. The division of labour is complete ; some are engaged in knitting, some in sewing and spinning ; and all arranged, in an apartment, under an assistant, presenting

a specimen of as much subordination, neatness, and cheerful and quiet industry, as can be found in any place of labour.

They have also been taught to read. On the Sabbath, in a Sabbath School, by the matron and her daughter, two hours in the morning, and two in the afternoon, in summer; and one in the morning, and one in the afternoon, in winter, have been devoted to their instruction. Fifteen, who could not read, have been taught to read the scriptures, and all, except two aged persons, to read in the spelling book. In some instances, the desire to learn has been so great, that the convicts would give a part of their daily bread, to their companions for teaching them.

They have also been encouraged in the discharge of religious duties. On the Sabbath, except when engaged in the Sabbath school, or in the public exercises of religious worship, they assemble together, of their own accord, to spend the time, in reading the scriptures, and in prayer among themselves; they regularly implore a blessing, at the table, and in every room, except one, attend prayers morning and evening.

This system of industry, and instruction, and religious duty, has had the effect to render the number of recommitments unusually small. In three years preceding January, 1825, forty seven had left the department of the Penitentiary; of whom only seven had returned. In New York city, in November, 1824, the tread wheel, which has been regarded in Europe, as more effectual than any other mode of punishment in preventing recommitments, had employed on it, out of sixty six women, twenty for a second time; six a third; two a fourth; and one a fifth.

All these surprising and delightful results, in favour of the Female Department of the Baltimore Penitentiary, have been produced without any peculiar advantages in the construction of the Prison, by the goodness, vigilance, and skill of the Matron.

The inference is, that nothing is more important in such an institution, than the character of the person engaged as the immediate superintendent.

Similar results to the above, and for similar reasons, have been gained in the New Hampshire Penitentiary. **MOSES C. PILSBURY, Esq.** took charge of this institution, in May, 1818. The loss to the State, on the business of the institution, in one year preceding the time when **Mr. PILSBURY** took charge of it, was \$4235 61. Since that time, the total gain, from the labour of sixty four convicts, after defraying every expense, has been \$6305 44. During the same time, the Connecticut Prison, with about one hundred convicts, has drawn from the treasury of the State, more than sixty four thousand dollars.

This surprising difference, in favour of the New Hampshire Prison, is to be explained principally by the character of the warden. He is always at his post. He is a man of unceasing vigilance. He does the duties of contractor, keeper, and clerk. He is prompt and efficient in correction; but in his general character, humane; and in sickness, particularly kind. He spares no pains in instruction; either reading himself, or causing the scriptures to be read to the men, twice every day, and devoting much of his time with the convicts on the Sabbath, to the appropriate duties of the sanctuary. In consequence of this system of vigilance and instruction, the pecuniary interests of the institution, are in the highest degree prosperous; the industry and obedience of the convicts cheerful; and their moral character is not greatly debased, if their hearts are not changed. This is evident from the fact that the number of recommitments is very small: only three out of sixty six, or eleven out of two hundred and fifty seven, having been returned for a second offence, and none for a third. It will be recollected, that in several of the Penitentiaries, the recommitments are one fourth, one third, and in some one half the whole number of convicts. This admirable state of things in New Hampshire, which

gains so much by comparison with many similar institutions, has been the result not of any peculiar advantages, in the construction of the Prison ; but of the unremitting and faithful superintendency of a man peculiarly qualified to discharge the duties of his station.

These examples from the New Hampshire Penitentiary and the Female Department of the Baltimore, we regard as full of encouragement ; showing what can be done among convicts, without any peculiar advantages of construction, by wisdom and goodness in management.

At Auburn, we have a more beautiful example still, of what may be done by proper discipline, in a Prison well constructed. It is not possible to describe the pleasure which we feel in contemplating this noble institution, after wading through the fraud, and material and moral filth of many Prisons. We regard it as a model worthy of the world's imitation. We do not mean that there is nothing in this institution which admits of improvement ; for there have been a few cases of unjustifiable severity in punishment ; but on the whole, the institution is immensely elevated above the old Penitentiaries.

The whole establishment from the gate to the sewer, is a specimen of neatness. The unremitting industry, the entire subordination and subdued feeling of the convicts, has probably no parallel among an equal number of criminals. In their solitary cells, they spend the night, with no other book but the Bible ; and at sunrise, they proceed in military order, under the eye of the turnkeys, in solid columns, with the lock march, to their workshops ; thence in the same order, at the hour of breakfast, to the common hall, where they partake of their wholesome and frugal meal in silence. Not even a whisper is heard ; though the silence is such that a whisper might be heard through the whole apartment. The convicts are seated in single file, at narrow tables, with their backs towards the centre, so that there can be no interchange of signs. If one has more food than he wants, he raises his

left hand ; and if another has less, he raises his right hand ; and the waiter changes it. When they have done eating, at the ringing of a little bell, of the softest sound, they rise from the table, form the solid columns, and return under the eye of their turnkeys to the workshops. From one end of the shops to the other, it is the testimony of many witnesses, that they have passed more than three hundred convicts, without seeing one leave his work, or turn his head to gaze at them. There is the most perfect attention to business from morning till night, interrupted only by the time necessary to dine ; and never by the fact that the whole body of prisoners have done their tasks, and the time is now their own, and they can do what they please. At the close of the day, a little before sunset, the work is all laid aside at once, and the convicts return in military order to the solitary cells ; where they partake of the frugal meal, which they were permitted to take from the kitchen, where it was furnished for them, as they returned from the shops. After supper, they can, if they choose, read the scriptures undisturbed, and then reflect in silence on the errors of their lives. They must not disturb their fellow prisoners, by even a whisper. The feelings which the convicts exhibit to their religious teacher, as he passes from one cell to another, are *generally* subdued feelings. Sometimes, however, a man is found who hardens his heart and exhibits his obduracy even here ; but the cases are comparatively few. The want of decorum, of which the commissioners of the State of New York complain, in their visit to the city Prison, where they were met by the bold staring of the prisoners, after they left their work, to gaze at them, and by looks, whether in smiles or in frowns, which indicated an unsubdued and audacious spirit, in the culprits ; this is never seen at Auburn. The men attend to their business from the rising to the setting sun, and spend the night in solitude.

Under these circumstances they are provided with the word of God, by a law of the State, which requires that every cell shall be supplied with a Bible or a Testament. They

also receive the undivided attention of a most wise and faithful religious teacher, who spends all his time in the Prison ; visiting the sick ; teaching those who cannot read ; preaching in the chapel, on the Sabbath, the unsearchable riches of Christ ; and afterwards in going from cell to cell, to administer the reproofs and consolations of religion to individuals. The influence of the chaplain, according to the testimony of all the officers, is most salutary and powerful ; and the various expressions of confidence and affection, exhibited towards him by the convicts, is most cheering to himself.

What then ought this institution to be, that it is not ; and how widely different from that in Connecticut, which the commissioners, in their last Report, say, " is all that it ought not to be, and nothing that it ought to be."

What could with propriety be done for criminals which is not done at Auburn. They are from necessity temperate and frugal in their diet ; they are busily employed in some useful business, from morning till night ; they are kept in perfect subordination, and provided richly with the means of knowledge and of grace, which may make them wise to salvation.

It is hardly necessary to add, that at Auburn, there is an exclusion of all the positive evils of the old system, which arise from crowded night rooms, evil communication, instruction in all the arts of pickpockets, thieves, incendiaries, and counterfeiters ; and above all, from the existence of a crime, which is not fit to be named among Christians.

These great ends are gained, partly by discipline, and partly by construction.

The peculiarities of the discipline, are, that the men, by a military movement, are required to keep the same relative position ; as a general thing, they are placed back to face ; and they are forbidden all conversation with each other.

The peculiarity in construction, is seen in the engraving.

With this plan of building, and the system of discipline and instruction introduced at Auburn, the great evils of the

Penitentiary system are remedied. Here then is exhibited, what Europe and America have been long waiting to see, a Prison, which may be made a model of imitation.

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

It only remains to give a brief history of the Society.

The Society was organized in Boston, June 30, 1825.

The object of the Society has already been mentioned ; to wit, the improvement of public Prisons.

The receipts of this Society, to enable it thus far to prosecute its object, have been twelve hundred and twenty dollars ; the disbursements, eleven hundred and thirty dollars and ten cents. The salary of the Secretary, on condition that he devote all his time to this object, and defray his travelling expenses from his salary, was fixed by the Managers, for the last year, at \$1000.

The principles which have governed the Managers, in the prosecution of this object, have been partially developed, and will be more fully, in the Resolutions about to be offered. It has been considered of fundamental importance, to obtain accurate knowledge from personal observation, of the present condition and character of Prisons. The evils which have been found to exist, as the Prisons one after another have been visited, in thirteen different States, and the District of Columbia, have made the necessity of exertion to remove them obvious. This is the foundation of the Society. The evils are enormous, and it has been necessary in the disclosure, which has often been made of them, to use special precaution, lest persons of improper character should be made acquainted with facts, of which they had better remain ignorant. The plans of mischief are so simple ; the alphabet of villains is so beautiful and curious, that we have greatly feared lest we should furnish injurious suggestions to depraved minds. Many things to which we allude, have not been written in this Report, because it may fall into the hands of those, for whom it was not intended. The plan

adopted, therefore, has been this ; to invite gentlemen of well known character, and incorruptible integrity, to assemble for the purpose of receiving a confidential communication, on the subject of Prison Discipline. Many of our Rulers in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia, have been made acquainted with the facts to which we refer. This mode of operation, it has been thought, would sooner secure the ultimate object, and be attended with less danger, than publishing all, which we have been compelled to learn. Several circular letters, however, have been printed and directed to a few men in authority, and a few friends of the Society. The letter concerning Juvenile Delinquents, it is believed will tell, as long as a boy shall remain in Prison, associated with an old offender. The letter, too, concerning the Jails in the District of Columbia, we believe has never been read without deep indignation. The representations which have been made, in Massachusetts and Connecticut, have not been without effect : and we are happy to know, that there is a cheering prospect of a thorough reform, in the Prison Discipline of each of these States, and also of that in the District of Columbia. The amount of appropriations already made, within a few months, for this object, in the places specified, is \$72,000. The work, therefore, is begun, and we hope not to rest from our labours, till we see a more wise and effectual system of Prison Discipline, in the United States, than can be found in any other country : till Christianity has done what its authority requires it to do for prisoners ; not to screen them from merited punishment ; but to protect society from their depredations ; to save them, if possible, from further contamination ; and more than this, to preach to them, "CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED."

TREASURER'S REPORT for the Year ending June 2, 1826.

Dr. Cr.
ASA WARD, in account with the PRISON DISCIPLINE SOCIETY.

To amount received from four gentlemen, to constitute them Directors for life, \$100 each, - - - - -	400	00	
“ received from three gentlemen, their annual subscription of \$10 each, - - - - -	30	00	
“ received sixteen life subscriptions, of \$30 each - - - - -	480	00	
“ received one subscription of \$50, - - - - -	50	00	
“ received in donations of \$10 and \$20, - - - - -	150	00	
“ received in small donations and subscriptions, - - - - -	100	00	
“ received interest, - - - - -	9	98	
	\$1229	98	
By cash paid for Secretary and Treasurer's books, circular letters, copper plate engraving, &c. - - - - -			
“ Rev. Mr. Curtis, for services rendered at Auburn, - - - - -		52	61
“ Rev. Dr. Jenks, Rev. Mr. Fay, and Rev. Mr. Jackson, for services at Charlestown, - - - - -		108	33
“ for services rendered in the State Prison at Lamberton, N. J. - - - - -		37	50
“ the Secretary, his salary and travelling expenses for eleven months, ending June 1, 1826, - - - - -		15	00
By balance on hand, - - - - -		916	66
		99	88
	1229	98	98

1825. June 2. To balance, - - - - - \$99 88

ASA WARD, TREASURER.

We have examined the above account, and find it correct and properly vouched.

WILLIAM G. LAMBERT.
GERARD HALLOCK.

BOSTON, JUNE 2, 1826.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Prison Discipline Society.

ART. 1. This Society shall be called the PRISON DISCIPLINE SOCIETY.

ART. 2. It shall be the *object* of this Society to promote the improvement of Public Prisons.

ART. 3. It shall be the *duty* of this Society to take measures for effecting the formation of one or more Prison Discipline Societies, in each of the United States, and to co-operate with all such Societies in accomplishing the object specified in the second Article of this Constitution.

ART. 4. Any Society having the same object in view, which shall become Auxiliary to this, and shall contribute to its funds, shall thereby secure for the Prisons in the State, where such Society is located, special attention from this Society.

ART. 5. Each subscriber of two dollars, annually, shall be a Member.

ART. 6. Each subscriber of thirty dollars, at one time, shall be a Member for Life.

ART. 7. Each subscriber of ten dollars, annually, shall be a Director.

ART. 8. Each subscriber of one hundred dollars, or who shall by one additional payment increase his original subscription to one hundred dollars, shall be a Director for Life.

ART. 9. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, as many Vice Presidents as shall be deemed expedient, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, to be chosen annually, and a Board of Managers, whose duty it shall be to conduct the business of the Society. This Board shall consist of six clergymen and six laymen, of whom nine shall reside in the city of Boston, and five shall constitute a quorum. One fourth part of the whole

number, in the order of appointment, shall go out of office, at the expiration of each year, but shall be re-eligible.

Every Minister of the Gospel, who is a member of this Society, shall be entitled to meet and deliberate with the Board of Managers.

The Managers shall call special meetings of the Society, and fill such vacancies as may occur, by death or otherwise, in their own Board.

ART. 10. The President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary shall be, ex officio, members of the Board of Managers.

ART. 11. Directors shall be entitled to meet and vote, at all meetings of the Board of Managers.

ART. 12. The annual meetings of this Society shall be held in Boston, on the Friday succeeding the General Election, when besides choosing the officers as specified in the ninth Article, the accounts of the Treasurer shall be presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

ART. 13. The Managers shall meet, once in two months, or oftener if necessary, at such place, in the city of Boston, as they shall appoint.

ART. 14. At the meetings of the Society, and of the Managers, the President, or in his absence the Vice President first on the list then present, and in the absence of the President and of all the Vice Presidents, such member as shall be appointed for that purpose, shall preside.

ART. 15. The Secretary, in concurrence with two of the Managers, or in the absence of the Secretary, any three of the Managers, may call special meetings of the Board.

ART. 16. The minutes of every meeting shall be signed by the Chairman.

ART. 17. The Managers shall have the power of appointing such persons as have rendered essential services to the Society either Members for Life or Directors for Life.

ART. 18. No alteration shall be made in this Constitution except by the Society, at an annual meeting, on the recommendation of the Board of Managers.

OFFICERS.

HON. GEORGE BLISS, PRESIDENT.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

HON. WILLIAM PHILLIPS,
HON. WILLIAM BARTLETT,
HON. WILLIAM REED,
REV. LEONARD WOODS,
REV. WILLIAM JENKS,
REV. ELIJAH HEADING,
REV. EBENEZER PORTER,
REV. B. B. WISNER,
JEREMIAH EVARTS, Esq.
S. V. S. WILDER, Esq.
JOHN TAPPAN, Esq.
SAMUEL H. WALLEY, Esq.
REV. EDWARD D. GRIFFIN,
REV. HEMAN HUMPHREY,
REV. WARREN FAY.

MANAGERS.

REV. SAMUEL GREEN,
REV. FRANCIS WAYLAND,
REV. JUSTIN EDWARDS,
REV. R. S. STORRS,
REV. RUFUS ANDERSON,
HENRY HOMES,
WILLIAM ROPES,
HENRY HILL,
JAMES MEANS,
SAMUEL FARRAR,
DANIEL NOYES,
THOMAS VOSE.

ASA WARD, TREASURER.

LOUIS DWIGHT, SECRETARY.

LIFE DIRECTORS.

William Phillips,	§100	Nathaniel Willis,	§100
Richard Chamberlain,	100	Edward Tuckerman,	100

LIFE MEMBERS.

<i>Peterboro', N. Y.</i>		<i>Boston.</i>	
Gerrit Smith,	§30	John Randall,	§30
Samuel Stocking,	30	Francis C. Gray,	50
Abm. Varrick,	30	William Ropes,	30
John Tappan,	30	Ann M'Lean,	30
Henry Hones,	30	William B. White,	30
George J. Homer,	30	John C. Gray,	30
Henry Hill,	30	Thomas L. Winthrop,	30
John C. Warren,	30	Catharine Codman,	30
		Israel Munson,	30
		Thomas Vose,	30

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

<i>Boston.</i>		<i>Boston.</i>	
Josiah Bumstead,	§10	Asa Ward,	§2
Gerard Hallock,	10	T. R. Marvin,	2
Josiah F. Bumstead,	10	George Bliss, Esq.,	2
Charles Cleveland,	2		

DONATIONS.

<i>Boston.</i>		<i>Utica.</i>	
Richard Cobb,	§20	A Friend,	§5
Harvey Ely,	10	James Richards,	5
William Atkinson,	10	William Williams,	5
Frederic F. Backus,	10	J. W. Doolittle,	3
Levi Ward, Jun.	10	A Friend,	3
John Coyle, Jun.	10	A. Seymour,	3
Horace Hills,	10	A. B. Johnson,	2
Daniel Webster,	10	A Friend,	2
A Friend,	10	Jno. Bradish,	3
A Friend,	10	Ira Merrill,	2
Joseph Jenkins,	10	Thomas Hastings,	2
Josiah Salisbury,	20	Abijah Thomas,	2
Mrs. Daniel D. Rogers,	20	Bildad Merrill,	2
Henry Gray,	10	Charles Morris,	3
Daniel Safford,	10		
Jacob Gould,	5	<i>Rochester.</i>	
Ira West,	5	Benjamin Campbell,	3
Thomas Kempshall,	5	A Friend,	3
N. Rochester,	5	Ashley Sampson,	3
Silas Smith,	5	A Friend, §1	4
Everard Peck,	5	A Friend, §1	4
		<i>Boston.</i>	
		Ebenezer T. Andrews,	5
		Benjamin Seaver,	5
		Samuel Train,	5

APPENDIX.



SUBJECTS OF INQUIRY CONCERNING PRISONS.

1. *Situation.* Is it near a town, river, or other buildings? What is the height, length, &c. of the wall? What is the expense, design, number, of the Prison Buildings; and when were they erected?

2. *Interior of the Yard.* Is it dry, paved, watered and drained? Are the walls whitewashed? Privies and drains cleansed?

3. *Day Rooms.* What is the size, number, mode of airing, lighting, warming, cleansing, furnishing, fastening?

4. *Night Cells.* What is the size, number, mode of airing, lighting, warming, cleansing, furnishing, fastening?

5. *Hospital.* What is the salary and duty of the Physician, and how is he supplied with medicine? What is the character and compensation of the nurse? What is the number of deaths; and of what diseases?

6. *Officers.* Inspectors—their number, duty, mode of appointment, and compensation? Keeper—his name, residence, former occupation, character, duties, compensation, time of holding his office? Turnkeys—their number, duty, salary?

7. *Prisoners.* Their number, age, colour, sex, nativity, crime, sentence, frequency of conviction?

8. *Admission of Prisoners.* As to cleanliness, clothing, fees and garnish?

9. *Admission of Prisoners' friends.* Who are admitted, at what hours, and under what circumstances?

10. *Admission of Visitors.* On what condition and by whom attended?

11. *Moral Treatment.* Classification, instruction, and employment.

12. *Punishments.* By solitary confinement, chains, stripes, or all of them ?

13. *Religious Instruction.* Of the chapel—its size and regulations ? Of the chaplain—his character, residence, duties, and compensation ? Of the bible—number, mode of distribution ; effects, whether good or bad ; perused or neglected ; preserved or destroyed ?

14. *Exercise.* When, where, and under what circumstances ?

15. *Food.* Its quantity, quality, mode and time of distribution ?

16. *Clothing.* How much, by whom supplied, how often changed and cleansed ?

17. *Cleanliness.* Is it daily, are soap and towels furnished ? Can the prison dress be washed ? How often do they shave and cut their hair ? Is there a bath, and how often is it used ?

18. *Discharge of the Prisoners.* At what time in the day ? With what means of providing for themselves ? With clothing or money ?

19. *Vices of Prisoners.* What are they ? Any drunkenness, gambling, profane swearing, fighting, combinations against society, insurrections, false keys, weapons of death ? Any rum, cards, instruments of mischief, newspapers, plates to make counterfeit bills, or dies and presses to alter them ? Any counterfeit coin and moulds ? Any good or bad money ? Any cases of punishment for unnatural crime ? How are these things done without discovery ? How are prohibited articles obtained ? Where are they concealed ? What is the effect of the system on the character ?

NUMBER OF CONVICTS EACH YEAR, TO SEVERAL PENI-
TENTIARIES.

YEARS.	New Hampshire.	Vermont.	Massachusetts.	New York.	Pennsylvania.	Virginia.
1794					92	
1795					116	
1796					145	
1797				121	114	
1798				144	122	
1799				121	145	
1800				150	106	21
1801				157	151	33
1802				191	106	44
1803				155	121	55
1804				146	140	41
1805			34	190	124	50
1806			42	199	182	40
1807			50	190	149	54
1808			84	176	194	37
1809		38	94	174	206	40
1810		21	86	171	236	25
1811		31	72	171	304	34
1812	11	23	74	196	239	49
1813	13	18	110	198	252	52
1814	14	19	*66	213	222	34
1815	32	40	96	295	378	44
1816	29	54	130	436	433	68
1817	26	32	159	307	287	71
1818	17	30	165	232	301	49
1819	18	47	95	184	353	68
1820	23	47	71	231	245	92
1821	16	30	84	202	303	73
1822	26	29	91	175	272	
1823	19	29	107	164	266	
1824	14	36	86		287	

* From January 1, to September 30.

CRIMES OF PRISONERS IN DIFFERENT PENITENTIARIES.

CRIMES.	N. Hampshire, Sep- tember, 1825.	Vermont, Septem- ber, 1825.	Massachusetts, Sep- tember, 1824.	New Jer. Nov 1824.	New York, Auburn, Dec. 1824.	Pennsylvania, 1824.	Maryland, 1824.	Virginia, Sept. 1821.
Store Breaking and Theft	192	203	222	18	169	216	60	66
Counterfeit Money	24	51	26	3	43	15		2
Burglary	3	21	16	10	14	16	2	16
Assault for Rape		5	7	1	10	1		
Assault to Murder		4	6	2	4	4		
Arson	3	4	5	5	9	3		
Forgery	8	14	11		38	2	2	7
Robbery			3			3		5
Robbing Bank			1					
Adultery		4				1		
Polygamy		3		1	2	1		2
Rape		3			5			7
Aiding Villains		2		1		3	2	
Manslaughter		3		1	8	2		5
Breaking Jail		4			14			
High Way Robbery		1						
Murder		1		2	4		2	
Fornication with a Child		1						
Perjury	1				10	1		
Assault	10			10				
Horse Stealing				3		4	2	47
Misdemeanour				10				
Open Lewdness				1				
Concealing the Death of a Child				1				
Keeping Bad House				1		2		
Conspiracy						2		
Murder second Degree						1		10
Assault to Rob						2		
Assisting Prisoners to Escape						1		
Concealing Death of Bastards						2		
Passing Forged Note						1	1	
Felony					1		31	8
Counterfeit Coin						4	1	
Stealing Negroes								3
Petit Larceny, second offence					13			
Swindling					2			
Stabbing								6

N. B. The first number, in the column under the head Vermont, includes those condemned for stealing horses; the first number, under the head New York, includes only those condemned for Grand Larceny; the five first and last columns show the whole number in Prison, the other columns only those condemned during the year.

NATIVITY OF PRISONERS IN DIFFERENT PENITENTIARIES.

PLACES.	Vermont, whole No.	New Hampshire, whole No	Massachusetts, Sept. 1824.	Conn. Feb. 1825.	New York, Auburn, Dec 1824.	New Jer. Nov. 1824	Mary d. Nov. 1824.	Virginia, September, 1821.
Maine,					4			
New Hampshire,	105	151			8			
Vermont,	96	10			15			1
Massachusetts,	78	41			29		1	2
Rhode Island,		4			9		1	
Connecticut,	53			55	39			5
New York,	55				137		4	3
New Jersey,					11		2	2
Pennsylvania,					13		8	12
Delaware,							1	1
Maryland,					3		74	4
District Columbia,								2
Virginia,					3		3	135
North Carolina,					1			5
South Carolina,					1			
Georgia,							1	
Tennessee,								2
Kentucky,					2			
States not specified,	26	14	239			67		
Other States or Countries,				62				
West Indies,			3					2
England,			13		17	1	2	10
Ireland,			17		38	4	5	11
Scotland,			8		2			1
Holland,								1
Germany,			1		6			1
France,			4		4		1	
Sweden,			2					
Portugal,			1					
Italy,			2					1
Russia,					1			
Nova Scotia,			4		1			
Canada,			2		2			
Canada and Foreign Countries,	76	16						
Cape of Good Hope,			1					
Cape de Verds,			1					

ANNUAL EXPENSE OF SEVERAL PENITENTIARIES.

YEARS.	N. Hampshire.	Massachusetts.	Connecticut.	New York.
1791			\$4,082 27	
1792			1,551 82	
1793			1,742 94	
1794			1,820 00	
1795			2,857 34	
1796			1,553 34	
1797			2,733 34	\$3,316 25
1798			3,748 59	6,500 00
1799			4,263 07	18,222 30
1800			2,957 96	8,000 00
1801			4,327 00	12,000 00
1802			1,310 50	3,646 00
1803			6,070 81	21,953 18
1804			4,372 00	12,000 00
1805			6,056 75	16,925 00
1806			8,634 50	135 54
1807			3,636 63	23,100 00
1808			5,530 00	15,000 00
1809			5,888 84	30,000 00
1810			7,929 57	20,000 00
1811			4,986 85	10,000 00
1812			6,155 99	30,000 00
1813			6,157 55	14,500 00
1814			4,791 52	15,000 00
1815		\$10,094 11†	7,244 70	20,000 00
1816		13,085 81†	9,673 55	20,000 00
1817		11,853 28	12,679 51	30,000 00
1818		8,479 98†	12,494 27	35,000 00
1819	\$4235 61	5,372 72	11,403 73	30,689 70
1820	454 55*	6,758 31	9,704 11	15,000 00
1821	567 11*	5,706 31	6,000 00	12,000 00
1822	1192 50*	11,271 61	5,263 65	10,000 00
1823	1263 82*	5,706 31	5,500 00	5,000 00
1824	2799 61*	1,212 78‡	8,002 80	
1825	6340 57*	10,051 37‡	7,284 90	
1826			6,301 08	

* Gain to the State, the Warden's Salary not included.

† Salary of the Directors not included.

‡ Gain to the State.

A TABLE

Showing how many Prisoners were discharged, pardoned, committed for second and third offences, how many died, &c.

YEARS.	MASSACHUSETTS.				NEW YORK.					
	Whole No.	Deaths.	Discharged.	Pardoned.	Whole No.	Deaths.	Pardoned.	Committed for 2d offence.	Third or more offences.	Discharged at expiration of sentence.
1797					116	4	3			
1798					212	8	9			28
1799					225	9	20			71
1800					283	6	32			46
1801					245	4	21	23		65
1802					404	12	25	44	2	94
1803					397	26	27	23	2	109
1804					419	12	25	20	1	87
1805					436	26	49	19	5	98
1806					461	37	48	18	3	89
1807					330	26	107	27	4	88
1808					424	24	62	20	4	96
1809					478	23	61	16	3	36
1810					461	21	130	18		37
1811					447	32	135	15		18
1812					486	32	113	14	3	10
1813					496	32	134	18	2	22
1814					494	29	176	17	4	10
1815	244	3	62	16	559	29	182	20	3	17
1816	273	3	61	30	666	30	293	38	9	5
1817	320	9	72	27	669	19	280	32	1	4
1818	363	8	95	17	618	38	230	25	2	15
1819	340	6	89	27	604	28	147	18	2	23
1820	308	6	72	25	580	24	189	19	1	41
1821			69	14	553	21	197	22	1	11
1822	279	10	69	14	580	35	98	18	1	14
1823	308	6	66	6	608	34	38	10	8	34
1824	208	6	80	10						

In Massachusetts, the whole number of prisoners committed from 1805, to Sept. 30, 1824, is 1816. Whole number discharged, 1103. Whole number pardoned, 298. Whole number escaped, 15. Whole number who died, 102. Whole number committed for second offence, 213; of whom, 24 had been pardoned.

In New York, the whole number committed from 1797 to 1823, is 6289. Whole number discharged, 1168. Whole number pardoned, 2631. Whole number who died, 621. Whole number who escaped, 30.

In Vermont, the whole number committed is 534. The number of graves in the yard, only 13. The number of deaths in the last seven years, only 6. The number committed for second and third offences, 19.

In New Hampshire, the whole number committed is 257, from Nov. 1812, to Sept. 1825. Number pardoned, 21. Number committed for second offence, 11; none for a third.

In Connecticut, the whole number committed from 1790 to 1824, is 654. Of 117 in Prison Feb. 1825, twenty-six were committed for second, third, and fourth offences.

VARIETY OF CURIOUS EMPLOYMENTS.

	New Hampshire, 1825.	Massachusetts, 1824.	Connecticut, 1826.	New York, at Ar- burn, 1825.	New Jersey, 1824.	Virginia, 1821.
Stone Shop,	50	121			6	
Smiths,	7	30	9	14	12	22
Coopers,	2	6	10	86		20
Shoemakers and Coblers,	1	9	24	60	10	41
Weavers,	1	8		110	2	14
Tailors,	1	10		36	4	13
Painters,	1					1
Lumpers,	6	27				
Gunsmiths,				4		
Saddlers,				3		
Making Joiners' Tools,				10		
Carpenters,			7	10		13
Whitesmiths,			2		2	11
Nailmakers,			16			
Carver,			1			
Spinners,					2	
Basket Makers,					2	
Cooks,		8			3	3
Other Employments,					18	15
Hospital,	3	11	5		5	
Washers and Waiters,		8				2
Barbers,		2				
Whipmakers,		3				
Brass Founders,		9				
Oakum Pickers, infirm and aged,		27				
Tinner,						1
Harnessmakers,						5
Brushmakers,		11				3
Filer,						1
Rope and Thread Spinners,						14
In the Cells,				4	13	9

In Vermont, the men are mostly employed in weaving.

In Pennsylvania, at a great variety of trades.

In Maryland, mostly in weaving, though there are a few hatters, combmakers, stone cutters, shoemakers, &c. &c.

There have been a considerable number of trades at different times, not specified above.

A TABLE

Showing the proportion of males and females, colour and age of convicts, in the Penitentiaries, with the number and salary of the officers.

	N. HAMP.		VER.		MASS.		CONN.		N. YORK.		N. JER.		
	Whole No.	Sept. 1825.	Whole No.	Sept. 1825.	Whole No.	Sept. 1824.	Whole No.	Feb. 1825.	Auburn.	August, 1825.	Whole No.	Nov. 1824.	
Males,	253	66	534			295		117			204	72	
Females,	4		6			3					4	2	
Coloured,	6	1	24			54					46	24	
From other Prisons,		*17						20				110	
Under 21 years,	47		75					39					
Under 25 years,								28					
OFFICERS AND THEIR SALARIES.	No.	Sal.	No.	Sal.	No.	Sal.	No.	Sal.	No.	Sal.	No.	Sal.	
Keeper,					1	500		550	1	1000	1	900	
Deputy Keepers,	1	200						1	152	1	450	3	475
Clerk,					1	950			1	450	1	625	
Turnkeys,					3	350			16	350			
Guard,			9	130					5	216	1	400	
Gate Keeper,									1	216	1	250	
Warden,	1	800	1	400		1500							
Physician,		50		100		250					1	75	
Chaplain,		25		104		250							
Night Watch,						644							
Directors,					3	300					3	150	
Superintendent,			1	850									
Overseers,	2	240			18	250	4	300					
Female Servants					3	79							
Corporals,								2	136				
Privates,								10	120				

In Massachusetts, the keeper, turnkeys and overseers, are allowed, besides their salary, rations, amounting to \$2340 annually.

In Connecticut, \$1 25 per month is allowed to the assistant keepers for rations.

In Maryland, the officers are, one keeper, sixteen deputy keepers and guard, and one book keeper, whose salary collectively, amounts to \$8900 annually.

* Of whom 13 have been in Massachusetts Prison. - † All from New York.

FOOD OF PRISONERS.

In New Hampshire—14 ounces of beef salted, 1 1-4 lbs. of rye and Indian bread, and a sufficient quantity of potatoes, and porridge made of beans or peas, for supper. This is the daily food without variation. It is simple and cheap, and has proved very healthy.

In Vermont there is no ration. The prisoners are allowed to eat as much wholesome food as they want.

In Massachusetts, the breakfast and supper is three gills of Indian meal made into mush; or half a pound of coarse bread, and half a gill of molasses or two gills of milk. Dinner, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sabbath, 14 oz. of coarse meat made into soup, half a pint of potatoes and half a pound of coarse bread. Dinner on Wednesday, half a pound of coarse bread, half a pint of peas or beans, and half a pound of salted pork. Dinner on Monday and Friday, half a pound of salted fish, with one ounce of butter or lard, and half a pound of coarse bread and a pint of potatoes. The drink of the prisoners is water and small beer. The Warden is allowed to vary the breakfast and supper on the Sabbath.

In Connecticut, the ration is 3-4 lb. of pork or 1 lb. of beef, 1 lb. of bread, 2 1-2 lbs. of potatoes or three gills of peas or beans, and 1 pint of cider.

In New York city, the ration is 1 lb. of coarse fresh beef five times a week, 1 lb. of rye flour per day, of the best quality, 1-2 lb. of mess pork once a week, 1-2 lb. of salted fish once a week, and 3 pecks of potatoes to 100 rations. Besides these, there are several other small articles.

At Auburn, the ration is 8 oz. of pork or 12 oz. of salt beef, 10 oz. of rye flour, 6 oz. of Indian meal, 1-2 a gill of molasses, and for every 100 rations 2 quarts of peas, 1-2 lb. of pepper, 2 1-2 bushels of potatoes, 1 quart of vinegar, 4 quarts of salt; pork and salt beef furnished alternately each three days, and fresh beef once a week.

In New Jersey—1 lb. of bread, 1 gill of molasses, 1-2 lb. of beef, per day. This is cooked in common, with 1-2 bushel of potatoes and a sufficient quantity of cabbage to make a good soup. The prisoners have also on the Sabbath, a herring for dinner; and every evening a bowl of mush.

EXTRACT FROM GOV. LINCOLN'S MESSAGE, JAN. 1826.

The interesting subject of State Prison concerns, demands your earnest attention. The annual report of the Directors shows, the economical and successful management of the pecuniary and business affairs of the institution. The receipts from the labour of the convicts have yielded the unlooked for result of *ten thousand and fifty-one dollars, and thirty-two cents*, beyond all the expenses which are a charge upon the establishment for the year ending on the 30th of September last. To this may be added the sum of *three thousand seven hundred and forty-seven dollars and eighty-seven cents*, the balance from the accounts of the preceding year for the earnings of the convicts over and above the expenses of that year, making an aggregate of *thirteen thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine dollars and nineteen cents*, of credit, by the Prison to the Commonwealth, at the commencement of the last quarter. But there is a melancholy reverse to the picture. There is much reason to believe, that, as a Penitentiary, the system is utterly ineffectual to purposes of reform or amendment. Indeed, in nothing else than as a place of personal labour and restraint, is it a place of terror or punishment. The report of the Directors distinctly points to the construction of the Prison, and the want of apartments for the separate confinement of the convicts, as a continued source of infinite moral evil. So few are the number of cells, that in many of them from four to sixteen convicts are locked together by night. In, emphatically, these committee rooms of mischief, the vilest schemes of profligacy are devised, and the grossest acts of depravity are perpetrated. Confederacies and combinations are here formed, by the practised veteran with the novice in crime, and to complete the infamy of the association, a horrible offence is here committed between wretches, who are alike destitute of moral sentiment, and without the reach of physical restraint. Nature and humanity cry aloud for redemption from this dreadful degradation. Better, even, that the laws were written in blood, than that they should be executed in sin!

Subsequent to the autumnal visitation and inspection of the Prison by the Executive, much public feeling was excited by rumours of unusual defects in the character of its interior discipline, and in the conduct of its inmates, and some of the subordinate officers. An official inquiry on the subject was immediately addressed to the Directors. Their full, frank and explicit answer will show the result of a strict scrutiny into the suggestions which were made, and will further enforce the necessity of the only effectual remedy for the abuses which were found to exist, by a separation of the convicts except while at labor, and by prohibiting and preventing them, at all times, from

private communications with each other, the Under-keepers, Overseers, or strangers. This latter regulation is indeed within the present authority of the government of the Prison, but it would be utterly idle to attempt to enforce it, to any salutary end, while the opportunities for intercourse exist, which the state of the cells will now freely allow.

In view to the inevitable conclusion of your own minds, upon the papers which will be submitted to you, that something is imperiously required to be done, I recommend, that immediate provision be made for the erection, as soon as may be, in the Prison yard, of a building, with sufficient cells for the separate confinement of the present and any future probable number of convicts.—As the best model of a structure of this description, securing the most entire solitude of person, with an effectual arrangement for detecting the slightest attempt at correspondence, by conversation; the Prison at Auburn, in the State of New York, is particularly to be preferred. A rough, but sufficiently accurate plan of this edifice, with such explanations as will render its construction perfectly intelligible, furnished by a philanthropic gentleman, who has taken deep interest in the subject, will be found with the papers which are transmitted. The whole expense of the proposed building, constructed, as it should be, of unhammered stone, may be estimated not to exceed thirty-five thousand dollars. To meet this, the present balance due from the Prison to the Commonwealth, of almost fourteen thousand dollars, may be made applicable, to which may be added the specific labor of a portion of the convicts upon the building, the next season, or their earnings, if otherwise employed, which, with less of success than the last year, may yet be relied upon, for making up the sum to *twenty thousand dollars*:—and for the residue, a grant must be had from the Treasury, which the future earnings of the Prison may be held pledged to replace. This grant, however, will be expedient, in the first instance, from the consideration that the Prison balance results altogether, or in a great part, from stock on hand, which may not be converted into money in sufficient time for the disbursements, which will be required by economy in the work.

No apology can be necessary for the particularity with which I have called your attention to a subject, which is of such high concern to religion and morals, to the character of the Commonwealth, and the duties of its law-givers.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
LEGISLATURE, FEBRUARY, 1826.

The Committee, to whom was referred the Statement of the Warden of the State Prison, made in pursuance of an order of

the House of Representatives, passed June 18, 1825, having attended the duties assigned them, ask leave respectfully, to Report :

That they have carefully examined the Statement made by the Warden, of the expenditures of the Institution, for pay and salaries of officers, per centage, &c. and the whole amount for the ten years last past, is \$91,715 75, together with \$14,689 47 ; a per centage paid to one of the officers in the stone department.

In the several expenditures of the Prison, your Committee see little that is inconsistent with the most rigid economy, except in the amount received by one of the officers, Overseer in the stone department. This officer receives a salary from the government of \$354 per annum. In addition to which, he received, the last year, the sum of \$3002 25, as commission upon the sale of wrought stone, besides an additional income derived from contracts made on his own account, out of the Prison.—Your Committee have received the most satisfactory evidence, that the skill, industry, and activity of the Overseer referred to, has greatly contributed to the income of the Prison during the past year, and that his knowledge of the business, makes it desirable to retain him in that department. Yet they cannot believe it necessary or expedient, to allow to an under officer of the State Prison, a yearly income greater than any other officer in the Commonwealth. They are of opinion that the salary of this officer, should not only be diminished, but fixed to a sum certain. While the salary of this officer is made certain and limited, your Committee think it advisable, that his *duties* should be so regulated and defined, that in the discharge of them, he should not interfere with those which are appropriately delegated to the Warden. It has appeared to your Committee, that the officer referred to, has considered it within the scope of his authority to *make contracts* for manufactured stone. This duty it is believed, is delegated to the Warden. And there is manifestly a propriety in confining the power to contract, to the Warden ; inasmuch, as he is the only officer in the Prison, of whom the government has required bonds, for the faithful administration of the duties of his office, and from whom it exacts a strict account of all the pecuniary concerns of the Institution. It would seem, therefore, to be unjust to permit one officer, to exercise an authority, which might involve the Prison in a heavy and unnecessary expense, and hold another officer responsible for that very act, which he could neither control nor prohibit.

Your committee are of opinion, that the Laws which already exist, (if properly understood,) would sufficiently explain the relative duties of each of the officers in the Prison.

By the law of June 25, 1811, the Directors are empowered to make, ordain and establish rules, &c. for the purchase of materials, &c. and for the sale of articles manufactured at the Prison. By the statute of June 16, 1813, it is made the duty of the Warden, with the consent of the Directors, to make all contracts for the supply of articles of food or manufacture. And there is no statute which authorises the Directors to empower any person to make contracts in relation to the Prison. It is the Warden's duty to make contracts, if those contracts be approved by the Directors. If your Committee are correct in their conclusions, it would follow, that the officer who is at the head of the stone department, has not authority, and cannot derive from the Directors any authority to make contracts, or in any way to interfere with that part of the Warden's duty.

In the examination to which your Committee have attended, it has appeared to them, that the salary which several of the under officers now receive, is inadequate to their support, and is not a sufficient compensation for their arduous duties.

Your Committee would therefore recommend, that the salary of the principal Keeper be raised one hundred dollars, and the salary of the Turnkeys, and Overseers, fifty dollars each, in addition to their present pay. It will be perceived, that by reducing the present receipts of the Overseer of the stone department, to something like a reasonable compensation, enough, and more than enough, can be obtained from this reduction of his salary to meet the increase of salaries thus proposed. Although it was not strictly the duty of your committee to extend their inquiries, to the management, discipline and conduct of the convicts, yet the facts which developed themselves in the course of their investigation, were of that character, that the Committee feel themselves bound to submit to the House the result of the evidence in this particular.

It appeared that from six to sixteen of the convicts were lodged in one room, that they are permitted occasionally the use of musical instruments, with lights in their rooms. That their rooms or cells are so constructed, that the Keepers cannot inspect them at night, without giving to the prisoners such notice of their approach, that they have ample opportunity, to conceal from them their employment, of whatever nature it may then be. That cards have been conveyed to the prisoners—and a number of packs, have, at different times, been found concealed in their cells. That ardent spirits have been conveyed over the walls to the prisoners, and though it is oftentimes discovered and seized by the officers, yet there is no doubt but some reaches the convicts. That the prisoners have, almost all of them, more or less money in the hands of the commissary, earned by their oversten; which money is subject to their di-

rection; and is frequently expended by them in obtaining solicitors to procure pardons, &c. &c.

In view of these facts, the Committee, could not for a moment doubt, that so far from subserving the purposes of a Penitentiary, and reforming the character of the convict, many facilities are afforded to complete the moral degradation of the unhappy wretches, who are thus compelled to hold communion with the most degrading vices.

Here they catch and communicate the elements of every crime; to be matured at the expiration of their sentence, by practical operations upon the theories, with which they have become familiar during their confinement.

The man whose principles have been formed upon the benign precepts of our religion, shrinks back from an habitual intercourse with vice and shameless effrontery, but when the pride of character has been broken down, and the hope of regaining the confidence of society is lost, the wretched being finds no society so consoling, as that which contemns all restraint, and is deeply ingrained with the lessons of depravity. He would seek such society as a comfort; therefore to be condemned to it is no punishment.

If the convict who is sentenced to the State Prison, have any spark of virtue left when he enters its walls, he will soon learn to forget the distinction between virtue and vice, and assimilate himself to his companions.

If he be the hardened profligate, he goes to his own place. What purposes then of a Penitentiary, are answered by this institution? Your Committee feel assured, that the people of this Commonwealth, believe that criminals are sent to the State Prison, as a punishment for their crimes, and with a hope that this punishment will work a reformation; and that it never was intended that sources of amusement should be suffered to be at their command. And while such a state of things is permitted to exist, the original intentions of those who established, and have supported this institution, are completely frustrated.

Your Committee, while they are satisfied that the discipline of the Prison is radically defective, do not believe that the blame is to be attributed to the officers intrusted with its management.—The defect arises from the system pursued:—and to produce a reformation, it must be renovated.

To this end your Committee recommend that measures be taken, to reorganize the discipline of the State Prison, upon principles that shall better comport with the end proposed in its establishment.

All which is respectfully submitted by order of Committee.

THOMAS J. GOODWIN, *Chairman.*

EXTRACTS FROM THE STATE LAW.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six.

An Act for the erecting of another building within the limits of the State Prison in Charlestown and for the better government thereof.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That there shall be erected within the limits of the State Prison yard in Charlestown, in the County of Middlesex, a building of unhammered stone adapted to the separate confinement of three hundred convicts upon such plan as shall be first approved by his Excellency the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Council, and that it shall be the duty of the Warden of said State Prison to prepare the plan, make the necessary contracts, and personally superintend the erection and completing of the same.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That in addition to the money now in the hands of the Warden of said Prison or which may accrue from the labor of the convicts beyond the amount necessary for defraying the current expenses of said Prison, there be and hereby is appropriated for erecting said building the sum of five thousand dollars, and that his Excellency the Governor by and with the advice of Council be and he hereby is authorized and requested to draw his warrant on the Treasury of this Commonwealth for the same, in such sums and at such times as the same may be required.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That if any officer, contractor, teamster, boatman, truckman or wagoner employed in or about the said State Prison, or any other person, shall deliver or cause to be delivered, or have in his or her possession with intent to deliver to any person under sentence of confinement in said Prison, or shall deposite or conceal in any of the yards or wharves of said Prison, or in any cart, team, sled, boat or other vehicle going into the premises of said Prison, any article of any kind with intent and design that any convict therein should obtain the same without the knowledge and consent of one of the directors or the Warden of said Prison, every person so offending, shall be liable to indictment before any Court, competent to try the same, and on conviction thereof shall be sentenced to confinement to hard labor in said Prison, or to confinement in the County Goal, for a term not exceeding two years, or be fined a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, at the discretion of the Court before whom such conviction shall be had.

EXTRACT FROM GOVERNOR WOLCOTT'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF CONNECTICUT, MAY 1826.

"A reorganization of New Gate Prison will doubtless occupy your attention. As this subject is already under the considera-

tion of a Committee, I take the liberty to refer for many interesting details, to an intelligent Report, which was made to the last General Assembly. By still more recent communications, it is rendered apparent that there are but few subjects upon which your deliberate reflections can be bestowed, with higher advantages to the best interests of the people than to a proper arrangement and system of discipline in this Prison.

“The foreign commerce of the U. States has become so extended, that the habits and manners of great numbers in our populous cities, will be impressed not only by the example of every thing wise, virtuous and intelligent in other countries, but they are also exposed to become contaminated with every vice and degradation, which is known or practised in any nation on the globe. The State of New York being the first to receive these elements, has been the first to perceive the necessity of protecting the virtuous part of their population. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has also found itself exposed to similar evils, and has authorized remedies against the pernicious tendencies of hitherto unusual crimes. As high mental attainments afford no adequate security against moral debasement, it appears to be indispensably necessary, that we should unite with our neighbours, and with all virtuous men of the present age, in maintaining our share in the great conflict which is prosecuting, of virtue against vice.

“Experience has at length demonstrated, that with no other expenses, than those which must attend the first establishments, the expenses of penal justice may be wholly avoided, without inflicting, unless for contumacy within the Prison, any physical or mental sufferings, which necessarily abridge life, or impair the exercise of rational faculties. These benefits may further be rendered compatible with means of moral and religious instruction, and with that public inspection, which affords the best security against cruelty and oppression.

“It cannot be asserted that this or any other system of punishment, will change the heart of convicts, and produce sincere repentance;—but it will protect society, during the periods to which they are doomed: it will deprive offenders of the power of transmitting new vices to their fellow criminals, and will at least afford them an opportunity for reflection, by inculcating habits of order, industry and temperance.

“It is eminently a system of moral discipline, adapted to republican institutions. It is compatible with humanity, justice and economy, and resembles in no degree, the bastiles and dungeons of despotic governments, or the gloomy cells of superstition, where men are frequently immured for their very virtues.”

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CONNECTICUT LEGISLATURE, MAY 1826.

"In our view the evidence is such as will warrant the belief, that in *some* of our Penitentiaries, if not in *all* in which the convicts are placed in large numbers together in the cells, the crime of Sodomy has been perpetrated in numerous instances with entire shamelessness and notoriety. If that unnatural crime is ever perpetrated, we should look for its commission among men shut up from all the enjoyments of society ; among hoary headed convicts, condemned to long imprisonment, and whose passions and principles have been corrupted and degraded to the lowest point of debasement, and who are at night in numbers of from four to thirty two persons locked together in cells which are not subjected to official inspection.

"There is also evidence that in many Penitentiaries, the business of counterfeiting coin and bank bills is well understood, and in some instances practised by the prisoners. We have seen the coin which was found on the prisoners, and bank bills have also been found in every stage of alteration.

"The making of false keys and curious implements for opening houses and stores is thoroughly understood. These implements and keys of most curious and beautiful workmanship we have seen, and do not hesitate to say that bars, and bolts, and locks, ought not to be considered as any security against these instruments in the hands of a well instructed convict.

"In these rooms the prisoners are taught the best means of firing buildings, and the manner of preparing the match and ascertaining the necessary length of match to enable the villain to escape before the explosion.

"We also state that in some Prisons a regular and systematic intercourse is carried on with persons who have been discharged. Plans for plunder and escape are here matured, and as we are informed by one of the officers of the Massachusetts Prison, there is no doubt but the robbery and murder of the late Mr. Gould, of Stoneham, was concerted in the shoe shop of that Prison.

"No efforts are spared to render the young convict unprincipled and profligate; he is taught to believe that society has cast him off, and shut him out from all the enjoyments of life, and this wrongfully—that this is accomplished by the wealthy and powerful, who have always waged war against the rights of the poor ; and he is made to feel that society, having injured him, he has a natural right to revenge upon it. In these cells these topics have been so frequently discussed, and these principles so fully inculcated, that they have, when accompanied by the actual hardships and sufferings of his condition, produced in the breast of the convict the most deeply rooted hostility.

“ It is unnecessary for us to remark that on men cherishing these principles and feelings, punishment must fail of its effect— every new infliction is considered as a new injury to be hereafter avenged. In all these inquiries, the Committee have uniformly found an entire coincidence of opinion among all persons connected with the prison government. They have, without exception, urged the necessity of separate night rooms, and deprecated the shocking and awful consequence of placing prisoners together ; they have urged it as a measure of economy as well as a means of reformation, and have treated as chimerical, every idea of reformation in the convict, while this reprehensible practice is pursued.

“ Connected with this consideration is another fact of deep interest. From the best estimates we can make, but which we do not claim to be accurate, we suppose that there are at large more than 6,000 persons who have been convicts in our Penitentiaries, and who with these habits and principles are roaming over the country and are frequently presenting themselves for employment in our families, our manufactories, or on board our vessels.

“ We have thought it right again to present this subject to the Legislature, as important in itself ; and although alluded to in our former Report, yet that paper is probably in the hands of very few of the members of the present Legislature. We cannot therefore but feel that the declaration of the last Legislature, contained in the resolution under which we act, “ that it is expedient that buildings should be constructed for New Gate Prison containing such a number of cells that each prisoner may be subjected to solitary confinement, at least during the intervals of labour,” is one which will receive the assent of every man who will yield his attention to the facts.

“ As to the plan of the buildings proposed to be erected, we are fortunately presented with one in the Auburn Prison in the State of New York, which has stood the test of experience. This Prison has so entirely answered the views of its projectors, that the Legislature of that State have ordered the erection of another Prison on nearly the same plan at Sing Sing, near Hudson’s river ; and have decided to abandon the State Prison in the city of New York, on which has been expended more than half a million of dollars. The Legislature of the State of Massachusetts have also at their last session passed a law authorising the erection of a new Prison on the same plan ; although within a few years, very large sums of money have been expended in the construction of their present buildings. On this subject, therefore, we feel ourselves authorised to say with confidence, that the plan of the Auburn Prison should in its principal features be followed as a model.”

A law providing for the erection of a new Prison at Weathersfield on the Auburn plan, and making an appropriation of 25,000 dollars for the purpose, was passed by the Legislature in May 1826.

EXTRACT FROM GOV. CLINTON'S SPEECH, AT THE OPENING OF THE LAST NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents.—The best penitentiary institution which has ever been devised by the wit, and established by the beneficence of man, is, in all probability, the house of refuge in the city of New York, for the reformation of juvenile delinquents. It takes cognizance of vice in its embryo state, and redeems from ruin and sends forth for usefulness, those depraved and unfortunate youth, who are sometimes in a derelict state, sometimes without subsistence, and at all times without friends to guide them in the paths of virtue. The tendency of this noble charity is preventive as well as remedial, and during the short period of its existence, its salutary power has been felt and acknowledged in the haunts of vice and the diminution of our criminal proceedings. I cannot recommend its further encouragement in language too emphatic, and I do believe if this asylum were extended so as to comprehend juvenile delinquents from all parts of the State, that the same preserving, reclaiming and reforming effects would be correspondently experienced.

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

A bill was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature, during the winter session 1826, giving the City Council of Boston, authority to send Juvenile Delinquents, who have been sent under the old law to the State Prison, to such place as they should provide, at South Boston, that they might be saved from the corrupting influence of old convicts, in the State Prison. The City Council, under this law, is making preparations for this class of offenders, and has appropriated \$3,500 to be expended for their benefit at South Boston.

This class of miserable beings are, also, exciting much attention, in Philadelphia, and efficient measures are in progress to establish an institution, in that city, similar to the House of Refuge in New York, which Gov. Clinton so highly commends in his message.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. THOMPSON'S SPEECH TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, JAN. 1826.

"In the District, on the south side of the River, there are above thirty crimes punished by the dreadful penalty of death ;

and on this side of the River, there are above fourteen for which the same punishment is provided. It is unnecessary for me to recite the whole of these bloody enactments. It will be sufficient to mention two or three, to illustrate the spirit of the whole code. Feloniously breaking and entering a store or warehouse, by day or by night, and stealing there to the amount of four dollars; breaking out of Prison, if the prisoner were confined under the charge of a capital felony, whether he were guilty of that felony or not; a slave, preparing or administering any medicine with ill intent, or attended with any bad consequences; maliciously burning *any* house, whether it be a mansion house, or whatever may be its use. On this side of the River, breaking and entering a ware-house, store-house, or tobacco-house, and there stealing to the value of five shillings, is punished with death. Thus, on the one side of the River, the life of a man is valued at four dollars, while on the other, the law fixes its price at but five shillings. But the most horrid of all the bloody denunciations of the law here, is, the judgment which it requires to be pronounced on a slave, convicted on petit treason, murder, or arson. It requires that he should be hanged, his head cut off, and his body divided into quarters, and his head and quarters set up in the most public places of the District. Future generations will scarcely believe that in this enlightened age, after the District had been under the exclusive government of the United States for thirty five years, its laws would tolerate such a dreadful spectacle. What will they say when they are informed that the law not only tolerates but commands it? How should we feel reproved for our supineness, in legislating for this District, if, unfortunately, a poor slave should be convicted of murder or arson, and we should be compelled to witness the execution of the dreadful penalty, by seeing the bleeding and mangled quarters of the unhappy malefactor, exposed on the public avenues of the city.

“The Prison of this city, for every purpose of health and comfort necessary to the existence of human beings, is, perhaps, the worst on this whole continent. The expression is strong, but he had not used it without duly considering its full import. Here, just under the eye of Congress, not half a mile from the Hall in which we legislate, we have the worst Prison on this side the Atlantic. The building is divided by a passage, which runs directly through the middle, from one end to the other, on each side of which are eight cells. Under each of these cells is an arched sewer; and in the corner of each cell, which is 8 feet square, a hole is cut through the brick pavement into the sewer, which is used for purposes he would not here name.

“In these 16 cells, the Marshal has frequently been compelled to confine 70 and sometimes 80 individuals; 70 or 80

persons confined in this abominable place, and, among these, many innocent individuals, against whom no bill was afterwards found; and these not imprisoned for an hour, for a day, but for months. Nay, it sometimes occurs that witnesses, for the purpose of securing their attendance, have been confined in the same cells with the very criminals against whom they are required to give evidence."

"In the beginning of last winter, one of the cells was condemned as wholly unfit for use, one was vacant, and three occupied as lumber rooms; eleven only were used. In these eleven cells were confined day and night, without being permitted to leave them at all, 44 persons, among whom were 5 women and 4 children. Two of these were detained as witnesses against a defendant, who was discharged at the court, no bill being found against him. In one of these cells were confined at that time 7 persons—3 women and 4 children. The children were confined under a strange system of law in this District; by which a colored person, who alleges he is free, and appeals to the tribunals of the country to have the matter tried, is committed to Prison till the decision takes place. They were almost naked; one of them was sick, lying on the damp brick floor, without bed, pillow, or covering. In this abominable cell, these 7 human beings were confined, day by day, and night after night, without a bed, chair, or stool, or any other of the most common necessaries of life; compelled to sleep on the damp floor without any covering but a few dirty blankets. The prisoners in the other cells were in no better condition. I forbear to describe more minutely the uncleanness of this abominable place.

"I am sorry that I have been compelled to state these facts, and to say, that in this city, and almost in the very presence of the Congress of the United States, such a Prison exists. I have not exaggerated its horrors—the description falls short of the reality."

REFORM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

A bill was passed by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress near the close of the session, appropriating \$5000 to repair the Jail in Washington, \$10,000 to build a Jail in Alexandria, and \$40,000 to build a Penitentiary in Washington, containing 160 separate cells, on such plan as the President of the United States shall approve.

