

Auburn
LETTER

OF

GERSHOM POWERS, Esq.

IN ANSWER TO A LETTER OF THE

to
Hon. EDWARD LIVINGSTON,

IN RELATION TO THE

AUBURN STATE PRISON.

READ IN THE LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA, JAN. 23, 1829, AND
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COMMUNICATION, &c.

Philadelphia, January 19, 1829.

SIR,

We have the honor to transmit to you, a communication addressed to us by the agent of the Auburn prison, in the state of New-York, on the subject of the system pursued in that institution.

As the letter of Judge Powers contains, besides a successful vindication of the police of the Auburn prison, some valuable suggestions on the subject of penitentiary punishments generally, we have supposed that it would be an acceptable addition to the stock of information already in possession of the legislature.

We are, very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

EDWARD KING,
T. J. WHARTON.

*To the Hon. Speaker of the House
of Representatives, Harrisburgh.*

Messrs. KING, WHARTON and SHALER, commissioners for revising the criminal laws of Pennsylvania, and framing a code of prison discipline.

GENTLEMEN,

I have received and read with attention and interest a published letter, of the honorable Edward Livingston to Mr. Roberts Vaux, in favor of what is called the Pennsylvania system of discipline, and against that pursued in the Auburn Prison.

The most radical errors of opinion have been promulgated, not only in relation to the *character*, but also as it regards the *origin*, of the Auburn system of prison discipline. The *former*, as well from personal examination, as otherwise, you, gentlemen, understand and appreciate; but if in common with many others, you have adopted erroneous views of the *latter*, you and they will no doubt be gratified with such a statement of facts as will exhibit *truth* in its true light. The letter of Mr. Livingston is undoubtedly intended and expected to act powerfully upon public opinion. This remark is justified by his talents and weight of character; and as they are brought to bear, with all their force, against this institution, which you and I believe to be founded upon his own benevolent principles, I feel called upon by an imperious sense of duty, to support the views you have exhibited in your able reports, in favour of the general principles of our system; and, if possible, in some degree to counteract the alarming consequences which may eventually result from Mr. Livingston's publication. In attempting this, I shall endeavor to escape the influence of that exclusive spirit of sectarian controversy, for which he rebukes

the advocates of our system, and hope he and I may both profit by the admonition.

It is exceedingly to be regretted that Mr. Livingston and other gentlemen, distinguished alike for their talents and philanthropy, should so misunderstand, and of course honestly misrepresent, the principles which govern the Auburn prison.

The reason of this misfortune is in some degree susceptible of explanation; but the evils that have already been produced, and may hereafter result from it, may not be so easily remedied. If *facts* are so difficult to be discovered, that history is often regarded as founded more upon fable than truth, it may appear less strange that wrong notions and views should prevail at a distance, in regard to a local institution, and more especially such a one as cannot be thoroughly understood without personal and strict examination.

But how is the fact to be accounted for, that some, who have had a connexion with this prison, have totally misconceived its principles and policy, and have contributed liberally, and indeed mainly, to the promulgation of false opinions and impressions abroad? It is difficult, and perhaps impossible, to give the public a satisfactory answer to this question. The attempt will, however, be made.

Mr. Livingston and others assume the position, that *reformation* does not enter into our policy, and that our system is not calculated to produce that desirable result.

In support of this position, he represents Capt. Lynds, a former agent and keeper of this prison, as the founder of our system, and says, "he did not expect reformation. In a letter with which he favored me sometime ago, on the subject, he considered it as hopeless."

Others have not only quoted like opinions from the same individual, but also from Messrs. Tibbits, Hopkins and Allen, who made an elaborate report to the legislature in 1825, concerning this and the New-York

prison, and who are the commissioners for building the new prison at Sing-Sing. In that report they say, "we have fully expressed our opinion, that the state cannot, and ought not, to undertake, at the public expense, the moral reformation of that particular class of men, who are convicted of crimes. But we cordially admit that such reformation is most desirable, while from experience we know that it is most unlikely."

These commissioners are all gentlemen of high character for integrity and talents, and of elevated standing in society. It is believed, however, that a majority of them had never turned their attention very particularly to this subject, until they were appointed to make the above mentioned report.

They first made a laborious examination of the state prison in New-York, where, according to their report, every thing sickened and disgusted them. On arriving here, the striking contrast of this prison excited their admiration. They found Capt. Lynds its executive officer, who was not slow in impressing them with a belief that all which they admired was of his own achieving, and who, they readily concluded, was a very practical man. As the commissioners held, at that time, an intimate and confiding intercourse with Capt. Lynds, it is easy to perceive how liable they were to derive impressions from him, in relation to subjects about which they did not claim for themselves much practical experience. This very natural inference is confirmed by the fact, that those gentlemen have surrendered to Capt. Lynds almost the entire control and direction of the Sing-Sing prison, and have adopted his high toned notions of prison government, especially that which would place almost exclusive and unchecked power in the hands of the executive officer.

It may be said, that although the commissioners might have borrowed their notions and views from Capt. Lynds, yet how can *he* be mistaken who, according to Mr. Livingston, was the founder of the

Auburn system, and first introduced seclusion by night?

A solution of this question requires me to exhibit, at some length, the history of this prison.

In 1816, the building of the prison was commenced, and in about three years the south wing, containing the large rooms, was completed.

The public becoming alarmed at the failure of the penitentiary system, which was attributed much to the congregation and intercourse of convicts in their large night rooms, in April, 1819, the legislature authorised a change in the original plan of building, so as to render the north wing of this prison, then to be built, "more suitable for confining each prisoner in a separate cell." Under this law, Capt. Brittin, who had thus far been the agent and master builder of the prison, in 1820 constructed a part of the north wing, containing between one and two hundred cells, of the same general plan and dimensions as those which were afterwards built, and are now occupied. Those cells, however, were chiefly destroyed by a fire, set by convicts, before quite fitted for their confinement.

I know not who was justly entitled to the distinguishing credit of having first discovered the invaluable principle upon which our north wing of cells is constructed. Captain Brittin claimed it in his life time, and his friends for him, after his death. Another master builder, then of the city of New-York, but now of Montreal, also made the same claim, which was said to have been favored by the opinion of Governor Clinton.

Captain Brittin, however, was the first who applied the principle practically, and constructed the first block of cells upon the present general plan.

In the winter of 1821, a new board of inspectors was appointed, consisting of four gentlemen of this village, and myself.

In organizing the establishment, we appointed Capt. Lynds agent, and John D. Cray deputy keeper.

Captain Lynds had been in the army, but was then an enterprising mechanic, carrying on the hatting business in this village. Mr. Cray, a man as remarkable for his talents and attainments, as for his vigilance, firmness and courage, had been unfortunate in losing his property, and therefore gladly accepted the appointment.

It may be observed that at the New-York prison, there was an agent to manage its fiscal concerns, and another officer, a keeper, to manage its police and discipline, which offices, at the Auburn prison, are united in one person. But at the commencement of our operations, it was supposed best, by all of us, to make a similar division of duty at this prison, in *fact*, between Captain Lynds and Mr. Cray, as existed by *law* between the agent and keeper of the New-York prison; to place the former at the head of the financial concerns, and the latter at the head of the discipline and police.

It was considered that making purchases, contracts, and conducting the building affairs, would afford ample employment for the activity and promptitude of Captain Lynds, and that the police and discipline of the prison, which was then in an extremely bad condition, would require the full exercise of Mr. Cray's peculiar tact and talents.

In this perfectly distinct manner did those officers for a long time discharge their respective duties, in their several departments, during which, for the encouragement of Mr. Cray, in his arduous and unremitting exertions, day and night, and exposed as he was at that time to much personal hazard, Captain Lynds generously told him that whatever credit might arise from the reformed and correct discipline of the prison, should belong exclusively to Mr. Cray, and that his own time being so exclusively occupied in the financial and building operations, he should look to the successful management of these for his reputation.

We considered it our duty constantly to encourage and enforce this sentiment, which was done to great public advantage, until at length our discipline attracted a degree of public attention and applause, which seemed to render it impossible for Captain Lynds any longer to conform to that generous rule of action which he had himself prescribed, in awarding credit to Mr. Cray. Captain Lynds was the first officer,—and the credit of a victorious battle belongs to the chief, however meritorious the second in command.

Jealousies and heartburnings ensued between those officers, and Mr. Cray, in spite of our efforts to satisfy and retain him, in a little short of two years from his appointment, resigned his office, with feelings of unkindness and mortification.

We then appointed another respectable deputy keeper to fill his place, who was on good terms with Captain Lynds, and resided in his family while executing the duties of his office. The same strict division of duty did not now exist as before. Although the attention of Captain Lynds continued to be more particularly occupied by the building operations, yet he occasionally endeavored to assist the new deputy keeper in maintaining that system of discipline, which had thus far been matured by Mr. Cray.

The efforts of the board of inspectors to reconcile Captain Lynds and Mr. Cray to each other, under the conviction that in their respective departments they were both valuable officers, occasioned some difficulty between the board and Captain Lynds. This was somewhat increased, too, by the inspectors recommending to the legislature that the offices of agent and keeper, should be divided, as they always had been at the New-York prison.

Previous to the resignation of Mr. Cray, reliance was entirely placed upon him as *keeper* of the prison, and with him, on that subject, the inspectors kept up a free and constant interchange of sentiments and views. From the system of discipline that became

thus gradually established in practice, Mr. Cray himself drew up and systematised, with great ability, the code of regulations which was reported to the legislature by the inspectors in 1823, and concerning which Messrs. Tibbits, Hopkins and Allen, in their report above mentioned, say, “The rules under which the Auburn prison is governed are very long and minute, and appear on the journals of the Assembly of 1823, page 48. They detail all the duties of officers with great particularity, and we approve them as very proper.”

Probably the commissioners supposed, as might be inferred from the tenor of their report, that Captain Lynds framed this code; when, in truth, he had as little as themselves to do with it, or in creating that system of practice from which the code was framed. I believe I have now in my possession all the suggestions which Captain Lynds ever made in writing relating to this prison, till long after this period. They are few, and refer entirely to other matters than its police and discipline.

It is proper for me to state, that the material parts of this code, drawn up by Mr. Cray, are embraced in my report to the legislature of January 7th, 1828, one thousand copies of which were directed, by a joint resolution of both houses, to be published in a pamphlet form for public distribution. The details of another valuable report, required by a statute to be made to the judges of the supreme court, concerning the class of convicts in solitary confinement, were also furnished to the inspectors exclusively by Mr. Cray.

The bare suggestion that Captain Lynds, up to this period, had any thing essential to do with the discipline and police of the prison, would not only have been thought absurd and ridiculous by others, but would have been promptly and generously repelled by the Captain himself. All his claims as the originator and founder of the “Auburn system,” were an after thought, but which have since been

pertinaciously and unceasingly pressed upon the consideration of his too credulous friends, and have been boldly rung in the public ear, by them and him, upon all possible changes.

As has been observed, after Mr. Cray had resigned and left the country, Captain Lynds had something more to do with the discipline, in aiding the new deputy keeper in following the general track marked out for them, and in enforcing the code of regulations framed by Mr. Cray. Still he never seemed to enter into the true spirit of the subject, nor relish or understand its principles and philosophy. He was fond of exercising and displaying authority, but never appeared to appreciate the principle, that *physical force* should be applied to create and sustain *moral power*.

In respect to the general outline of discipline, the construction of solitary cells, directed by the act of 1819, served to point it out. Associated labour was required by day, and unless social intercourse between the convicts, could be prevented while at labor, the principal object of their separate confinement at night would be frustrated. Hence the grand object, too obvious to be mistaken, was, to unite profitable labor with solitude at night, and non-intercourse through the day.

For some time previous to the resignation of Mr. Cray, till 1824, the ardent and impetuous spirit of Captain Lynds seemed to experience no small degree of irritation from that salutary restraint with which the inspectors deemed it necessary, occasionally to control him. In the summer of that year the commissioners made their investigation, and it was during the intimacy thus occasioned between them and Captain Lynds, heretofore spoken of, that he succeeded in impressing upon their minds a belief that he originated every thing valuable about the Auburn prison; that the inspectors were a useless and troublesome incumbrance; that they had greatly retarded him in perfecting that system which *he*

had commenced; that the agent and keeper was the only responsible person, and ought not only to possess uncontrolled executive power, but that all subordinate officers should hold their offices at *his pleasure*, and that the reformation of convicts, as he afterwards wrote to Mr. Livingston, was hopeless.

The force of these impressions upon the minds of the commissioners is manifested by the whole tenor of their report to the legislature of 1825, and by their accompanying bill.

But, open-hearted and unsuspecting, the commissioners were deceived, as I have no doubt they will be ultimately convinced and frankly own.

In one respect, a majority of them at least have changed their opinions already,—I mean on the subject of reforming convicts. Mr. Allen has written a series of letters to Mr. Roscoe of Liverpool, in which he maintains that the Auburn system is designed to reform convicts, and proves that such have been its effects to an eminent degree.

From recent conversations with Mr. Hopkins, I think he is now of that opinion; and Mr. Tibbits has shown himself friendly to a prison sabbath school and chaplaincy, which could certainly be for no other purpose than reformation.

During the latter part of Captain Lynds' agency, he was much absent, and for the last year was employed considerably abroad by the commissioners, in reference to the subject of their report.

After being connected with this prison about four years, during which there was an average number of about 270 convicts, Captain Lynds succeeded in making so favorable an impression upon those commissioners, that very early in the year 1825, they employed him to build the Sing-Sing prison.*

Our board of inspectors then appointed, in the place of Captain Lynds, Major Richard Goodell, Speaker of the House of Assembly; on whose la-

* See article in the Appendix headed "New prison at Sing-Sing," which contains some interesting and important facts.

mented death, in January, 1826, the present agent and keeper was appointed, he having some time previously resigned as one of the board of inspectors.

From this brief history can be readily discovered the origin and foundation of divers erroneous opinions in regard to this prison, that have been too successfully palmed off upon the public, and which have been suffered to go on thus far without correction, chiefly from a desire to avoid controversy.

But when gentlemen like Mr. Livingston and Mr. Roscoe fall into and promulgate those errors in the wide circle of their merited influence, the cause of humanity imperiously demands that truth should be stripped of the false guises which interest or vanity has thrown around it.

The more fully to accomplish this object, it shall now be my humble endeavor to explain, as briefly as I can, the true and leading principles, practice and policy, which prevail in the government of this penitentiary, and to show their efficacy, not only from the reason of the case, but from the practical results that have followed.

In the language of Mr. Livingston, "we believe convicts to be men—bad men, it is true—but bad from example, from poverty, from vice, from idleness, from intemperance, from the indulgence of evil passions—that there are not many, who, by counteracting these causes, cannot be reclaimed, and that you do more good, and save more expense to the state, and secure the safety of its citizens in a greater degree, by reforming one of them, than by punishing and releasing ten others."

I do not know that this can be better illustrated, than by a plain and simple narration of the course of proceeding and practice with our convicts.

When a convict is brought to this prison, he generally appears serious, and evinces pretty strong apprehensions in regard to his reception and treatment. After having his manacles removed, and submitting

in silence to a thorough, and of course pretty severe, ceremony of ablution, performed by convicts under the direction of a keeper, he is clad in a clean prison dress, and brought to the clerk's office, where the description of his person, age, &c. is taken, and entered by the clerk in the prison register. All this is done with gravity and decorum.

The keeper, after ascertaining, as nearly as he can, from the sheriff who brings him, and by conversation with the convict himself, his habits of life, temper, prevailing passions, and extent of his intelligence, addresses him in something like the following manner.

"You exhibit a sad picture of human degradation. From 'bad example, idleness, or the indulgence of evil passions,' you have been led to the commission of crime, by which you have violated the laws of your country, forfeited your liberty, and offended your God. The consequence is, that instead of now enjoying the inestimable privileges of a free American citizen, of social intercourse, and the endearments of home and friends, you appear in culprit robes, doomed to the gloomy solitude of a prison, where the smiles of kindred and friends can never cheer your dreary abode.

"Weep not for yourself only; but remember the sighs of a father, the tears of a mother, the anguish of a wife and children, suffering and disgraced by your crimes.

"Cherish no malevolent feelings against society, or the government, for arresting you in your career of criminality, but rather be thankful for the mildness of our laws; that instead of forfeiting your life on an ignominious gallows, as would have been the case under most other governments, you are only restrained for a time, for the safety of society, and your own good; that the most favorable means are afforded for repentance and reformation, by forming regular, temperate and industrious habits, learning a useful trade, yielding obedience to laws, subduing evil

passions, and by receiving moral and religious instruction. If you will but faithfully improve the opportunities with which you will be thus favored, your case is far from being hopeless; your sufferings during confinement will be greatly mitigated; you will return to your friends and to society with correct views and good resolutions, and then friends and society will receive you again with open arms, and, like the compassionate father to his prodigal son, will say of you, 'he was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.'

"It is true, that while confined here you can have no intelligence concerning relatives or friends; but they will always be informed, on request, of your behavior, health and situation. They will be even allowed to visit the prison, and pass into avenues, from whence unseen by you at your labor, they can view your dejected visage—to a feeling heart, the exercise of a trying act of friendship. You are to be literally buried from the world: but when you again return to it, the fault will be entirely your own, if you do not acquire for yourself a new reputation, become a blessing to your friends and to society, and exemplify the power of deep repentance and thorough reform."

An address of this character rarely, if ever, fails to melt a convict into the deepest tenderness.

He is then instructed in the few plain general rules for the government of his conduct, relating to obedience, silence and industry, to which he listens with fixed attention. He is told that the most strict and humble obedience will be required, which will be no less his interest than his duty; that we possess, and readily apply, the most ample means of coercion by corporeal inflictions, to which, however, it is always painful to resort, but is promptly done, when necessary; that so long as he behaves well he will be exposed to as little bodily suffering, as the nature of the case will allow; and that there are many convicts who go through a long term of imprisonment

without receiving a blow or a harsh word, or even a frown from a keeper, and which will surely be his case, if he behaves well.

If the convict has a trade that is pursued in prison, which is rarely the case, he is put to that business; otherwise the keeper judging from the aptitude, capacity, &c. of the convict, with, usually, some regard to his wishes, selects such trade for him to learn, as he deems most suitable. He is then taken to the shop, and put in the custody of that assistant keeper who superintends the branch of business he is to learn; is there further instructed by his keeper, in the minutæ of those shop, table, marching, and cell rules and regulations, which are required to be observed; and then commences his labor and the course of his apprenticeship.

Assistant keepers are carefully instructed and impressed with those general principles above exhibited, and required to observe them in their intercourse with convicts.

They are men, too, capable of appreciating those principles. They are men of humanity, probity and worth, holding a respectable rank in society, and in which many of them have held respectable offices.

Holding by the same tenure of office as the agent and keeper, gives a character and independence to their offices, which makes them acceptable to suitable persons, and affords the best guaranty against abuses. There is great additional security, also, in the construction of the shops, the whole concerns of which are liable at all times to be viewed by spectators and by the keeper and deputy, (from avenues* recently constructed,) without the knowledge of the assistant keepers or convicts. From six to eight thousand people pass through these avenues annually.

* These avenues are about three feet wide, partitioned off from the back side of the shops which stand against the wall. There are narrow horizontal apertures in the partition, through which spectators can, unperceived, have a full view of those within. These avenues extend around all the shops, about 2,000 feet.

Hence, also, it is far less difficult than Mr. Livingston supposes, to prevent intercourse between the convicts, while in their shops.

It may as well be mentioned here, that the trades pursued in this prison are, coopering, shoe-making, tailoring, weaving in considerable varieties, chair-making, cabinet-making, sleigh and wagon-making, blacksmithing, stone-cutting, gunsmithing, comb and bellows-making, making carpenters' and joiners' tools, making cotton machinery, making threshing machines, making iron and wooden hames, and something in the way of cutlery.

A knowledge of any of this variety of useful trades, at once secures to an industrious man, in this country, a good living for himself and family. Few of these, in the nature of things, could be taught or carried on in solitary confinement; and none without requiring the almost constant presence of a keeper with each convict.

But to return to the new convict in his shop, where his first lesson is industry, obedience and silence. From thence he is marched, in sobriety and order, to the mess room. Here, the convicts being placed standing at their tables, amidst a stillness striking as it is profound, the chaplain makes a solemn invocation to Almighty God for his blessing. At a given signal the convicts are seated, and partake of a full but simple meal, in utter silence, but with apparent thankfulness of heart. Here gratitude, regularity and temperance are inculcated. At another signal, the convicts rise, and in the same stillness and order, return to their labor, which is continued, unremittingly, till the evening bell calls them to their solitary repose. They are then marched to their cells, taking with them, as they pass in, their simple evening repast.

Here again, where nearly six hundred occupy their separate dormitories, not merely the stillness of night pervades their dwelling, but almost the stillness of the tomb. Under circumstances so awful and im-

pressive, the chaplain, from a situation favorable to be heard, reads select portions of scripture to them, and then, in their behalf, pours out his soul to God, in solemn prayer. Is it possible for the human mind to suggest the application of means more favorable for making good and deep impressions upon the heart?

At an early hour, and by a given signal, the convicts are required to lie down upon their clean but homely couches, from which they are not suffered to rise, (except from necessity,) till the general signal for rising in the morning, when they again return, as before, to their labor.

By this alternation of labor and solitude, combined with non-intercourse, and accompanied by that moral action, which, in all their movements and circumstances, is brought to bear powerfully upon them, their *physical* and *moral* health* is sustained and promoted, and their spirits preserved from that depression or ferocity, which must necessarily result from uninterrupted solitude and idleness.

But to continue the narration. All illiterate convicts under forty years of age, who now amount to about one hundred and thirty, are regularly instructed on the Sabbath, in reading, writing, or arithmetic, by more than twenty competent and zealous young gentlemen, under the strict discipline of two assistant keepers, who are always present. The chaplain generally also attends, and sometimes the keeper and deputy.

These pupils are supplied with school books in their cells, and all the convicts are furnished with the scriptures, their general knowledge of which is truly astonishing. The Sabbath school is always opened and closed by prayer; and the ardor and success with which the pupils pursue their studies,

* The health of this institution is very remarkable. For several years, the average number of deaths has been about one and a half per cent; and the average number of convicts confined in the hospital about the same.

and the seriousness and propriety of their deportment, are as surprising as they are gratifying.*

Divine service is also statedly performed, on the forenoon of every Sabbath, in presence of all the convicts, convened in a chapel, who apparently yield the most devout and serious attention. Their feelings seem to be tender, and the pathos of the chaplain frequently subdues them to weeping.

In the chapel, at the close of divine service, the agent and keeper also occasionally addresses them, and inculcates, thus publicly, upon officers and convicts, those principles to which allusion has already been made. The convicts never fail to listen with deep attention, and apparent feeling, kindness and thankfulness.

After the convicts have retired from the chapel to their cells, the chaplain devotes all the remainder of the day to giving them, individually, at their cell doors, moral and religious advice and instruction. Here the convict can freely unbosom himself, and express to one friend his temporal and spiritual wants, his sufferings and his hopes.

When the time arrives for the convict's discharge, he has, (unless injudiciously pardoned,) become master of a useful trade; if illiterate before, he has been taught to read, write and cypher; he has acquired established habits of industry and temperance; he has obtained an intimate acquaintance with the scriptures; he has had their sacred doctrines and precepts impressed upon his mind, under the best possible circumstances to produce a permanent effect; and is now again to go forth into the world.

Previous to his departure, however, he is decently clad, and is furnished with money to supply his wants till he can find employment at his trade, and is presented with a little volume of able and eloquent discourses, written by an eminent divine, upon the subject of intemperance. At this time also an inter-

* See extract of Sabbath School report, in the Appendix.

esting interview takes place between him and the chaplain and agent, during which a brief account of the convict's life and habits is taken.* He is again, and for the last time, kindly and affectionately advised and admonished; and then, frequently with his eyes streaming with tears of joy and gratitude, he bids them a tender farewell.

The limits of this letter do not, nor indeed would the compass of a volume, allow sufficient room fully to exhibit the origin and progress of improvement, step by step, of the Auburn system, together with its principles and practices in all their bearings upon the physical and moral condition of its subjects. But the rapid sketch that has been given shows the manner in which our system *originated*, and also its distinguishing features, outlines, and leading principles, as it *now exists*; and it seems to me to show most clearly, who *was not the founder of the system*, and that, instead of reformation being considered hopeless, as alleged, moral culture and reformation are among its principal and noblest designs.

It is proper, however, to say something more of its effects upon the convicts while under its immediate influence, and also after they return into the world, as shown from experience.

But before doing this, I will observe, that it may be said by Mr. Livingston and others, that these have not always been our views of the subject under consideration. This is true to a certain extent. We fell into the same error with others in regard to exclusive solitary confinement, which reflection and experience corrected, and which we have frankly and publicly acknowledged.

Reformation, however, was never considered hopeless, but was an important and leading object, even in that scheme which embraced, in reference to a certain class, unmitigated solitude; but we misjudged human nature, and found ourselves sadly mista-

* See extract from agent's report, of January, 1828, in the Appendix.

ken in the belief of its reformatory tendency. We however then insisted that juvenile convicts should learn useful trades, and that the illiterate among them should be instructed in the rudiments of letters and science, and established a school for that purpose.*

We were led into this delusion, in regard to constant solitude, very much as others no doubt have been, from the total failure of the old mode of prison punishment; from not then having discovered and successfully applied the principles of combining associated labor with solitude; and from the fear that the penitentiary system would otherwise be abandoned in favor of a more sanguinary mode of punishment. Solitude, for these reasons, was considered by many as the "forlorn hope."

From our reports to the legislature, as inspectors, it has been argued by Mr. Roscoe that our views of punishment were extremely rigorous and severe; and to support this argument, he quotes, from our report of 1823, a pretty glowing picture of the sufferings of a class of convicts then confined in solitary cells. As I drew that picture, I beg leave to state some of the circumstances under the influence of which it was drawn.

It had become the common remark in the community, that there had ceased to be any terror, suffering, or efficacy in prison punishments. The public seemed at length to settle down in that opinion, and it became openly avowed in our legislature.

Indeed, some time previous to this, when the above mentioned Mr. Hopkins was a member of the legislature, I happened to be present, and heard him make an able and vehement speech, in which he avowed the same sentiments; to which Mr. J. C. Spencer, then Speaker, I think, replied somewhat cavalierly. This called out Mr. Elisha Williams, an influential member, and a distinguished orator, in support of

* See extract from Inspector's report, of 1823, in Appendix.

Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Williams, among other things, remarked, that "any man under forty-five years of age, who was not in favor of the penitentiary system, had a *bad heart*; and any man over that age, who was in favor of it, was possessed of a *weak head*."

The times were therefore alarming: it was important that public opinion should be changed; and one grand design of our reports to the legislature was to attain that object—though it is still considered that the description of the sufferings of the solitary convicts, above mentioned, did not surpass the reality.

In consequence of these and other efforts, combined also with causes which cannot here be explained, public opinion, as it regarded prison suffering, was not only changed, but, like the pendulum, was carried to an opposite extreme.

The public feeling, indeed, became greatly inflamed, by direful accounts of the sufferings of convicts in the Auburn prison; nor was this excitement lessened by the manner in which Captain Lynds was in the habit of speaking of flagellating convicts, as appears not only from conversations he held in your city, and which were noticed in Mr. Walsh's National Gazette, but on many other occasions.

It is not however, denied, that abuses have existed here, and may again exist; nor that there is always danger of their existence under any human system of government. But they have been greatly exaggerated, and the occasion and supposed authors misrepresented. With the guards and checks that now appertain to our system, it is believed to be as little liable to abuse as efficient and salutary power can be, invested in human hands; and this security is unquestionably greatly increased by having no officers who consider convicts without the pale of moral culture, and their reformation hopeless.

But to return from this digression—what are the effects of the present system upon convicts, while under its direct operation?

It corrects idle, irregular, profane and intemperate habits, subdues evil passions, and creates habits of serious thought and reflection, and of mild, respectful deportment. This is the general character of our convicts. There are, of course, some who are more stubborn and incorrigible, to whom punishment by stripes is occasionally applied, to keep them in due subjection and to prevent disorder.

A single unarmed keeper, who may be in a shop with fifty or sixty convicts armed with deadly weapons, the implements of their trade, will order one of the most desperate of them to come before him for some offence, as a father would call up a rebellious son, or a teacher his disorderly scholar, and punish him in presence of the other convicts. The delinquent almost uniformly receives his punishment submissively, and returns quietly to his labor. No rising or mutiny is ever occasioned; but, on the contrary, in the few cases where a delinquent has resisted and attempted violence upon his keeper, the other convicts have never failed to rush instantly to his relief and protection. So strongly does this moral and kind feeling pervade the mass of the convicts towards their keepers, that the latter feel the most perfect security in their unarmed and exposed condition.

Here is strikingly illustrated that moral power which is the proud and happy result of the "Auburn System."

Lessons of religion and morality are not inculcated here by the whip, in the sense as somewhat disingeniously, I think, intimated by Mr. Livingston; nor are stripes applied to increase the punishment of the crimes for which convicts are sentenced, but solely to enforce and preserve that discipline, quiet, order, industry, and humble and subdued feeling, without which "lessons of morality, religion and science cannot be successfully inculcated" On this subject our intelligent chaplains have frequently remarked, that the discipline keeps the convicts pre-

cisely in that state of mind and feeling, which in their judgment is most favorable to making good and abiding impressions, and for that purpose they desired the discipline might be neither more nor less rigid.

I believe stripes to be by far the best means of enforcing discipline with the least suffering; but I never have considered it so absolutely indispensable as some have, and so stated to you in my verbal communications.

Mr. Livingston states that our "lock march is infinitely well calculated for passing the word of revolt, and for establishing conventional signs of intelligence." If this be so, why has it never occurred? No revolt has ever happened, or signs of it been shown in the ranks; nor have any conventional signs been established. If in no other way, the latter would be discovered to us by convicts when discharged, who are always critically examined, and answer with apparent freedom in regard to every matter of mischief or discipline which has come under their observation.

This shows again, what cannot be kept too much nor too distinctly in view, the *moral power* which pervades this institution. Nearly six hundred men, possessed of the best possible weapons of defence and escape, restrained by wooden gates, which are constantly opening, are kept in perfect security and control by a few unarmed keepers, and two guards armed with muskets.

We have had recently a striking occasion of illustrating this moral power. About midnight an alarming fire accidentally broke out in shops and sheds so near the wing in which the convicts were confined, as to threaten its destruction, and the lives of the convicts. They were of course all unlocked and let into the yards; but, as might be supposed on so alarming an occasion, with less than usual attention to regularity and order. But notwithstanding the bustle and consternation of the moment, they imme-

diately fell into regular lines, and were soon engaged in passing water to the fire. One line was formed, extending from the reservoir in the centre of the large yard, through the centre building to the roof, and thence along on the roof of the north wing, which is covered with wooden shingles. This kept open, and secured to the convicts; a free passage into the front yard, which is secured only by slender pine pickets, forming no sort of barrier against resolute men. From the same reservoir diverged two lines of convicts into the north yard, to supply and man as many fire engines. The outer gate of this yard was opening frequently for the ingress and egress of our officers and citizens, and might easily have been seized and secured by the convicts.

Two passages were thus within their control, and lines extending from each to a common centre, which, according to Mr. Livingston, was a situation "infinitely well calculated for passing the word of revolt, or establishing conventional signs of intelligence from the rear to the front line, almost with electrical rapidity."

Thus circumstanced, the convicts kept their ranks, and obeyed every order of the keeper with a zeal, precision, and effect, which would have done credit to the best disciplined corps of city firemen. In this way they labored on through the night, incurring great fatigue and many personal hazards, before the fire was completely extinguished; and then, at the ringing of the bell, they resumed their respective places and ranks, under their several keepers, as quietly as if nothing had happened. No disorder or accident occurred; and, although favored by the darkness of night, and the unavoidable noise and bustle of the scene, no attempt, or sign of an attempt, was made to escape. Had it not been for their unremitting and well applied efforts, there is good ground to believe that the whole of this vastly expensive structure would have become a pile of smoking ruins.

Was all this the result of mere fear and physical force? Was it not rather the result of a moral power, produced by moral as well as physical discipline? "Facts are stubborn things."

During the fire it became necessary for twelve or fifteen convicts to take a very exposed position, in removing a large pile of partly quenched fire-brands, to which they voluntarily rushed. The heat rendered it necessary to keep the engines playing water constantly upon them. Their exposure and exhaustion from labor, I thought, required that they should be furnished with a moderate quantity of spirits, which was accordingly ordered; when, even to my own surprise, several of them refused to drink, saying that it had been the cause of their ruin! And was this the result of slavish fear, or was it the result of moral discipline?

Thus much, of the direct effects of the "Auburn system." Now let us inquire, what beneficial influence we may reasonably expect it to exert upon convicts after their discharge.

Take the case of a youth, whose ignorance, want of employment, and idleness, may have been the cause of his crime. He goes out from this prison, and returns to the world with totally new views of himself, of his Maker, and of relative, moral and civil obligations, and has acquired those habits which are most likely to secure the performance of those obligations. He has a respectable and useful trade, which, with those habits, and health, forms a sure capital for his future support and independence. Is it easy to imagine how a public felon can be dismissed from a penitentiary under auspices more favorable to his future welfare and success?

But we are not left to mere speculation and conjecture on this subject. A rigorous system of espionage has been carried on for three years past, with a view to ferret out the names and characters of convicts discharged from this prison, for which purpose nearly four thousand letters have been

addressed to public officers and gentlemen in all parts of the country, where those convicts were thought most likely to be found.

The result of these inquiries is exhibited in a table in the Appendix to this letter, from which it appears that the characters of two hundred and six have been described. Of these twenty-eight only are described as decidedly bad, and not at all improved; but there is not *one* who appears to have been corrupted and made worse. Two are deranged; one of a rather suspicious character; four of whom nothing very particular is known, but nothing unfavorable; four others not much improved; twenty somewhat reformed; and *one hundred and forty-six*, who are decidedly steady, industrious, and sustaining good characters, or are very greatly improved.* Can it not again be remarked with propriety, "facts are stubborn things?"

This astonishing result has been effected, too, under the very unfavorable influence of frequent pardons, and while many of the convicts were discharged before our improved system of moral discipline could be brought fully to bear upon them. In the face of this demonstration of the "Auburn system," will Mr. Livingston any longer entertain and express fears "that its partial success may arrest the penitentiary system in its progress to that point of perfection to which all its advocates expect it to arrive?" Will he again say, that "that system has been found inefficient in the exact degree in which labor has been enforced by stripes?" And will he not hereafter believe that reformation is both the *object*, and blessed *result*, of our system, notwithstanding the written declarations of its pretended founder to the contrary?

Mr. Livingston says, "if I were a Pennsylvanian, without the fullest conviction that the plan devised

* The whole number of convicts sentenced to this prison is 1418. There are now in prison 570—17 of whom are on re-convictions. The large number of convicts in prison, is to be attributed to the extension of the prison, district, which now embraces three-fourths of the state, and a population of about 1,300,000.

by Penn, and so successfully executed in the state afterwards, was impracticable, I should never consent to abandon it for one founded on directly opposite principles." It appears to me, conclusively, that those who will make themselves acquainted with the principles of Penn, and those of the Auburn system, will discover in them a wonderful correspondence and harmony; and I would therefore most respectfully ask the citizens of Pennsylvania, who feel a particle of that state pride which Mr. Livingston endeavors to arouse, whether they will not "adopt that plan devised by their immortal Penn," and refuse their consent "to abandon it for that system" of exclusive solitary confinement and idleness, "which is founded upon directly opposite principles."

In the rapid view I have taken, I have endeavored, as Mr. Livingston says, "to begin at the *beginning*," and humbly trust that I have satisfactorily shown in the *ending*, that, in accordance with his views, the Auburn system is founded upon the belief "that convicts are men,—bad men, it is true,—but bad from example, from poverty, from vice, from idleness, from intemperance, from the indulgence of evil passions; and that there are not many, who, by counteracting these causes, cannot be reclaimed."

One argument more will be added in favor of our system, founded strictly on principles of pecuniary economy; which, however, I consider of comparatively minor importance.

Our experience has shown that salutary discipline can be combined with profitable labor. The earnings of the convicts the present year have defrayed all the current expenses, including salaries, rations, clothing, medicine, &c. &c. amounting to over thirty thousand dollars, and left a nett balance in my hands of between five and six thousand.

I can have no further personal interest in this institution. Having been recently honored by an election to congress, the period of my connection with it

will soon close : as indeed it would have done, had that event not happened. But I feel deeply for the cause of humanity, and sincerely believe that it will be promoted or retarded in exact proportion as the *true* principles of the Auburn system are understood and followed.

In conclusion, I cannot but express my deep regret, that Mr. Livingston has never visited and examined personally this institution, against which he has thrown the weight of his justly distinguished and venerated name. In behalf of the cause of criminal jurisprudence, of benevolence, of humanity, I would, in the laconic and forcible language of scripture, say to him, and to all other intelligent and good men, who take an interest in these subjects, and in the principles of this institution, "Come and see."

With sentiments of high regard,

I am gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. POWERS.

Auburn, N. Y. Dec. 18, 1828.

APPENDIX.



INSPECTORS' STATEMENT.

We, the undersigned, together with Judge Powers, were appointed inspectors of the Auburn prison early in 1821; and having examined the foregoing letter, written by him, we hereby express our entire concurrence in the views and statement of facts therein expressed.

E. WILLIAMS,
WALTER WEED,
HORACE HILLS,
SAMUEL CUMSTON.

Dated, *Inspector's Office, State Prison,* }
Auburn, December 18, 1828. }

Statement of Charles Parks, Deputy Keeper.

Soon after the resignation of Mr. John D. Cray, I was appointed, by the board of inspectors, deputy keeper of the state prison at Auburn, which office I held till after Captain Lynds went to Sing-Sing. I have carefully examined the foregoing letter of Mr. Powers, and give my full sanction to the views and statement of facts contained therein, so far as those facts have come under my observation.

And I will further state, that, as well previous as subsequent to my appointment and leaving the prison, I have resided in its vicinity; and that I never heard it pretended by any officer of the prison, or citizen acquainted with the subject, that Captain Lynds was entitled to any credit for *originating* the system of prison discipline; but, on the contrary, it was always conceded that Mr. Cray was justly entitled to that praise; indeed, on my entering upon the duties of

my office, I was furnished by Captain Lynds with a voluminous code of prison regulations, in the hand writing of Mr. Cray, with which I made myself familiar, and pursued as my guide.

And I will also state, that a small school for juvenile convicts was for a time kept up, to which Captain Lynds at length became opposed, on the ground, that by teaching them to read, write, &c. it would make them more capable villains when discharged, and that it made too much trouble; and it was at length discontinued by his direction. This school, I understand, was commenced under Mr. Cray.

During the last eighteen months of Captain Lynds' agency, he was absent much of his time; but he never took much part in enforcing the discipline, confining himself chiefly to the discharge of other duties.

So far as concerns the then existing or present system of police arrangements and discipline of the prison, I do not know of a single valuable and material feature that was ever suggested by Captain Lynds.

He was very impatient with any direction or control of the inspectors, and desired to hold independent of them, and to appoint his own subordinate officers.

CHARLES PARKS.

Auburn, December 18, 1828.

Statement of the Clerk.

I, John R. Bodley, do hereby certify, that I was appointed clerk of the state prison at Auburn, about the same time that Captain Lynds and Mr. Cray were appointed, to wit, in March, 1821, and have continued to discharge the duties of that office until the present time; that I have not been absent during the whole period to exceed one month, and that I have carefully examined and copied the foregoing letter of Mr. Powers.

And I do further certify, that, from my peculiar official situation, from my intimacy with Captain Lynds and Mr. Cray, from my intercourse with the commissioners, during their investigations at this prison, and from the intimate knowledge I have had of all the affairs of the institution for nearly eight years, I do entirely concur with Mr. Powers in the facts and views stated in said letter, and also in the above statement of Mr. Parks.

JOHN R. BODLEY.

State Prison, Auburn, Dec. 18, 1828.

Statement of the Physician.

I was appointed physician and surgeon for the state prison at Auburn in December, 1825, and have continued to discharge the duties of that appointment since that period; and having examined the foregoing letter of Mr. Powers, I do certify, that, as far as my situation has enabled one to judge, I entirely concur in the views and statement of facts expressed in said letter.

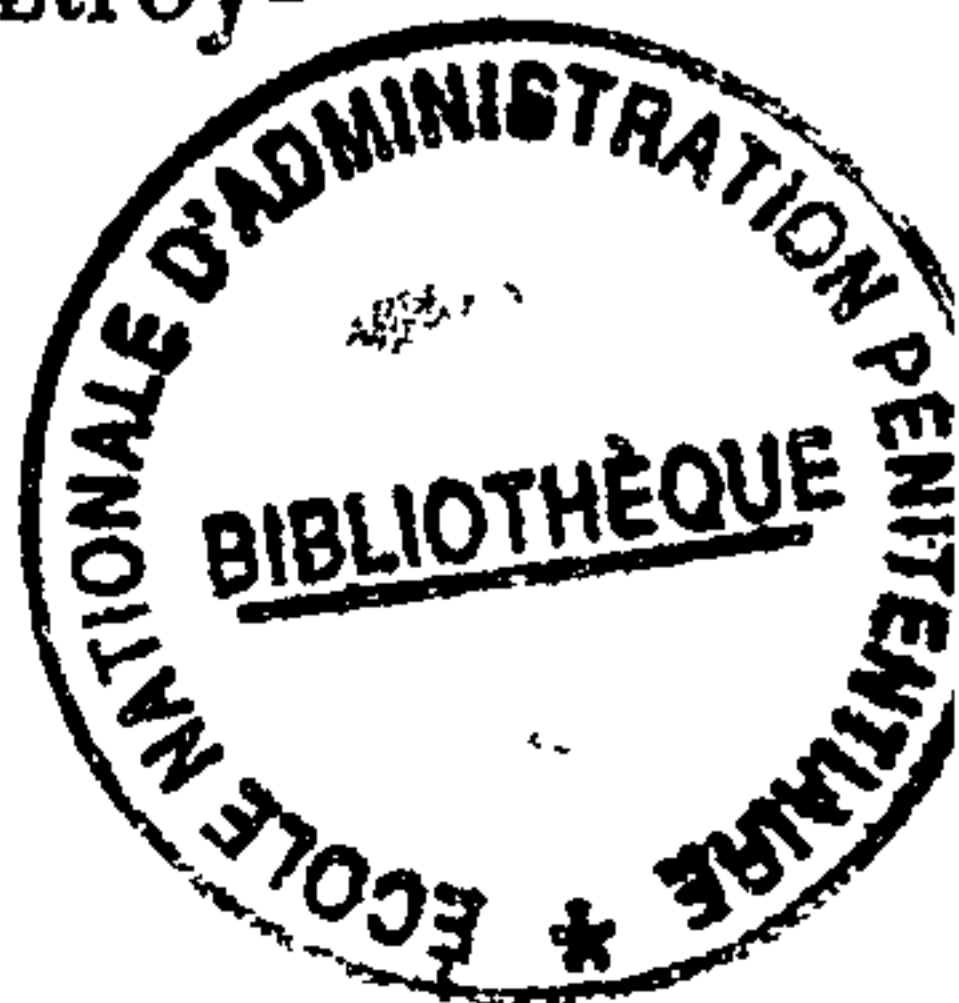
JNO. GEO. MORGAN.

Auburn, Dec. 18, 1828.

Statement of Samuel C. Dunham.

I, Samuel C. Duham, do hereby certify, that I was employed by Captain Brittin, as a carpenter and joiner, for a short time, at the Auburn prison, in 1817, and also in 1820, and that during the interim, I carried on the business of building in the village of Auburn.

That while I was employed at said prison, in 1820, I aided in the building of a block of about 160 solitary cells, constructed by Captain Brittin, in the south part of the north wing, but which were destroyed by fire before they were completed.



That soon after the appointment of Captain Lynds and Mr. Cray, in April, 1821, I was employed by Capt. Lynds as a foreman carpenter and joiner, under Captain Lawrence White, as master carpenter, and continued so employed until about December of that year, when Captain White left the prison; after which, in all the subsequent building operations at said prison, up to 1825, I succeeded to and occupied the former place of Capt. White.

That I drew the plan of the Sing-Sing prison, which was approved by the building commissioners, and was adopted in building, with some variations.

That in the spring of 1825, I was employed by Captain Lynds, as master carpenter, in building the Sing-Sing prison, at a salary of \$900 a year, and continued in that employment till August, 1826, when I resigned and moved back to Auburn; since which, I have been well acquainted with the affairs of the Auburn prison, and have now a contract there for the employment of between twenty and thirty convicts.

And I further certify, that I have carefully examined the foregoing letter of Mr. Powers, and that, from the very ample means of information which my situation has afforded, I fully accord to the statement of facts therein made, and with the general views expressed.

That the division of duty between Captain Lynds and Mr. Cray, while the latter was deputy keeper, was entirely distinct, and so understood and declared by them, by the inspectors, and by all who took any part or knew any thing of the subject, until nearly the time of Mr. Cray's resignation. That I have often heard Captain Lynds refer to Mr. Cray as the only responsible person in regard to the police and discipline of the prison, being himself necessarily employed in the building and other concerns.

I have also examined the description of the cells at Sing-Sing and Auburn, in the Appendix to said letter, which I consider correct, as also the remarks

in regard to the same; and I also concur with Mr. Parks in his statement.

Auburn, December 18, 1828.

Statement of Ira Dunning.

I, Ira Dunning, do hereby certify, that I was appointed an assistant keeper, in March or April, 1821, at the Auburn prison, and continued in that office until the spring of 1825, when I went with Captain Lynds to Sing-Sing, with a number of assistant keepers from the Auburn prison, who were induced to go there by being paid much higher wages. That I was at Sing-Sing, a few days short of two years, and during most of the time discharged the duties of deputy keeper; that I resigned my place at Sing-Sing in March, 1827, and returned to the Auburn prison, where I again was appointed an assistant keeper, (the salary having been raised \$100,) and served till November following, when I resigned, and became concerned in a contract for the employment of convicts.

I further certify, that I have read the foregoing letter of Mr. Powers, and that so far as my situation has enabled me to judge, I freely coincide in the statement of facts therein made, in relation to the origin, history, and present discipline of the said prison.

I further certify, that I have heard read the accompanying statement of Mr. Parks, and that I also concur in the statement of facts therein.

I further certify, that I have heard read the accompanying description of the cells of the Sing-Sing and Auburn prisons, which I consider correct, and also the remarks accompanying the same.

And I further certify, that as deputy keeper at Sing-Sing, and by Captain Lynds' direction, I often flogged convicts for coming up to their cell doors, and which was found indispensable to prevent the convicts from talking to others in adjoining cells,

and watching the approach of keepers on the galleries; but no severity can prevent the existence of these evils to a very great extent.

IRA DUNNING.

Auburn, December 18, 1828.

Statement of the Assistant Keepers.

We the undersigned, assistant keepers of the Auburn prison, do severally certify that the following is a true statement of the time of our respective appointments and connexion with said prison.

David Mills, was a mechanic at the prison from its commencement, till November, 1824, (except a few months) and then was appointed an assistant keeper. In the spring of 1825, went to Sing-Sing as an assistant keeper under Captain Lynds, where he staid about two years, at a salary of \$600. He then returned to this prison, where he has since continued as an assistant keeper.

E. B. Cobb, an assistant keeper from June, 1821, till now, except four months absence from prison, and being for a time employed as captain of the guard.

John Husk, appointed May, 1822, and has never been since absent but a few days.

David Foot, appointed March, 1822, resigned June, 1825, and re-appointed October, 1827.

Moses Brown, appointed April, 1825, and absent since about five months.

Chauncey W. Markham, appointed March, 1823, and never absent but a few days at a time.

Thomas Bodley, appointed November, 1823, and absent six months.

Chester Fanning, appointed September, 1825, and absent about four weeks.

William F. Richardson, appointed September, 1826, and except from occasional illness, has not been absent.

William Holmes, appointed May, 1828.

Solomon C. Dunning, appointed August, 1825, and absent since but a few days at a time.

John Mills, appointed April, 1828, but had been formerly employed by Captain Brittin and Captain Lynds, as a mechanic in building at the prison.

Matthew Bevier, appointed August, 1827, and not since been absent except on account of sickness.

James Horner, appointed May, 1824, and never since absent.

William Powers, appointed December, 1824, and never absent but for short periods.

John Hubbard, appointed September, 1826, and not absent since but a few days.

And we do severally further certify, that we have heard read the foregoing letter of Mr. Powers, and, so far as our several situations have enabled us to judge, we respectively concur in the views and facts therein expressed, except in regard to ourselves, of which it does not become us to speak.

DAVID MILLS,
E. B. COBB,
CHAUNCEY W. MARKHAM,
JOHN HUSK,
DAVID FOOT,
MOSES BROWN,
WM. F. RICHARDSON,
WILLIAM HOLMES,
MATTHEW BEVIER,
ROBERT COOK,
JOHN P. HUBBARD,
THOMAS BODLEY,
CHESTER FANNING,
SOLOMON C. DUNNING,
JOHN MILLS,
JAMES HORNER,
WILLIAM POWERS.

State Prison, Auburn, December 18, 1828.

Statement of Willard J. Chapin.

I certify, that I was appointed an assistant keeper of the Auburn prison, within a few days of the time that John D. Cray was appointed deputy keeper, and remained an assistant keeper in said prison until nearly the time when Mr. Cray left, when I resigned. And I further certify, that I have heard read the foregoing letter of Mr. Powers, and that, so far as I have had means of knowing the facts therein stated, I consider them entirely correct and true. Whatever assistance the board of inspectors might have rendered by way of instruction and advice, yet, Mr. Cray was the executive officer, who originated the new system of discipline in said prison. His talents, vigilance and courage were proverbial, and all were put in requisition by him, in creating and maturing that system of discipline, and which was exclusively under his control. Captain Lynds did not pretend to interfere with it, or ever profess to know much about it, his time being occupied with other matters.

WILLARD J. CHAPIN.

January 12, 1829.

Statement of Joseph Esty.

I certify that I was appointed an assistant keeper at the Auburn prison at the same time that Mr. Cray was appointed deputy keeper, and continued in said office until the first of May, 1822, when I resigned; that I have read the foregoing letter of Mr. Powers, and fully concur in the above statement of Willard J. Chapin.

JOSEPH ESTY.

Auburn, January 21, 1829.

Statement of Abraham Gridley, Esq. late County Clerk.

I certify, that I was appointed captain of the guard at the state prison at Auburn in November, 1821, and continued to hold that office until March, 1823. I further certify, that John D. Cray, the deputy keeper, had the control of the discipline and police of the prison, and that Captain Lynds attended to its building and money concerns. That I often heard Captain Lynds say that Mr. Cray was the police officer, and had the entire charge and control of that department, with the details of which the Captain never appeared to trouble himself, but uniformly referred all questions on that subject to Mr. Cray.

Whatever merit there may have been in originating the system of discipline practised at that period, I have always considered Mr. Cray as exclusively entitled to it; but the improvement in the moral discipline of the prison, within a few years past, has greatly changed the character of that system, and rendered it, in my opinion, as perfect and beneficial as any system that can be devised.

ABRAHAM GRIDLEY.

Dated Auburn, January 21, 1829.

New Prison at Sing-Sing.

The object of introducing this subject, is to notice, briefly, what is deemed an injudicious variation in the construction of the cells from those in the Auburn prison.

By looking at a plate,* which exhibits a ground view of the north wing of this prison, it will be perceived that the cell doors are set back, so as to leave a recess between the door and the outer edge of the wall, which is about two feet deep; in which the door swings back against the jams or side of the par-

* This plate may be found in the Agent's report to the legislature, heretofore referred to, and also in the reports of the Boston prison discipline society.

tition wall, without obstructing the passage on the narrow galleries, by which the upper cells are made accessible.

The door is fastened by a heavy iron catch, secured in the partition wall, and a strong latch attached to the door, which is raised and lowered by a large iron lever, resting on a pivot bolt, and extending from the latch of the door two feet horizontally to the outer edge of the wall; and thence, at a right angle, about twelve inches to the lock which confines the lever and door latch with which it is connected, when the door is shut, by a sort of hook formed in the end of the lever, which enters the hole in the latch, the strength and simplicity of which it is difficult to describe. The lock, then, which perfectly secures this latch and lever, is three feet from the outside of the cell door grate, and as well out of the sight as out of the reach of the convict. The great points aimed at and accomplished by this mode of construction, are the seclusion and security of the convicts.

These recesses, of two feet depth, and the projecting partition walls between them, of two feet thickness, throw the convicts back from each other six feet, besides the thickness at the doors, as will appear from the plate referred to above.

If a convict speaks loud enough to be heard this circuitous distance by another convict, the sentinel on the galleries will be very sure to hear and detect him.

Besides, it will be perceived that a convict in his cell cannot see a sentinel walking the galleries until he is almost directly in front of the cell door, so that the convict can never know but a keeper is within two feet of his door, and as well knows that the convicts on each side of him, to whom he would speak, are at a circuitous distance of six feet at least, and may be, for aught he knows, at the back end of the cell, seven feet further distant. Under these circumstances, there is so great

a hazard of detection, that the attempt is rarely made.

In the prison at Sing-Sing, the cell doors are of sheet iron; are placed out flush with the wall, and are fastened by a lock in the usual place of locking doors, and only the thickness of the door from the reach of the convict.

By again looking at the above mentioned plate, it will be observed how easily two convicts, in adjoining cells, may so place themselves at their doors, that one can look along on the gallery on one side, and one on the other, while they can safely converse in an under tone, and perhaps in a whisper, till they discover and report to each other, the approach of a distant sentinel.

This difference in the two prisons may not very forcibly strike a casual observer; but whoever will examine the subject, simple as the difference may at first appear, cannot fail to discover, that the unfortunate change of construction at Sing-Sing strikes a deadly blow at the principle of seclusion, for which this state has so long labored, and at such a vast expense.

The reasons offered by Captain Lynds for this variation from the Auburn cells, are as follow:

Firstly—That the length of the cell was thereby increased.

Secondly—That if a convict should happen to get out of his cell, he might skulk from recess to recess, elude the officer on duty, and perhaps spring upon him from these hiding places, and take his life.

Thirdly—That these recesses afforded an opportunity for the assistant keepers to hold improper conversation with the convicts; an evil which he states had been experienced at Auburn. On the ground of expense, it is said nothing was gained.

There is some plausibility in the first reason, as to enlarging the cells; but the Auburn cells are sufficiently large, as proved by long experience; and the half step gained by the convicts at Sing-Sing

cannot be very important in the way of exercise. Besides, several of the assistant keepers at Sing-Sing declare, that such is the evil above alluded to, of convicts conversing with each other at their cell doors, that, with a view of lessening it as much as possible, the convicts are forbidden to come forward into this recess, or space between the door-jams by their doors; and if any convict presumes to transgress this rule, and is detected, he is severely punished, as is very frequently the case. Instead, therefore, of this extension of the cell being a benefit to the convict, it serves as an almost irresistible temptation to get him into punishment.

The idea of a convict getting out of his cell, in this prison, where even an attempt has never yet been made by a convict, and then skulking over the galleries from recess to recess, until he finds it convenient to rush from his ambush and pounce upon one of the keepers, like an Indian upon his victim, is surely deserving of some credit for its originality, although it is as strange as the event would be miraculous.

Such is the gross absurdity of the third and last objection, "that assistant keepers can stand in the recesses and converse with convicts without detection," that it is confessed to be difficult to know how to answer it. It is a prison rule, that the assistant keepers have no conversation with convicts, except that which relates to their duty, and for the observance of this rule on the part of the keepers, the chief reliance must be placed upon their character, discretion and integrity. The assistant keepers must be allowed to converse with all the convicts under their charge in the shops, in the day time, and also at the cells at night, in case of sickness, and in relation to any wants the convicts may experience. The principal keeper cannot always be present in *all* the shops through the day, and in the lodging wing at night, and on Sunday; and if he were, how could he tell whether an assistant keeper, at a distance, was

talking with a convict upon a forbidden or unforbidden subject?

These recesses, however, are really very useful and important, in enabling the chaplain and keeper to talk freely with convicts, unheard and unseen by those in adjoining cells.

The chaplain can administer instruction, consolation and reproof to convicts, who are unembarrassed by other convicts overhearing their confessions; and the principal keeper can find out mischief by means of this secluded access to convicts, which might not otherwise be discovered.

But these remarks are not made so much with reference to that prison itself, as with a view to warn the public, and the citizens of other states, against the danger of taking the Sing-Sing prison as a model of this.

Charles Bulfinch, Esq. of Washington, was directed by the President of the United States, May 29, 1826, to visit the penitentiary establishments of Auburn and Westchester, in the state of New-York, and also that of Philadelphia; and to collect and report all such information as, upon inspection of those establishments, might be obtained, and as might usefully be applied in the erection of the penitentiary at Washington, authorised by the act of Congress of the 20th May, 1826.

In performing this duty, Mr. Bulfinch came to the Westchester or Sing-Sing prison; but the sudden death of Mr. Blagden, at the capital, rendered his return necessary, and he did not visit this prison at all. This is greatly to be lamented, inasmuch as Mr. Bulfinch supposed that the Sing-Sing prison was upon the same model as the Auburn prison, and reported to the President that the arrangement of cells in each was the same.

In consequence of this erroneous conclusion, the cells and doors of the Washington penitentiary are constructed upon the same plan as those at Sing-

Sing, and no doubt with an honest belief of their being similar to those in this prison.

It is feared that the evils of copying the Sing-Sing model may not stop here. Members of Congress, and other gentlemen from different states, which may be desirous of adopting the Auburn plan in building penitentiaries, will be extremely liable to fall into the same error as Mr. Bulfinch, and copy the Sing-Sing model from the Washington penitentiary, and thus defeat the public in one of the greatest improvements that was ever discovered and applied in the construction of a penitentiary. These remarks are made with a view to caution the public against a capital error, on an all-important subject, the extensive adoption of which must prove a great public calamity.

Extract from the Agent's Report to the Legislature, of Jan. 1828.

Of the whole number of convicts examined on their discharge from prison, there were

Under the age of 20.....	6
Between 20 and 30.....	77
30 and 40.....	40
40 and 50.....	33
50 and 60.....	15
60 and 70.....	5
70 and 80.....	2

In regard to education when they came to prison, the following will exhibit a very brief outline:—Decent common education, 115. Education very poor, 37. No education, 26. A great portion of the two latter classes have been instructed in the prison Sabbath school, and taught to read, and many of them to write and cipher.

Deprived of parents when young, or left them before they were of age, 65. More or less intemperate, 87.

Extract from a printed report of the Sabbath School Union, for Cayuga County, of August 8, 1827.

Mr. B. C. Smith, the superintendent of the Sabbath school in the Auburn state prison, has made a report to this board, which we present, hoping that it will have a salutary influence. The following are extracts:

“In speaking of the progress of the school the past year, it is not enough to say, that our highest expectations are realized; they are greatly exceeded. In the case of these convicts, we found fresh testimony to the truth of the common remark, that ignorance and vice are closely allied. By far the greater number of those received into the school, have been found incapable of reading intelligibly in common reading, and not a few unable to tell one letter from another. They have, however, uniformly manifested the most intense interest in the instructions of their teachers, and applied themselves with such diligence to their lessons, as to exhibit an improvement, in general highly gratifying, and in some instances almost incredible. Few can now be found in the school, if we except those recently brought in, who cannot read in the testament with a good degree of accuracy and readiness, and never did beings express more gratitude for their privileges, or manifest a deeper sense of obligation, than they do to their instructors.

“Did the limits of this notice admit of it, many anecdotes might be related that would be interesting, as illustrative of the happy influence of intellectual and moral culture, bestowed even upon the most abandoned. A single fact may be mentioned, which will show what use some of the convicts, at least, make of their bibles, and how important it is that they have them in their hands and be able to read them. A teacher, having listened to the recitation of one of his class as long as he thought the time would allow, asked him how much more he had to recite, and was answered, ‘I believe I can say thirty or forty chap-

ters.' This was one, too, who, when he entered the school, could scarcely spell out a verse. Let it not be supposed, however, that this is given as the most striking proof we have of the utility of the school. A mass of facts might be presented far more decisive.

"Who, that looks upon ignorance as the mother of crime, and regards intellectual light as essential to the virtue and happiness of a community, will not be glad that even one ray is thrown into this dark and 'frightful wilderness of mind?' Who, especially, that acknowledges the efficacy of the 'sword of the spirit,' will not rejoice in view of what the 'word of God,' thus treasured in their memories, may be the means of accomplishing?"

"It deserves also to be noticed, that besides the instructions ordinarily given in Sunday schools, writing and arithmetic are taught in this school."



Extract from Inspector's report of 1823, containing an outline of a proposed system of punishment.

"Make certain crimes, and perhaps a repetition of some others, punishable with death. Certain other crimes, and repetition of some others, which clearly indicate such a depraved heart or malicious temper, (for instance attempting to poison, and aggravated cases of burglary and rape,) as to show the offender so dangerous as to be unsafe and unfit to live in society, punishable with imprisonment for life at hard labor. The next class of crimes, and all state prison offences committed by persons over a certain age, punishable with solitude from one to five and possibly to seven years: the last of which would be frequently, if not generally, tantamount to a sentence for life. The lowest grade of crimes, subject to state prison punishment, and committed by persons under a certain age, punishable with imprisonment at hard labor from three to perhaps five or six years. The convicts for life should be kept

distinct from all others, in a separate yard and apartments; all intercourse effectually prevented, and lodged in solitary cells, if practicable; if not, in secure rooms. They could only corrupt each other, the influence of which could never extend beyond themselves. They should be kept under rigid discipline, and compelled emphatically to endure hard labor.

"Let the solitary convicts be dealt with as they now are, except perhaps some improvement in adapting the quantity and nature of their food to their condition.

"The last, or juvenile class, might be employed at hard labor, under strict discipline, and should be by all means lodged in solitary cells. They should be kept in school on Sundays, and such portions of other days as would not at all interfere with their labor, and be favored with religious and moral instruction, admonition, advice and reproof. Three years would be sufficient to teach them such trades as would enable them to procure a living when discharged."

TABLE.

Initials.	Crime.	Character before conviction.	CHARACTER SINCE DISCHARGED.		Discharged.
			In 1826 and 1827.	In 1828.	
W. S.	Forgery	Irregular and intemperate	Regular sober and industrious	The reverse of bad	Jan. 9, 1826.
C. R.	Burglary	Habits in general good	Steady, moral, industrious and temperate	Continues to conduct with propriety	Mar. 11, 1826.
N. C.	Counterfeit money	Intemperate—suspicious	More temperate		July 12, 1827.
A. B.	Forgery	Not good	Conduct good	Inclined to intemperance	Sept. 14, 1822.
A. M. B.	Petit larceny, 2d off.	Unsteady	Conduct good		Aug. 7, 1827.
E. W.	Conspiracy to cheat	Intemperate, abusive, idle dishonest	Conducts with propriety	Industrious, peaceable, good neighbor	Sept. 15, 1823.
P. D.	Forgery	Not known	Conduct good	Improved	Mar. 26, 1824.
W. P.	Grand larceny	Dishonest and dishonorable	Same as before conviction		Feb. 23, 1822.
J. C.	Grand larceny	Character good	Deranged		Jan. 4, 1826.
L. R.	Grand larceny	Steady and industrious	Steady and industrious	Steady and industrious	Sept. 9, 1825.
E. P.	Counterfeit money	An idle profligate	Steady and industrious	Still sustains a good character	Oct. 2, 1824.
J. H.	Bigamy	Habits bad	Improved	Altogether better than before conviction	June 26, 1822.
O. S.	Grand larceny	Bad	Bad	[escaped from canal— not re-taken.	
W. H.	Perjury	Quarrelsome and bad	Quiet, peaceable and respectable	Peaceable and industrious—much reform'd	Mar. 15, 1826.
J. O.	Felony	Unsteady	Very industrious—habits correct	Much more respectable	June 26, 1826.
O. S.	Grand larceny	Indolent, intemperate, vicious	Temperate, industrious & much improv'd	Reclaimed	April 10, 1826.
J. S.	Attempt to rape	Very intemp'rate & quar'els'm.	Somewhat improved	Relapsed into his old habits	Jan. 4, 1822.
J. M.	Manslaughter	Very notoriously bad	Greatly improved		Mar. 4, 1826.
H. C.	Grand larceny	Not known	Uniformly industrious and honest		June 23, 1825.
J. C.	Assault to murder	Very aband'nd fellow—intemp.	A reformed man apparently	Still appears so	June 18, 1827.
J. C. P.	Arson	Pretty fair character	Uniformly good		July 7, 1826.
W. L.	Assisting to break jail	Intemp'rate, quarrels'm abusive	Not much improved	About the same as before	Mar. 6, 1826.
P. T.	Manslaughter	Intemperate and quarrelsome	Greatly improv'd—cond'cts with propr'ty		July 20, 1827.
J. C.	Forgery	Habitual drunkard	Habits still bad	Habits still bad	Aug. 3, 1826.
D. R.	Counterfeit money	Not known	Industrious and orderly	Peaceable and orderly citizen	April 8, 1820.
S. N.	Forgery	Not known	Industrious and orderly		Feb. 2, 1821.
J. G.	Aiding to break jail	Not good	Better citizen	Peaceable and orderly citizen	April 4, 1825.
A. B.	Petit larceny, 2d off.	Very intemperate and thievish	Appears reformed		Nov. 10, 1826.
H. A.	Arson	Not known	Sustains a very good character		July 24, 1822.
J. D.	Perjury	Loose, drunken fellow	Loose, drunken fellow		Jan. 25, 1822.
J. J.	Assault to rape	Not known	Steady and industrious		Mar. 12, 1822.
J. G.	Perjury	Not known	Industrious, good citizen		Mar. 15, 1821.
DPM. N.	Forgery	Intemperate	Conduct bad		Dec. 24, 1825.
M. S.	Perjury	A bad man and an infidel	No wise improved—is more than 70		Oct. 12, 1826.
J. H.	Forgery	Loose and intemperate	Steady and industrious		Oct. 19, 1826.
H. D. L.	Arson	Reputation bad	Nothing unfavorable		May 4, 1827.
J. B.	Arson	Very intemperate	Steady and industrious		Aug. 14, 1826.
J. P.	Counterfeit money	Not good	Character and habits good		Sept. 24, 1819.
E. S.	Burglary	Very notoriously bad	Conduct irreproachable	Industrious, pious and respectable citizen	Feb. 8, 1826.
C. S.	Counterfeit money	Worthless character	In jail again for same offence	Now in this prison	Nov. 11, 1826.
E. C. D.	Grand larceny	Intemperate	Honest, fair character	Character unqualifiedly good	April 7, 1824.
L. W.	Forgery	Bad	Bad	[escaped from canal— not re-taken.	
W. M. B.	Grand larceny	Had been in New-York prison	Bad		Feb. 5, 1824.
G. M.	Manslaughter	Habits bad and vicious	Not improved		July 20, 1818.
A. B.	Grand larceny	Not known	Nothing improper		July 30, 1824.
A. P.	do	Intemperate	Very industrious, sober & good character	Steady, industr'us, temp'rate, good citiz'n	Mar. 13, 1826.
E. R.	do	Intemperate	do do do	do do do	April 1825.
D. T.	do	Intemperate	do do do	do do do	do do
E. B. D.	do 2d conviction	Character very bad	Suspected of dishonesty	do do do	Aug. 30, 1826.
I. S.	Manslaughter	Intemperate and malignant	Much improved	do do do	Nov. 28, 1823.
C. F.	Assault to murder	Very intemperate	Sober, discreet man	do do do	April 15, 1824.
B. H.	Counterfeit money	A great rogue	Industrious and honest	A very respectable man	Nov. 6, 1822.
J. M. C.	Forgery	Not known	Character and conduct good		Aug. 30, 1819.
I. H.	Counterfeit money	Not known	Very respectable and much thought of		Feb. 28, 1821.
J. C.	Forgery	Very dissipated, idle & dishon.	Much more steady and industrious	A reformed man and a very useful citizen	Jan. 18, 1820.
H. H.	Burglary	Thievish	Entirely reformed—trusty and faithful	Good character	Mar. 24, 1826.
J. S.	Grand larceny	Habits not the best	Industrious, honest, respectable & pious		July 7, 1821.
J. K.	Counterfeit money	Long suspected	Good moral character		Jan. 11, 1826.
W. P.	Perjury	Very intemperate	Temperate and industrious	Reformed	July 25, 1827.
J. B.	Grand larceny	Unsteady	Behaves well		June 4, 1827.
B. C.	Grand larceny	Character good	Behaves well	Character good	June 15, 1827.
J. L.	Bigamy	Habitual drunkard	No wise altered		July 26, 1826.
E. A.	Breaking jail	Suspected of dealing in coun- terfeit money	Character and habits good	Steady, industrious and honest	Aug. 16, 1826.
S. B.	Misdemeanor	Intemperate and idle	More industrious & sober, not suspected		Jan. 10, 1823.
P. D.	Grand larceny	Unsteady and dishonest	Honest and upright		Oct. 18, 1826.
F. H.	Forgery	Lazy, idle man, of bad habits	Better citizen—reformation appears real		Apr. 22, 1826.
F. Y.	Forgery	Idle and dissipated	Appears a thoroughly reformed man		Sept. 20, 1826.
A. P.	Grand larceny	Unsteady and bad	Industrious and well esteemed		Feb. 6, 1825.

Initials.	Crime.	Character before conviction.	CHARACTER SINCE DISCHARGED.		Discharged.
			In 1826 and 1827.	In 1828.	
J. V.	Forgery	Indolent and intemperate	Conduct very good	Reformed	June 18, 1827.
C. D.	Grand larceny	Had been in prison	Industrious, good inhabitant.		Nov. 25, 1826.
N. B.	Aiding escape of pris's	Rather loose	Conduct good to a proverb—much resp'd	Conduct continues to be unexceptionable	Apr. 15, 1820.
W. B.	Forgery	Not very good	Behaves with strict propriety		Nov. 16, 1826.
D. L.	Grand larceny	Not known	An honest, industrious man		April 8, 1818.
L. S. B.	Perjury	Excessively vicious & intemp.	Perfectly regular and unexceptionable		June 20, 1827.
J. K.	Counterfeit money	Unsteady and idle	Sustains a fair character—steady and industrious		
P. O. B.	Forgery	Intemperate and dishonest	Manifest reformation	Ignorant, inoffensive young man	Jan. 19, 1827.
D. H.	Perjury	Character good	Character good—industrious and thrifty.	Wholly reclaimed	Sept. 4, 1821.
H. S.	Counterfeit money	Simple and ignorant	Simple and ignorant, his honesty not suspected.	Character continues to be good	July 9, 1821.
A. A.	Counterfeit money	Idle and dissipated	Appears reformed and pious.	Much improved, deals uprightly with all	Jan. 7, 1822.
J. T.	Grand larceny	Character bad	Intemperate—otherwise decent.		Apr. 16, 1822.
A. M. D.	Grand larceny	Very intemperate	Continues to be intemperate.		Apr. 25, 1820.
H. R.	Forgery	Habits not good	An altered man—no bad habits	Faithful industrious and honest	Sept. 1, 1819.
J. R.	Counterfeit money	Not known	Character good—steady and industrious.		June 19, 1824.
T. M.	Perjury	Character bad	Continues bad.		Dec. 4, 1822.
A. B.	Perjury	Not known	Decent, sober man, a professor of religion	[Sent to canal in 1822, and never returned.	Oct. 19, 1819.
J. H.	Grand larceny	Not the best	More ord'rly, neighbors speak well of him		June 16, 1820.
A. H.	Grand larceny	Not known	Heard nothing against him		June 28, 1822.
R. R.	Grand larceny	Very intemperate	Deranged in prison, and since		June 4, 1826.
B. N.	Grand larceny	Not described.	Morals improved; good and wholesome citizen.		
S. S.	Forgery	Character bad	Rather improved		Jan. 13, 1827.
D. S.	Counterfeit money	Not known	Exemplary in all respects.		May 18, 1826.
Indian.	Grand larceny	Not described.	Behaves much better	[Sent to new prison, April, 1825.	April, 1825.
F. G.	Counterfeit money	Extremely vicious.	A wholesome citizen of the second class.	Morals improved—a wholesome citizen	Jan. 26, 1822.
E. W.	Forgery	Dishonest and quarrelsome.	A good citizen of the first class.	do. do. do.	Dec. 4, 1820.
P. H.	Grand larceny	Character bad	Behaves very well.		June 20, 1827.
J. D.	Forgery	Simple and ignorant	Behaves very well.		Feb. 7, 1818.
R. F.	Perjury	Character very bad	Bad still	Bad still	Apr. 24, 1824.
P. C.	Grand larceny	Intemperate.	Steady and industrious.		June 26, 1827.

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L. L.	Arson	Not specified	Steady and doing well		Oct. 6, 1826.
J. P. C.	Counterfeit money	Character very bad	Industrious, and has the confidence of the community.		June 30, 1826.
S. M.	Counterfeit money	Character not very good	Character fair—much respected	Very good—a steady, faithful young man	Mar. 5, 1824.
J. W.	Breaking jail	Not described.	Steady, industrious, and a professor of religion.		
S. S. H.	Counterfeit money	Principal occupation, gaming.	Conduct very good—a merchant.	Continues to be a pious, good citizen.	Aug. 31, 1820.
D. D. B.	Counterfeit money	Very intemperate, idle & quarrelsome.	Much reformed.	Continues to behave as a good citizen	Oct. 9, 1826.
G. R.	Assault to rape.	Habits bad	Much as before.	Industrious, temperate & perfectly honest	July 7, 1826.
J. W.	Counterfeit money	Not described.	Somewhat reformed		Apr. 12, 1827.
R. D.	Forgery	Respectable.	Suspicious		Nov. 26, 1824.
W. D.	Forgery	Habits very bad.	Habits good, appears a reformed man		Jan. 10, 1826.
D. S.	Forgery	Intemperate.	Intemperate and thievish.		June 26, 1827.
J. T.	Burglary	Habits bad	Somewhat improved, but none too good now		Sept. 24, 1819.
A. V. T.	Grand larceny	Not very good	Conduct good, and appears like an honest man		May 28, 1824.
J. K.	Grand larceny	Not described.	Industrious and thriving	Reformed—an industrious, good man	June 1, 1826.
J. B.	Perjury	An intemperate, bad man.	Steady and doing well, habits much improved.	Sober and industrious.	Jan. 22, 1820.
L. W. M.	Forgery	A dishonest and dangerous man	Is dishonest yet		July 6, 1826.
D. C.	Perjury	Not described	An industrious, good citizen	[Sent to canal, 1822, escaped—	Feb. 16, 1824.
J. P.	Attempt to rape.	Very intemperate, and abusive to his family	More temperate, & behaves much better		not returned.
J. P.	Perjury	Habits bad	Much improved		Apr. 11, 1826.
A. P.	Counterfeit money	Not very vicious	Character good, honest and upright		June 22, 1820.
J. P.	Grand larceny	Very vicious.	Much reformed.		Apr. 15, 1824.
J. M. B.	Grand larceny	Not described.	Conduct good, much reformed.		June 17, 1827.
A. H.	Grand larceny	An intemperate, worthless fel'o.	Worthless still		Dec. 18, 1826.
W. M.	Grand larceny	Not described.	Conducts well	[Sent to new prison, April, 1825.	Oct. 25, 1826.
S. S.	Burglary	Character not very good	A respectable, trust-worthy man.	Industrious, faithful and pious	Apr. 18, 1825.
A. C.	Counterfeit money	Dishonest, vicious and intemp.	A pretty fair character—industrious	Intemperate.	Aug. 27, 1823.
A. P.	Assisting to break jail	Intemperate, lying and dishon.	Habits much improved.	Reformed—sober and industrious	Apr. 18, 1826.
J. C. C.	Counterfeit money	Not known	Sober, honest and industrious.		June 24, 1826.
D. J.	Grand larceny	Vic'us habits, bad from infancy	Not altered for the better.		Oct. 9, 1826.
H. L.	Forgery	Good	Good	More steady, but still indiscreet	Dec. 16, 1826.
A. P.	Counterfeit money	Rude and unsteady	Honest and good character	Very industrious—more so than before.	Apr. 13, 1825.

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Initials.	Crime.	Character before conviction.	CHARACTER SINCE DISCHARGED.		Discharged.
			In 1826 and 1827.	In 1828.	
J. P.	Grand larceny	Not described	Greatly improved—temperate and industrious		May 16, 1822.
A. W.	Counterfeit money	Very bad	Considerably improved		Feb. 5, 1824.
J. T. L.	Forgery	Decent	Remarkably industrious, sober & steady		Aug. 15, 1826.
C. W. S.	Forgery	Very good as far as known	Very good	Continues the same	Dec. 10, 1825.
M. L.	Perjury	Not known	Decent industrious man, only stimulates too high		Sept. 9, 1824.
N. D.	Counterfeit money	Not very good	Very steady and industrious		Feb. 25, 1824.
L. J.	Perjury	Not very bad	Altered for the better, but not very good		Mar. 16, 1825.
W. L.	Counterfeit money	Addicted to gambling, pilfering and counterfeiting	Still bad	Left all his tricks except gambling	June 2, 1826.
S. Y. S.	Counterfeit money	Idle	Greatly improved	An honest, industrious, respectable man.	Dec. 3, 1820.
J. D. S.	Grand larceny	Profane and dissipated	Not much reformed	Behaves much better—neither profane nor dissipated	Feb. 14, 1826.
D. Y.	do. do. 2d conv.	Very bad	Regular and inoffensive, supposed partially deranged		Feb. 5, 1824.
J. G. F.	Perjury	Extremely bad	Peaceable and industrious, but somewhat intemperate		Jan. 11, 1825.
J. S.	Grand larceny	Inconsiderate and irregular	Industrious, and attentive to business		Dec. 2, 1824.
J. F.	Forgery	Considered a prudent man	Sustains a good character		Aug. 31, 1825.
S. C.	Perjury	Rude	Much reformed		Sept. 1, 1825.
J. R.	Grand larceny	Not described	Much improved		Jan. 7, 1822.
D. B.	Counterfeit money	Not described	Much improved	Striking change—honest, industrious, good citizen	May 25, 1825.
E. B.	Counterfeit money	Not described	Much improved	do. do. do.	May 25, 1825.
H. P.	Counterfeit money	Not known	Not considered a very bad man		Aug. 17, 1826.
J. M.	Perjury	Intemperate and unsteady	Conduct very correct	Conduct not so good as last year	Sept. 4, 1823.
I. P.	Forgery	Not known	Dissipated and worthless		June 17, 1825.
P. S.	Perjury and larceny	Very bad	Habits and character good		April 24, 1824.
E. B.	Grand larceny	Said to be an old offender	Habits bad		Aug. 24, 1823.
J. W. B.	Counterfeit money	Not known	Conduct, till of late, very good		Feb. 25, 1826.
P. B.	Grand larceny	Not known	Steady, industrious and well esteemed		Mar. 28, 1820.
A. G.	Counterfeit money	Intemperate and bad	Steady, industrious and a prof. of religion	A devout christian	April 12, 1826.

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W. R.	Grand larceny	Not known	Character and habits good	Steady, industrious, pious, good citizen	Nov. 6, 1825.
O. G.	Counterfeit money	Not stated	A moral, good man		Aug. 22, 1821.
J. G.	Perjury	Intemperate and litigious		Steady, industrious man	Aug. 27, 1823.
S. R. T.	Counterfeit money	Not the worst of men		Very little altered	Feb. 24, 1821.
B. K.	Swindling	Not described		Much improved—steady and religious	June 13, 1823.
N. P.	Assault to murder	Great villain		Dangerous fellow [sent to new prison.	Sept. 27, 1824.
W. P.	Forgery	Intemperate		Character unqualifiedly good	
J. P.	Grand larceny	A drunkard		Perfectly temperate and industrious—character unqualifiedly good	Nov. 22, 1827.
J. C.	Grand larceny	Not known		A hard character	July 9, 1821.
W. A.	Grand larceny	Not known		Actually a good, honest, respectable citiz'n	Dec. 23, 1818.
L. B.	Petit larceny, 2d off.	Three times in prison before		Character very bad for 30 years	June 13, 1827.
C. L.	Counterfeit money	Character very bad		A good pious man	April 17, 1828.
A. R.	Assault to murder	Void of every good quality		Temperate, and conduct exceedingly well	sent to n. pris.
H. P. P.	Grand larceny	Much addicted to drunkenness		A temperate and industrious man	June 25, 1828.
Indian	Grand larceny	Great vagabond—addicted to all vices		Directly the reverse of what he was	July 19, 1828.
J. W.	Forgery	Idle & unsteady—an old offend'r		A very industr'us, good memb'r of society	May 29, 1828.
J. T.	Perjury	Not known		Bad character [sent to canal, escaped—	not returned.
I. S.	Assault to rape	Not described		Striking change—honest and industrious	Dec. 6, 1825.
E. A. N.	Forgery	Not the worst		Behaves well	Jan. 30, 1828.
J. S.	Grand larceny	Worthless character		Worthless character	Oct. 10, 1826.
M. S.	Grand larceny	Not known		Died professedly pious	June 19, 1823.
H. B.	Forgery	Wild, unsteady boy		Industrious and decent	June 5, 1826.
M. B.	Forgery	Wild, unsteady boy		Industrious and decent	June 5, 1826.
T. A. W.	Bigamy	Vicious character		Industrious and honest	Nov. 9, 1826.
O. D.	Grand larceny	Thief—an old offender		In prison in Pennsylvania [sent to new prison.	escaped.
S. C.	Grand larceny	Not known		Conduct good	Sept. 13, 1821.
J. D. H.	Perjury	Intemperate and imprudent		Conduct good, except intemperance	Nov. 23, 1827.
D. C.	Grand larceny	A very dishon' st, thievish fellow		Not altogether reformed	Mar. 23, 1826.
D. V.	Grand larceny	Character good		Character good	June 21, 1826.
J. H. I.	Forgery	Exceedingly loose and immoral		Professor of religion—character excellent	Jan. 25, 1828.
A. D.	Assault to rape	A poor drunken vagabond		Temperate, and greatly improved	June 15, 1828.
R. H.	Grand lar. & jail break.	Conduct bad		Altogether reformed—appears really pious	
P. D.	Assault to rape	Very intemperate and troublesome		Less intemperate and less troublesome	Aug. 7, 1822.
N. M.	Forgery	Intemp'rate, indol'nt & faithless		A very remarkable instance of reformation	Feb. 25, 1828.

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Initials.	Crime.	Character before conviction.	CHARACTER SINCE DISCHARGED.		Discharged.
			In 1826 and 1827.	In 1828.	
W. D. . .	Assault to murder . . .	Excessively intemperate, quarrelsome and dangerous . . .		Conduct improved—more temperate and orderly . . .	Nov. 25, 1820.
F. K. . .	Grand larceny . . .	A drunkard many years and vicious . . .		Industrious and temperate in general . . .	Feb. 14, 1828.
J. C. . .	Forgery . . .	A knave, and very intemperate and quarrelsome . . .		Less a knave, but still intemperate . . .	Aug. 14, 1826.
G. P. . .	Grand larceny . . .	Not known . . .		Character good . . .	Nov. 14, 1822.
B. M. . .	Perjury . . .	Character bad . . .		Respectable . . .	Jan. 24, 1826.
O. T. . .	Grand larceny . . .	He says he was wild & dissipat'd . . .		Appears well . . .	Apr. 17, 1828.
G. L. . .	Manslaughter . . .	Not described . . .		No material reformation . . .	Jan. 20, 1824.
S. V. . .	Counterfeit money . . .	He says he was dissipated . . .		Conduct meritorious . . .	Feb. 8, 1828.
H. G. . .	Petit larceny, 2d off. . .	Very intemp'rate & quarrelsom. . .		Perfectly sober, industrious, and pious . . .	Mar. 14, 1828.
P. P. . .	Grand larceny . . .	A gambler and libertine . . .		An industrious, exemplary christian . . .	Mar. 17, 1828.
S. T. . .	Grand larceny . . .	An old and unsubdued offender . . .		Conduct improved . . .	Nov. 18, 1827.
A. A. . .	Counterfeit money . . .	A hard case . . .		Behaves respectably . . .	Jan. 9, 1828.
N. B. . .	Grand larceny . . .	Not described . . .		Industrious, but rather intemperate . . .	June 28, 1825.
O. T. . .	Grand larceny . . .	Not described . . .		Very industrious—more so than before . . .	Sept. 25, 1827.
S. F. . .	Grand larceny . . .	Intemperate and indolent . . .		Sober and industrious . . .	June 1, 1818.
I. W. . .	Forgery & jail break. . .	do do . . .		do do . . .	Mar. 12, 1822.
A. W. . .	Grand lar. & jail break. . .	do do . . .		do do . . .	Jan. 12, 1828.