

~~1857~~  
1855

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE CONDITION OF THE

NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON,

EMBRACING THE REPORTS OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE, INSPECTORS, KEEPER, MORAL  
INSTRUCTOR AND PHYSICIAN.

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1856.

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ANNALS OF THE

NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON

NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON

OF THE

JOINT COMMISSIONERS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON

INSTITUTION AND HOSPITAL

1854

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## NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON,

EMBRACING THE REPORTS OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE, INSPECTORS, KEEPER, MORAL  
INSTRUCTOR AND PHYSICIAN.

READ JANUARY 29, 1856, AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

TRENTON:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "TRUE AMERICAN."

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R. LAIRD, Chairman.  
SAMUEL R. WILKINS, Chairman.  
JOSEPH W. WILLEVER,  
REMY BARRETT.

## JOINT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

---

The Joint Committee appointed for the purpose of examining the accounts of the State Prison, Report:—

That in the execution of their duties, they found the accounts and vouchers, proper and correct.

Accompanying herewith are submitted several statements of the concerns of the Institution.

Statement A, shows the Dr. and Cr. sides of the accounts of the different departments of labor, &c.

Statement B, shows the condition of the finances.

Your Committee report a balance found against the prison of \$8,322.22.

They further report a large quantity of chair bottoms—say, 640 dozen—estimated to be worth in the market at least \$3,000.

The committee recommend an appropriation of \$5,000 for the purpose of carrying on the affairs of the institution.

Your committee also agree with the commissioners appointed under an act to authorise the construction of a hospital for the prison, approved March 16th, 1854, in asking an appropriation to carry out the intention of the Legislature, owing to the crowded state of the prison, and the necessity of a hospital, an additional wing is greatly needed.

The committee avail themselves of this opportunity of bear-

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SAMUEL R. WINANS, Chairman.

JOSEPH W. WILLEVER,

REILY BARRETT,

JOHN D. WARD. JOINT REPORT

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The committee avail themselves of this opportunity of bear-

**Statement B.***Condition of the Finances of the Prison, January 1, 1856.*

Cash on hand, . . . . .	\$1,032.42
Bills receivable, . . . . .	1,658.42
Book accounts, . . . . .	1,961.49
Am't. due Prison, . . . . .	<u>\$4,652.33</u>

Due from the Prison, . . . . .	\$12,974.53
Deduct amount due, . . . . .	4,652.33
Ball. against Prison, . . . . .	<u>\$8,322.20</u>

*Drafts on the Treasury during the year 1855.*

Prison Inspectors, . . . . .	\$615.19
Salaries of officers, . . . . .	9,505.41
Bills of cost of convicts, . . . . .	8,735.16
Transportation fees paid to Sheriffs, . . . . .	1,371.77
Prison repairs, . . . . .	1,267.92
Whole amount paid out, . . . . .	<u>\$21,495.45</u>

### Statement A.

In consequence of the failure of the Legislature at its last session to appoint appraisers, there has been no inventory and appraisement of the property of the Prison made, as has been the practice heretofore, the clerk is therefore unable to make a full exhibit of the condition of the affairs of the Institution. He, therefore, presents the following as the best, and all that he can do under the circumstances :—

*Statement showing the Dr. and Cr. side of the accounts of the different departments of Labor, &c.*

	DR.	CR.
Furniture account,	\$1,790.52	\$ 7.25
Chair-Making,	4,919.55	16,101.51
Cordwainers account,	14,471.82	14,575.92
Weaving “	3,329.94	4,264.93
Sundries “	108.87	507.36
Provision “	11,324.83	203.77
Hospital “	532.93	
Fuel “	2,617.19	
Convict's Deposits ac't.	40.80	115.83
Interest account,	411.01	8.83
Overwork “	844.26	
Disch'gd. Convict's act.	341.18	
Incidental account,	438.30	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$41,171.20	\$35,785.40
Deduct credits,	35,785.40	
	<hr/>	
Ball. vs. the Prison,	\$5,385.80	

The following tables will exhibit the terms of sentence of those in confinement, December thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, and the number of those committed during the year, and the number received from each county, their age, when received, their color, sex, etc.

Also, a summary of those received during the year, as derived and condensed from the records of the prison.

## INSPECTOR'S REPORT,

### TERMS OF SENTENCE.

*To the Honorable, the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

The board of inspectors of the New Jersey State prison, in obedience to the requirements of the statute, have the honor to present to your honorable body, their annual report of the general condition and affairs of the institution for the year ending December thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty-five.

The annexed tables, compiled by the clerk from the records of the prison, will show the number of convicts now confined in prison, the number received and discharged during the year, and all the particulars concerning them, that are called for by existing laws.

The number in confinement December 31st, 1854, was		206
The number received since that time,		159
		365
<b>Total number in confinement during the year,</b>		
<b>DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR.</b>		
By expiration of sentence,		95
Pardoned,		45
Died,		5
		145
Leaving in confinement, December 31st, 1855,		220

The following tables will exhibit the terms of sentence of those in confinement, December thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, together with the crimes committed, number of times that each have been committed to this prison, number received from each county, their age, when received, their color, sex, etc.

Also, sundry statistics of those received during the year, as derived and condensed from the records of the prison.

## TERMS OF SENTENCE.

20 years,	-	-	-	-	-	3
15 "	-	-	-	-	-	3
12 "	-	-	-	-	-	2
11 "	-	-	-	-	-	2
10 "	-	-	-	-	-	10
8 "	-	-	-	-	-	3
8 " and 6 months,	-	-	-	-	-	1
7 "	-	-	-	-	-	1
6 " and 6 months,	-	-	-	-	-	1
6 "	-	-	-	-	-	7
5 " and 6 months,	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 "	-	-	-	-	-	18
4 "	-	-	-	-	-	11
16 "	-	-	-	-	-	1
3 " and 6 months,	-	-	-	-	-	4
3 "	-	-	-	-	-	32
2 " and 6 months,	-	-	-	-	-	15
2 "	-	-	-	-	-	30
2 " and 3 months,	-	-	-	-	-	4
1 " and 6 months,	-	-	-	-	-	14
1 " and 3 months,	-	-	-	-	-	1
1 "	-	-	-	-	-	39
9 months,	-	-	-	-	-	6
6 months and 1 day,	-	-	-	-	-	2
6 months,	-	-	-	-	-	9
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	220

NUMBER OF COMMITMENTS.

For 1st offence,	-	-	-	-	-	196
“ 2d “	-	-	-	-	-	13
“ 3d “	-	-	-	-	-	6
“ 4th “	-	-	-	-	-	5
						220
						Total,

PLACES OF NATIVITY—NATIVE BORN.

New Jersey,	-	-	-	-	-	82
New York,	-	-	-	-	-	24
Pennsylvania,	-	-	-	-	-	25
Maryland,	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rhode Island,	-	-	-	-	-	2
Massachusetts,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Illinois,	-	-	-	-	-	1
						137
						Total number native born,

FOREIGNERS.

Ireland,	-	-	-	-	-	30
Scotland,	-	-	-	-	-	2
England,	-	-	-	-	-	12
Germany,	-	-	-	-	-	27
Prusia,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Canada,	-	-	-	-	-	2
France,	-	-	-	-	-	2
Switzerland,	-	-	-	-	-	4
Italy,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Denmark,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Unknown,	-	-	-	-	-	1
						83
						Total number foreigners,

YEARS IN WHICH RECEIVED IN PRISON.

1847,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1848,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1849,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1850,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
1851,	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
1852,	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
1853,	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
1854,	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
1855,	-	-	-	-	-	-	122
Total,							220

AGE WHEN RECEIVED IN PRISON.

12 years,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
13 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
16 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
17 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
18 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
19 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
20 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
From 20 to 25 years,	-	-	-	-	-	-	74
" 25 " 30 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
" 30 " 40 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
" 40 " 50 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
" 50 " 60 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
" 60 " 70 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total,							220

COUNTIES WHERE COMMITTED AND NUMBER FROM EACH.

Atlantic,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bergen,	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Burlington,	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Camden,	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Camberland,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Essex,	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Gloucester,	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Hudson,	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Hunterdon,	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Mercer,	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Middlesex,	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Monmouth,	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Morris,	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Passaic,	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Salem,	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Somerset,	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Sussex,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Warren,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
							<u>220</u>
							Total, 220

THEIR COLOR AND SEX.

White males,	-	-	-	-	-	-	168
White females,	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Colored males,	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
Colored females,	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
							<u>220</u>
							Total, 220

COUNTRIES WHERE COMMITTED AND NUMBER FROM EACH

## CRIMES COMMITTED.

Assault, - - - - -	1
Assault, with intent to kill, - - - - -	4
Assault, with intent to commit rape, - - - - -	5
Attempt to kill by poison - - - - -	1
Assault and battery and bigamy, - - - - -	1
Arson, - - - - -	3
Arson and breaking jail, - - - - -	1
Assault and battery and misdemeanor, - - - - -	1
Assault and battery, - - - - -	13
Assault and battery and entering and stealing, - - - - -	1
Atrocious assault and battery, - - - - -	2
Assault and battery with intent to steal, - - - - -	1
Breaking jail, - - - - -	4
Burglary and larceny, - - - - -	15
Burglary and breaking jail, - - - - -	4
Breaking and stealing, - - - - -	10
Burglary and arson, - - - - -	1
Burglary, - - - - -	13
Burglary and grand larceny, - - - - -	3
Breaking and stealing horse and sleigh, - - - - -	1
Burning barn, - - - - -	4
Burglary and rape, - - - - -	1
Burning stacks of grain, - - - - -	1
Burglary, larceny, and breaking jail, - - - - -	1
Disorderly house, - - - - -	2
Embezzlement, - - - - -	1
Forgery, - - - - -	1
Grand larceny, - - - - -	25
Grand larceny and breaking jail, - - - - -	1
Highway robbery, - - - - -	2
Larceny, - - - - -	38

Carried forward, - 162

	Brought forward,	162
Larceny and breaking jail,		1
Larceny and embezzlement,		1
Larceny and setting fire to court-house,		1
Murder in second degree,		3
Misdemeanor,		13
Murder, - - - - -		2
Misdemeanor, larceny and breaking jail,		2
Misdemeanor and assault and battery,		1
Misdemeanor and larceny, - - - - -		9
Misdemeanor and breaking jail,		1
Misdemeanor and burning factory,		1
Misdemeanor and robbery,		2
Manslaughter, - - - - -		1
Misdemeanor and forgery, - - - - -		1
Nuisance, - - - - -		1
Passing counterfeit money, - - - - -		1
Poligemy, - - - - -		2
Rape, - - - - -		6
Robbery and Burglary, - - - - -		1
Robbery, - - - - -		2
Reiving stolen goods, - - - - -		2
Stealing horses, - - - - -		3
Stealing money, - - - - -		1
	<b>Total,</b>	<b>240</b>

Whole number, 130

COUNTRY OF THEIR BIRTH.

90	United States,
36	Germany,
20	Ireland,

Carried forward, 145

Statement of the number of convicts received from each county, during the year ending the thirty-first day of December, 1855, together with the country of their birth, their color, previous education, crimes committed, previous occupation, social state, and the number of times they have been committed to prison.

Received from the county of Atlantic,		1
“ “ “ Bergen,		3
“ “ “ Berlington,		16
“ “ “ Camden,		23
“ “ “ Cumberland,		1
“ “ “ Essex,		19
“ “ “ Gloucester,		4
“ “ “ Hunterdon,		5
“ “ “ Hudson,		14
“ “ “ Mercer,		15
“ “ “ Middlesex,		9
“ “ “ Monmouth,		4
“ “ “ Morris,		15
“ “ “ Passaic,		16
“ “ “ Salem,		2
“ “ “ Sussex,		3
“ “ “ Somerset,		7
“ “ “ Warren,		2
		<hr/>
Whole number,		159

## COUNTRY OF THEIR BIRTH.

United States,		90
Germany,		26
Ireland,		29
		<hr/>
Carried forward,		145

		Brought forward,	145
1	England,	.	8
1	Scotland,	.	1
1	Canada,	.	1
1	France,	.	1
1	Italy,	.	1
1	Denmark,	.	1
1	Prussia,	.	1
3		Total,	159

THEIR PREVIOUS EDUCATION.

1	Well educated,	.	4
1	Can read and write,	.	97
1	Can read only,	.	25
1	Can neither read or write,	.	33
1		Total,	159

THEIR PREVIOUS OCCUPATION.

1	Blacksmiths,	.	4
1	Butcher and Painter,	.	1
1	Baker,	.	2
1	Butcher,	.	3
1	Calker,	.	2
1	Carpenter,	.	4
1	Caner,	.	2
1	Daguerrotypist	.	1
1	Glass blower,	.	2
1	Gardener,	.	1
1		Number carried forward,	22

	Number brought forward,	22
Harness maker, . . . . .		1
Hair cloth maker, . . . . .		1
Hatter, . . . . .		2
Iron roller and gas maker, . . . . .		1
Machinest, . . . . .		2
Miller, . . . . .		1
Moulder, . . . . .		1
Mason, . . . . .		1
Physician, . . . . .		2
Painter, . . . . .		2
Sail maker, . . . . .		2
Surgeon, . . . . .		1
Sailor, . . . . .		1
Segar maker, . . . . .		1
Ship carpenter, . . . . .		1
Scissor grinder and umbrella-mender, . . . . .		1
Shoemaker, . . . . .		5
Tavernkeeper, . . . . .		1
Tailor, . . . . .		1
Tinsmith, . . . . .		1
Turner in wood, . . . . .		1
Tanner, . . . . .		1
Veterinary Surgeon, . . . . .		1
Weaver, . . . . .		1
Wire drawer, . . . . .		1
Having no trade, . . . . .		99
	Whole number,	159

The financial condition of the prison is improving; the demand for its products at present is better than for some time past. We found the institution at the commencement of our superintendence of its affairs involved in a debt of several thousand dollars; also a small supply of stock on hand. In

consequence, it became necessary to make a loan of three thousand dollars to meet its pressing liabilities. Since then, it has been enabled from the sales made to meet its current expenses, excepting the salaries of its officers. And we would respectfully recommend that the legislature make an appropriation to pay off said loan, believing, from present prospects, if the institution is put fairly afloat, by prudent management, it may be so continued.

We have not been in a situation to pay over any money into the treasury, and are of opinion that the institution never has been, although it has been the practice for several years past, and which has been calculated to mislead, and create a false impression. The prison, we believe, has always cost more than it produced, including the salaries of its officers.

We regret to have to say that we are of opinion that the violation of law, by the commission of crime, is largely on the increase in our state, and as a natural consequence, our penitentiary is full to overflowing; consequently we are unable to carry out the requirements of the law respecting solitary confinement, being frequently obliged to place two convicts in one cell, thus enabling them, by association, to form plans whereby they become greater adepts in crime, and in many instances leave the prison worse rogues than when they entered it.

The prison is also in great want of a suitable apartment for an hospital, wherein the sick and afflicted can have better accommodations and attention. We also consider it of great importance that a different plan should be adopted respecting the safe keeping of the female convicts in the prison, it being desirable that they should be kept more distinct, and separate, than it is possible they can be, under the present arrangement.

There is always in confinement a class of ingenious, desperate characters, who are constantly on the look-out for an opportunity to escape, and in some instances have nearly succeeded. It is therefore important that a number of cells should

be provided for that description of offenders. And feeling the necessity thereof, we have prepared three cells on a plan which we feel confident will defeat all attempts at escape, and recommend that more of a similar kind be made.

In view of the reasons above stated, the board of inspectors would suggest, and urge, upon the legislature, the necessity of making an appropriation for the erection of another wing, whereby more room can be obtained, and the objects stated better effected. As the present buildings are only a part of the original plan, to be added too, as occasion might require, and believing the peace and safety of society demand it, and also believing the state to be abundantly able, from its own resources, to make such an addition, the board feel no hesitation in making this recommendation, which will enable the officers of the institution to carry out the requirements of the law.

We would also advise that a thorough alteration be made in the waste pipes, for carrying off the filth, &c., from the prison. They are at present intended to be discharged into the canal, but in consequence of there not being a sufficient descent, they are clogged, and choaked up, the effect of which is to seriously, at times, affect the health of the inmates of the prison; and it being a matter involving considerable expense, the board have hesitated in incurring it, considering it best to lay the subject before the legislature.

We find there is a large quantity of unsaleable stock on hand, which has been accumulating for years, and which is occupying considerable room, which is wanted for better purposes, also swelling the inventory from year to year, without any advantage to the institution. We would suggest the propriety of having it converted into cash.

There have been five deaths, during the past year. The general health of the prisoners, has been an average with preceding years; no fatal epidemic has prevailed. For a more particular report, we refer to the accompanying report of the prison physician.

There have been no escapes during the year.

The board have not found it necessary to adopt any new rules, but have deemed it advisable to make some alterations and a revision of those already in use.

The moral instructor we believe has attended faithfully to the discharge of his duties, laboring diligently to effect a change in the religious and moral character of the prisoners, and we hope, in some instances, with beneficial results. By direction of the board of inspectors, he has made an addition to the prison library.

We believe the laws for the punishment of crimes have been carried out to as great an extent, as the present plan of the institution will admit.

It gives us pleasure to avail ourselves of this opportunity to bear testimony to the efficiency, and gentlemanly deportment of the principal keeper, and his associates. Also, to the ability, and correctness, of the clerk of the institution.

Believing, that with the improvements, and additions recommended, our's can be made a model prison, a credit to the state, and well calculated to sustain the ends of justice, and the requirements of law, we in conclusion respectfully submit the whole subject to the wisdom of the legislature, hoping they will give it that consideration which its importance deserves.

Respectfully submitted,

By order of the Board,

JOS. A. PITTENGER, Sect.

INSPECTOR'S ROOM, Jan. 2, 1856.

There have been no escapes during the year. The board have not found it necessary to adopt any new rules, but have deemed it advisable to make some alterations and a revision of those already in use.

The moral instructor we believe has attended faithfully to the discharge of his duties, laboring diligently to effect a change in the religious and moral character of the prisoners, and we hope, in some instances, with beneficial results. By direction of the board of inspectors, he has made an addition to the prison library.

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Respectfully submitted,

By order of the Board,

JOS. A. FITTINGER, Sect.

Inspector's Room Jan. 2, 1850.

making a temporary loan, as will be reported to you by the board of inspectors. If it could be anticipated that any marked improvement in business would shortly occur, and the demand for our goods thereby become more active, the loan spoken of, and all other demands against the institution could very shortly be liquidated, otherwise it will be necessary, as recommended by the Legislature, that a provision be made for that purpose, so as to prevent the sacrifice of goods at reduced rates, and thereby place the institution in a position to avail itself of the return of good times, when it may reimburse the state treasury for the same. But as it will be my duty to lay before a joint committee of the Legislature a detailed account of the transactions of the prison, I presume that they will take this matter into consideration.

**KEEPER'S REPORT.**

*To His Excellency the Governor, and the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New Jersey.*

According to a usage long established, I have the honor to communicate herewith the condition of the Institution under my charge.

In consequence of the failure of the last Legislature to appoint appraisers, to take an inventory of the property belonging to the Institution, I have been unable to ascertain and report the precise amount of property on hand at the close of the last fiscal year, but from my knowledge of the amount of manufactured goods, and other articles which are on hand, I am of opinion that it is fully equal, if not greater, than what existed at the close of 1854.

For the same reason, I am unable to state the profits earned on the various branches of labor carried on in the prison.— In consequence of the embarrassments in the commercial affairs of the country for the last year, I have been unable to dispose of as readily, or as at equally good prices the principal article of manufacture, so that there remains unsold of one single article, the large and unprecedented quantity of six hundred dozen chair seats. This has led of course to a stringency in the monetary affairs of the institution, and to the necessity of

making a temporary loan, as will be reported to you by the board of inspectors. If it could be anticipated that any marked improvement in business would shortly occur, and the demand for our goods thereby become more active, the loan spoken of, and all other demands against the institution could very shortly be liquidated, otherwise it will be necessary, as recommended by the inspectors, that an appropriation be made for that purpose, so as to prevent the sacrifice of goods at reduced rates, and thereby place the institution in a position to avail itself of the return of good times, when it may reimburse the state treasury for the advance. But as it will be my duty to lay before a joint committee of the legislature a detailed account of the transactions of the prison, I presume that they will take this matter into consideration, and recommend to the legislature such a course as they may deem most expedient.

The number of convicts in confinement on the 31st day of December, 1854, was . . . . . 206

Received during the year 1855, . . . . . 159

Making, . . . . . 365

Discharged during the year by expiration of sentence, . . . . . 95

Pardoned and restored, . . . . . 45

Died during the year, . . . . . 5

Making, . . . . . 145

Leaving in confinement on the 31st day of December, 1855, 220, which is the largest number ever confined in the prison at the expiration of any year.

The crowded condition of the prison is a matter of regret, not only in its moral aspect, but because it destroys the effects of that solitary condition which is intended by law to mark its discipline. This is in some measure produced, by the number of persons committed for short periods and for offences which might be punished in some other manner.

Several attempts have been made to escape during the year,

but I am happy to say, owing to the vigilance of the officers, none have been successful. Besides these, there have been but few acts of insubordination, and but one of a serious character. This was perpetrated by a prisoner who assaulted an under keeper, stabbing him severely with a knife.

The services of the moral instructor have continued to make a salutary influence on the morals and conduct of the prisoners as will no doubt be found by his report to the governor and inspectors.

The health of the prisoners has been generally good, and notwithstanding the disadvantages labored under from the want of a hospital, the practice of the physician has been very successful, and I have to acknowledge his great diligence and attention.

The assistant keepers, and subordinate officers of the prison, have been faithful in the performance of their respective duties, and have afforded me every reason to be satisfied with their aid and co-operation in all matters relating to the discipline and internal business of the prison.

I am happy to say, in conclusion, that to the inspectors and clerk, I am indebted for a cordial and kindly intercourse in all that relates to our joint duties, and I must be permitted to add, that their attention to the duties specially imposed on them by law is worthy of all praise.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. B. VANDERVEER,

*Keeper N. J. State Prison.*

OFFICE OF N. J. STATE PRISON, }  
 January 8th, 1856. }

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Your obedient servant,

WM. B. VANDERVEER,

Keeper N. J. State Prison.

Office of N. J. State Prison,  
January 27, 1856.

as all the reports emanating from this institution for the last five years have sufficiently shown its necessity. We trust, therefore, that an ample additional appropriation will be made to carry out the intention of the legislature.

### COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

JOHN I. TAYLOR  
Commissioners



New Jersey State Prison  
January 8, 1856

*To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New Jersey.*

The undersigned Commissioners, appointed under an act to authorise the construction of a Hospital for the State Prison, approved March 16th, 1854, beg leave to Report,

That they advertised for proposals to build said wing by contract, as directed by the act, and received estimates from four different individuals, or firms, all of which so far exceeded the sum appropriated, (to wit, fifteen thousand dollars), that it was deemed by the undersigned, and by the inspectors, under whose advice and concurrence we acted, not proper to commence the building without having means to finish it. We, therefore, preferred not to incur the debt, the payment of which was unprovided for, but to wait until the meeting of the legislature, with entire confidence that in view of the great necessity for the improvement, that the deficiency would be appropriated. The lowest estimate we received was twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars.

It was suggested by some that we should proceed with the building as long as the amount appropriated would last and then wait for an additional appropriation. Although there may be precedents for such a course we did not feel justified in following them, knowing that the legislature expected the building to be finished for the fifteen thousand dollars appropriated.

It is hardly necessary for us in this report to urge the importance of this additional building to the state prison, inasmuch

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as all the reports emanating from this institution for the last five years have sufficiently shown its necessity. We trust, therefore, that an ample additional appropriation will be made to carry out the intention of the legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

**WM. B. VANDERVEER,  
JOHN L. TAYLOR,**

*Commissioners.*

**NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, }  
January 8, 1856. }**

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observed than during some previous years—but when the nature of the cases comes to be taken into consideration, a mortality not at all to be wondered at. The first death occurred in the month of J. A prisoner who had been for some days a traving

### PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

decease. A prisoner who had been for some days a traving was found dead in his cell one morning, after having been left by his keeper as usual the night previous. It appeared that he had torn a portion of the wash-board from his cell, with which he had broken the steam-pipes passing through the

*To the Board of Inspectors of the New Jersey State Prison.*

GENTLEMEN:—In accordance with custom, and the established rules of the New Jersey State Prison, I herewith transmit to your board my annual report concerning the medical affairs of that Institution. Since entering upon my duties as medical officer of the prison, in April last, you will have observed from my monthly reports to your board, that the health of its inmates has varied considerably; that the diseases peculiar to the different seasons of the year have prevailed as well within the prison walls, as in the world outside.— During the months of April, May, and June there were many cases of intermittent fever. These were confined principally to one particular portion of the building, viz., to the lower hall of the south wing, and on the north side of that hall.— The greater number of those confined in this part of the building, had intermittent once or oftener. This portion of the prison I have had frequent occasion to notice as being much more subject to dampness than any other. The sun seems not to reach it but during a small portion of the day.

During the months of July and August, we had numerous cases of cholera morbus, diarrhœa, and dysentery, many of them cases of great severity. Besides these, there have been and are still a number of cases of chronic diseases, such as consumption, scrofula, constitutional syphilis, &c.

The number of deaths within the institution during the entire year has been five—a greater proportion it will be

observed than during some previous years—but when the nature of the cases comes to be taken into consideration, a mortality not at all to be wondered at. The first death occurred in the month of January, during the term of service of my predecessor. A prisoner who had been for some days a raving maniac was found dead in his cell one morning, after having been left by his keeper as usual the night previous. It appeared that he had torn a portion of the wash-board from his cell, with which he had broken the steam-pipes passing through his cell, whence the irruption of steam was so great as not only to produce severe scalding, but absolute suffocation. The second death occurred in April, a day or two subsequent to my election; but before I had visited the institution. It was caused by consumption. The third was also a case of consumption. The fourth case was that of a prisoner who had been for some time laboring under a chronic affection of the spinal marrow, when an attack of acute inflammation supervened and was quickly fatal. The fifth was a case of tuberculous meningitis occurring in a subject of markedly scrofulous diathesis.

It may be remarked that the narrow, confined, and slightly ventilated cell of the prison is a very unfavorable place in which to treat cases of disease of any severity. When the patients are so widely separated from each other as they in many cases must be, when remaining in their cells, it is impossible for the person who has charge of them, to give that attention which their cases frequently need. He is subject to so frequent calls from various parts of the building, and is so frequently interrupted, that he cannot in all cases see that the remedies which have been prescribed are properly administered, nor attend to the preparation of a proper diet for the sick.

Had we a proper hospital attached, such as every well arranged and conducted institution of the kind should have, it would add greatly to the success of medical treatment, and do away with much embarrassment to the business operations of the prison. The prison is, in my opinion, very much in want of an additional wing, in order that the

separation and classification of the prisoners may be more complete, to which might be easily attached, and at a comparatively small cost, a properly constructed hospital department. This would not only reflect much credit upon the kindness and humanity of our legislators, but add greatly to the comfort of the incarcerated in time of sickness. There are among the convicts sent to a prison, many who have broken themselves down by leading lives of vice and dissipation, who, when they are attacked by any acute disease, and have still to be kept confined in their cells, it is a difficult matter to restore to health by any strictly medical treatment. I therefore hope that your board will, in their report to the legislature, strenuously advocate the erection of a suitable hospital.

There is also one other matter to which I wish, at this time, to call your attention, and that is to the condition of many of the drugs in the shop of the prison. I found, when entering upon my duties there last spring, a large quantity of drugs in bad condition, some of which, from appearances, had been there a long time—many of them not labeled—some, preparations whose formulæ were not to be obtained; so that I was compelled at once to have the shop furnished with a supply of well selected drugs and medicines, from which I might draw my supplies for the treatment of the sick. The stock which has been purchased during my term of service, and upon my orders has reached the cost of about two hundred and fifteen dollars. There is still a goodly share of this remaining in the shop. I would recommend that your board have this matter properly looked into, and that all drugs which are found worthless should be disposed of, as the room occupied by them is wanted for other purposes.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I would embrace this opportunity to return to you my thanks for the kind and courteous treatment which I have always received at your hands, as also, to all the officers of the prison.

W. W. L. PHILLIPS, M. D.  
*Physician to N. J. State Prison.*

January 2, 1856.

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W. W. PHILLIPS, M. D.

Physician to St. A. State Prison.

January 2, 1856.

## MORAL INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

*To the Honorable, the Governor of the State of New Jersey,  
and to the Inspectors of the State Prison :*

GENTLEMEN :—With the close of another year I am again called upon to report to you on matters relating to the duties of my office. And in so doing I have but chiefly to relate past experience connected with the same duties, and bring to your notice some points which I deem necessary for the better discipline and moral well being of men committed for a time to the care of the state.

Of the religious and moral part of my work, I can but speak in hope, trusting that my words may not have wholly fallen by the wayside. The ground is exceedingly rocky and filled with thorns, and if the seed spring up but little chance is given for ripening, being frequently choked up by circumstances surrounding the prisoner, which the state can, and I feel assured will correct when its economy is founded on a truer and more enlarged basis.

These difficulties I shall, before closing, briefly notice.

On Sundays the Gospel has been preached, and on these occasions every opportunity afforded which the convenience of the prison can give, that the Word may have its effect. The want of a chapel where the speaker and his hearers may be brought face to face, is a most serious obstacle in the way of accomplishing great results.

The voice is shorn of much of its power when the eye can-

not also speak and detect the rising emotions in the heart of the listener.

Still, with this difficulty I have strived, as far as the voice alone can do so, to impress upon the prisoners a true sense of their responsibility to God, to themselves and to their fellow men. Urging the moral obligations under which they lay to society, and the happy, reflective results arising from their observance, to themselves. And I can but trust, as said, that all this has not been in vain. The practical results are of course not seen; and that our hopes will be realised when again those prisoners shall have their liberty, is too much perhaps to expect while surrounded by an atmosphere reeking with corruption. Yet I cannot, from my observations among them, believe that those hopes will be utterly disappointed. It is a gratifying fact that general attention is given to the preaching, although left optional with the prisoner whether he shall listen at his cell door or not. And if he hears—if he shows interest enough to listen, we surely have encouragement to hope that all our labors are not in vain. A stoical apathy may apparently reign, but the idea has been received and what shall be the result, must be left to the higher power. That weeds will not grow up and choke the Word is not for man to say. In the world such apathy exists and the christian is not discouraged; nor will he be, although it exists still deeper within the prison walls. His religion comes sustained and advanced by a power against which the great adversary of God and man cannot prevail, although the victim of crime may seem trebly bound in his wickedness. It is this power which lies at the foundation of every moral revolution, and it is the belief in its existence by our state, which assigns to me one important part of my duties. The spirit of God may not seem to rest upon my feeble labors by producing a rapid growth of christian graces and a deep penitential sorrow, yet I do not despair of some effect even though as connected with the wisdom of this world.

For as "Moral Instructor," I am bound to speak much of

the happy resulting effects of good morals, and do not fail to do so, while at the same time pressing the higher claims of the soul in its relation to God and Eternity.

Professions of being governed by religious principles, and of a determination to reform their mode of life, are not now so freely made as when entering first upon the duties of my office; yet I do not think that such principles and determination exist the less. Having failed in the purpose of those professions which was to propitiate the favor of the pardoning power, I am the less frequently plied with them. That they have been made for this purpose I am well satisfied. The hope of pardon has heretofore been so ever-present with the vilest criminals, that every profession and artifice has been used to enlist advocates in their cause. We trust this hope has now been wisely checked. My experience assures me that nothing operates so badly against the good discipline of the prison, and the moral reformation of the prisoners as an injudicious pardon. And it is natural that this should be the case—we can expect no other result. When an undeserving man is inadvertently released, the fact is soon known through the prison, and then the comparisons of grades of crime at once begins; and if it be that the greater offender has escaped, an unhappy reflection is made upon the justice governing the court of pardons. That such fact, and indeed every occurrence taking place outside of the prison should be kept from the knowledge of the prisoners, is the theory of the silent imprisonment system, but before this can be carried out, new arrangements must be made and new regulations introduced. And how can the greatest good be accomplished for these outcasts of society with the least expense to the state, is the great question and a proper one for the consideration of the political economist. Yet let us not while thinking to consult economy, sacrifice the good in relation to virtue, under the impression that thereby money is saved. Such principle of action is but the realisation of the adage "penny wise and pound foolish." While from the head keeper is expected the largest return of money from

the labor of the prisoners, and upon which may depend the term of his office; or while the fitness for the office is a subject of less consideration than his political faithfulness, how can it be expected that the reformation of the prisoner will take its proper place in the deliberations of the legislature or of its appointee? In these great subjects pertaining to the reformation of men, a broader platform must be laid than that prescribed by usual political lines. If the subject be one of chief importance, the largest liberality must be extended, and the fittest means chosen to bring about an important result. And as connected with the reformation of criminals especially is this necessary. For what state can be prosperous if its highest aim be not the suppression of vice and irreligion.

In this sense, to be liberal, and wise with that liberality, is to be economical.

It is unnecessary to enter more at length into this argument. The truth of what I have said, I doubt not, will at once meet your assent.

Connected with the prison buildings, two great wants are pressed upon my notice. And I speak of them because their bearing is not small upon the moral improvement of the prisoner. They are, the want of room and proper arrangement of the heating and waste pipes. From the former arises the necessity of placing two prisoners in very many of the cells. And hence the association often of blackest vice with comparative innocence. The result of this is not difficult to foresee. The good which may have found entrance in the one is soon dissipated by the jeers or malicious reasoning of the other. The force of my private interviews, so much more effective of good than appeals to men collectively, are thus made to fall without leaving an impression. The youthful criminal soon becomes learned in all the crimes and wicked arts of his associate adept, and when restored to liberty leaves the prison often more at heart a criminal than when entering. The exercise of great caution may to some extent, obviate this evil, when the characters of men are known, but before this is known or

developed, if indeed made known to the keeper at all, the evil may be effected. But only to a small extent can the evil be remedied in this way, while the means of communication from cell to cell are so ready at hand. The pipes already alluded to, are speaking trumpets for the conveyance of sound, enabling adjacent occupants and even those in distant cells, to converse with but little difficulty. And from their position within the cells rendering it impossible for the keepers to preserve that silence and non-communication upon which theory the prison was constructed, and which is necessary for preserving proper discipline. The want of room to appropriate one prisoner to each cell, as was the original design, might to some extent be obviated, by restoring many of the cells to their proper use, now necessarily occupied for depositing material to carry on the working department; and also by vacating the cells occupied by the female convicts. The propriety and necessity of making the last mentioned change will at once force itself upon your notice. As now arranged with the males in the same corridor with the females (and with the present accommodations it cannot be different), and with the same pipes communicating, how can any moral reformation be looked for in this association of corrupt and polluted minds? This calls loudly for redress, and should force upon the proper authorities the necessity of at once erecting the building contemplated for a hospital, and if I mistake not, also for the accommodation of the female convicts; and who for like reasons applicable to the males, should be in separate confinement.

I have thus, gentlemen, mentioned some of the difficulties which stand in the way of effecting the greatest good to the prisoner, in its reformatory bearing. The state can remedy these without the expenditure of vast sums of money; and whatever may be the cost, an enlightened public sentiment will hardly in these days venture to place a pecuniary value upon virtue and religion.

Connected with my duties as teacher, I have charge of the library. The privilege of reading seems fully appreciated by

the prisoners. They are kept supplied with religious and miscellaneous works of a standard character. The intervals of work are spent with them and the information acquired cannot fail to have its proper effect. A strictly solitary confinement will enable them thus to spend their time far more profitably than in conversation with their equals. The mind is not always willingly absorbed in its own thoughts. The book is therefore readily seized upon in moments of leisure.

Many volumes are thus read when hardly one would be looked into in their life of freedom. A love of learning is here often acquired, which will not always be lost, when emerging again into the world. He who at first is a poor reader soon overcomes his difficulties. And it is no rare occurrence to find the man ignorant of his alphabet when entering the prison, to have become a fluent reader when leaving. And so with writing; the art is soon acquired. And frequently is the feeling of gratitude expressed in finding the prison a school as well as a place of punishment.

The state has done wisely in looking upon the convict with this parental eye, and all that can be desired is to see every arrangement carried out, whereby the highest cultivation of mind and improvement in morals can be effected, consistent with due punishment. I am happy to say that my visits to the cells continue to be welcomed, and that all I have to say is respectfully listened to, even by the most hardened. It is evidence that redeeming traits of character cannot be wholly buried—they stand out more prominently because of the surrounding gloom.

Again I have to repeat the regret expressed in my former annual report, that among the more aged adepts in vice is seen the boy, whose association should be other than that connected with a state prison. This is not the place for juvenile offenders. New Jersey has yet a duty to perform in behalf of her recreant children. A home is needed for such—a house of refuge, where may be found protection against the allurements of vice so fascinating to the youthful mind. I trust this duty

will soon be performed in the coming of that day when the desire of carrying remedial punishment to its greatest perfection will be felt, and no unworthy consideration of dollars and cents loom up to paralyze this earnest longing of a noble heart.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I here return to you my thanks for the kindness shown me in our intercourse, as likewise to the keeper and his deputies.

I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. MAXWELL.

TRENTON, December 28, 1855.

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Truro, December 28, 1852.







