

REPORT

OF

COMMISSIONERS ON REFORM

OF

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

New Jersey State Library

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1865.

REPORT.

At the last session of the legislature, Governor Parker, in his annual message, Jan., 1864, made the following remarks:

"Some place other than the State Prison should be provided for the incarceration of youth. In many instances the disgrace of confinement in the penitentiary, and the evil communications which unavoidably attend the least contact with hardened offenders, prevent reformation. The object of imprisonment is to reform as well as punish, and the state owes it to the youthful criminal to place him in circumstances that will tend to soften his pliant nature rather than render him more obdurate."

This brief but decided paragraph was referred to a joint committee of both houses of the legislature, who reported as follows:

To the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

The joint committee to which was referred that portion of the Governor's message which relates to juvenile offenders, beg leave respectfully to report—

That they have not been able, with so many other duties pressing upon them, to give the subject that full attention which its gravity demands; but the more they have considered it the more earnest has become their conviction of the truth of the language of the Governor—"The object of imprisonment is to reform as well as punish, and the state owes it to the youthful criminal to place him in circumstances that will tend to soften his pliant nature rather than render him more obdurate."

We have failed, in our legislation, to recognize this debt, and still doom to a prison and to a downward course of ruin, children whom the kindly ministry of wise instruction would in many cases lead upward to lives of honorable usefulness. Your committee think that *now, as of old*, a child should be *trained* "in the way that he should go." New Jersey, as a long-living parent, has a deep interest in every child she rears. And if from penury, or orphanage, or neglect, or the direct evil training of parents, any of her youth are in danger of becoming criminals, it is her *right*—it is her *duty*—to take care of

her own and of their future, to remove them from evil influences and to provide them with virtuous instructors. Thus, by a wise and economic foresight, will she bless herself and them.

We have not, however, thought it would be prudent, in the midst of the engrossments of a busy session, to urge upon the legislature any measure hastily prepared. We have thought it better to inquire and wait. Within the few past years the attention of many christian philanthropists has been turned to this subject, and the result has been an advance in the proper appreciation of reformatory influences. Other states, also, have labored to elevate their unfortunate criminal youth, and their experience may throw light upon our path. With this view we have prepared the following joint resolutions, for which we ask your favorable consideration :

JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

Be it Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That the Governor be authorized to appoint three commissioners whose duty it shall be, carefully to inquire into the character and influences of institutions in other states designed for the reformation of criminal or vagrant youth, and from their experience to collate a system of reform which they shall deem best adapted to supply the wants of New Jersey; to ascertain the probable number of children whose course of life demands the care of the state, and the manner in which criminal youth are at present dealt with; to propose such laws as may be necessary for the establishment of a suitable school or schools, and to report to the Governor the result of their labors, in order that he may present it to the legislature at its next annual session.

And be it resolved, That the treasurer of the state be directed to pay to the commissioners a sum not exceeding three dollars per diem for the time they may be engaged in actual service, with such reasonable expenses as the Governor may approve.

EDWARD W. SCUDDER,
RICHARD M. ACTON,
Committee of Senate.

JAMES H. WEST,
DANIEL COREY,
DAVID H. WIKOFF,
Committee of House of Assembly.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted in both houses, and approved by the Governor March 29th, 1864.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, EXECUTIVE }
DEPARTMENT, Trenton, April 1, 1864. }

By virtue of joint resolutions authorizing the appointment of commissioners to report laws for the reformation of juvenile offenders, approved March 29th, 1864;

I, Joel Parker, Governor of the State of New Jersey, hereby appoint as such commissioners, the following gentlemen, who will proceed to the discharge of their duties under provisions of said joint resolutions, viz: George T. Cobb, Phineas B. Kennedy, Samuel Allinson.

JOEL PARKER.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

To JOEL PARKER, Esq., *Governor of the State of New Jersey* :

The commissioners appointed by the Governor in pursuance of the foregoing resolutions, respectfully present to him the following report :

In entering upon the important work assigned to us, we concluded that our first step should be to take measures for ascertaining the statistics of juvenile crime in the state. With this view we prepared and printed a circular, a copy of which is appended, and forwarded it to several officers of each county, and to other individuals who would probably aid us in the work. A few answers have been received, but a large part of those to whom it was addressed, and on whose assistance we counted, have failed to reply. These imperfect returns, with information received from other sources, have satisfied us that in our towns and cities, and even in the villages of our agricultural districts, a large number of children are growing up without proper parental control, and in habits of idleness, vagrancy and crime. They become accustomed to the use of tobacco and intoxicating drinks at an early age; hazard their little possessions in various games of chance; hang about low theatres and taverns, and learn to scoff at the restraints of religion and morality. They absent themselves from the daily and sabbath school, congregate at the corners of streets, insult the passers by with ribald jests or profane language, get up alarms of fire and run with the engines, and become prepared for a continual progression in evil. In many instances the example and direct teaching of parents have trained them to thefts and other misdemeanors. Several cases have occurred of bands of youthful burglars successfully plying their trade. A distinguished lawyer, who was prosecutor of the pleas in one of our counties, was called on to examine a young culprit preliminary to his commitment for robbing stores. He gave the names of several boys as his accomplices, and among them that of the attorney's much trusted office-keeper. This threw discredit upon the whole statement, but the accused lad being inquired of, acknowledged his guilt, and that the office of the prosecutor, of which he had the key, was the midnight rendezvous of the gang for the division of their spoils. Instances have come to our knowledge of boys prowling about on the sabbath and robbing farm-houses when the families had gone to their places of worship. One of the supreme judges told us of a boy who invited another to go with him and *see some fun*. He went, and a barn was burned for their amusement. Great damage is some-

times done to steam engines and machinery, by cutting off expensive portions for the paltry purpose of selling the fragments as old brass. The engineer of some works, thus injured, said \$1000 dollars would not repair the damage, though the boys received less than ten dollars as the proceeds of this wanton and wicked spoliation. Little beggars too, with piteous tales of sorrow, are found to be adroit pilferers when opportunity offers. But we need not swell this report with the thronging evidences of youthful depravity. Alas, they are patent to all, and no observant man can be ignorant of numerous cases. On every hand we see youthful insubordination growing out of the want of firm parental treatment. The father is engaged in his daily business; the mother with her household claims; absorbed in their own present they forget the great duty of training their infant charge for a bright future. The child is left to seek its own associates and amusement. He finds them with the idle and the vicious, and soon astonishes his parents with his obstinacy in wrong doing. The tendency of unrestrained human nature is downward. Besides this, many parents are themselves profane and godless, and unfit to have the charge of children. They squander their time and money in bar-rooms and beer-houses, and children half-clad, half-fed, dishonest, false and ignorant, tell of the criminal neglect. Society has too much at stake to permit this course and this result. Such parents forfeit all claim to their own offspring, and the state should see that the child, which is hereafter to be invested with the priceless rights and duties of American citizenship, shall become fitted for them. The right of election is too pure and holy a boon to be thrust upon young men so debased by crimes that they must shrink from and oppose wholesome laws and honest officers. General virtue and intelligence should be the inseparable concomitants of universal suffrage.

We have rejoiced to find, in different parts of the State, institutions established by private benevolence, as temporary homes for the little ones whom orphanage or other causes have made destitute. They are fed and clothed and taught with maternal care, and when opportunity offers, placed out in families to earn their own bread, and be fitted for life's duties. We wish our citizens more generally felt the importance of these "Homes," (the fruits generally of the outgushing sympathies of a few Christian women,) as among the surest *preventives* of crime. They are well managed, are productive of great good, and there can be no comparison between them and the only legal alternative—the poor-house.

A young child can not, in the view of the law, commit a crime; but, with increasing years and knowledge, it becomes responsible. Society is forced to protect itself from the acts of the wrongdoer, and does so by the infliction of penalties. At what age legal responsibility should commence is a mooted question, but youth and ignorance and inexperience may claim some mitigation of the penalty justly due to adult criminals.

Persons often decline to complain of young criminals. They think of the probable ruin consequent upon exposure and conviction, and satisfy themselves with threats or counsel. Grand juries pity, and

ignore bills. Petit juries pity, and find "not guilty." Courts pity, and impose light punishment or suspend sentence. The whole moral nature of our judges and juries rises up against the strict execution of laws which consign to the ignominy of a prison, children who have acted "without discernment," and whose great need is to be snatched from the perilous guardianship of their own parents, and to be led into the paths of virtue. This lenity, in some instances, is followed by amendment—in others, it hardens. But confinement in a prison also hardens. A warden said to us: "Boys are taught much evil here, and go out thinking it is not such a bad thing, after all, to be in jail." They associate familiarly with older and more accomplished criminals. In a cell of one county jail, a little fellow, afterward proved to be innocent, was locked up with a practised burglar. In another we saw a boy of eleven years of age, charged with theft, the companion of a man committed for murder. An orphan boy, eleven years old, was found by a city missionary in a county jail, herded with criminal men and boys. On the death of his parents he lived with his grandfather, but he, too, died, and the child was homeless, and was committed to prison solely for his destitution. There must be criminal apathy in a civilized community where such horrible injustice is permitted. We stand aghast at the murder of supernumerary infants in China and on the Ganges, yet such deeds as these in our midst awaken little feeling.

We have had reported to us but two jails where there is systematic employment (another report says, none but "*card playing*"), and none where there is systematic instruction in literature or morals. In some there is Sabbath preaching; but there is no reform. It seems a necessity that the mind of the child should be tendered by the kindly influence of human charity (and what do these poor imprisoned outcasts know of that?) ere they can receive the glad tidings of redemption. The heart is saddened to see in how many instances re-conviction follows close upon release. A boy of fifteen we saw in jail after his thirteenth conviction! May we not say, in the language of an eminent citizen of our State, "New Jersey is *cruel* to her poor wicked children."

The question before us now seemed to be, What is the duty of the State? How, out of these lost, degraded children, shall it make God-fearing men and women—law-abiding, law-sustaining citizens? Correspondence had been opened with persons conversant with the subject, in different parts of the country, and much valuable information and important suggestions were thus received. The annual reports of numerous institutions, for the reformation of criminal children, in other States were also procured and examined. We found a wide difference existing in the modes of treatment, and became convinced that we could not satisfactorily decide on the merits of the various systems without personal observation and conversation with the officers. We accordingly visited the reform schools of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Ohio, and the houses of refuge at Providence and Cincinnati, and a part of our number those of Philadelphia, New York, and Pittsburg. We desire here to express our grateful sense of the kindness and cour-

tesies of the officers of these institutions, who furnished us with documents, and in other ways facilitated our object. We subjoin a brief description of a number of the reformatories (See Appendix) showing somewhat of their mode of operation. Whilst in every one of them there were points to admire and imitate,* we were united in preferring as model institutions—

1st. The State Reform Farm School, at Lancaster, Ohio, for boys under fourteen years of age.

2d. The Massachusetts Nautical School Ship, for boys above that age; and

3d. The Industrial School for Girls, at Lancaster, Massachusetts, for young females who, through corrupt influence, have fallen into evil ways, or are imminently exposed to danger.

1. Of the necessity for a school of reform for the first class—boys under fourteen—we think no doubt can exist. We feel none, that the State should assume the duty. Experience has demonstrated that, if left to counties, it is left to be utterly neglected. The erring children of a few years ago, who might have been rescued by the exercise of parental public effort, are now our hardened criminals. By separation into families and classes, two hundred boys can be admitted into one institution, and we think the State should provide for that number. We need scarcely say that the officers should be carefully selected. The principal, especially, should feel an inward call to the work, and that he is laboring for a reward above all that the State can give.

Our reasons for preferring the farm school to the house of refuge are, briefly, that the former develops the bodily and mental powers naturally and healthfully; the varied influences of agricultural life being far more exhilarating and ennobling than those of the workshop. But above all do we prefer it because of its freedom from that ignominious restraint of grate and lock which sickens the heart of many a refuge boy, and impels him to risk his life in efforts at escape though surrounded by comforts, advantages, and opportunities unknown to him before. The power of truth and love and right, on which the family system farm school *must* rely, is a wonderful lever in lifting degraded children up to a level where the light of science and morals and religion can reach them. The sins of their past lives become visible to them when seen from their new stand-point, and a bright prospect for their future dawns upon them of which they had no hope or desire before. It seems to us, too, that, for the sake of confining two or three desperate boys in one hundred who could not be controlled on the farm, it would be manifestly unwise and unjust to *imprison* the ninety-seven or ninety-eight. Let the few who will not yield to kindness, be more severely dealt with.

(For account of Ohio Reform School see p. 25.)

2. The experience of reformatory institutions is against having older boys associated with younger. Crime has become more habitual to

* Especially was this the case in the Westborough school, in some respects without its compeer.

those approaching manhood, and they are not so readily reached by moral appliances. They have become accustomed to take care of themselves, and would be more likely to escape during a novitiate, from an open farm school. Their age and size give to their example, if it be evil, a dangerous power. "Do not take boys above fourteen into your school," was the advice to us of a gentleman who had been for more than thirty years laboring efficiently as a manager in the Philadelphia House of Refuge. Other provision must, therefore, be made for them. New Jersey can not afford to give up to a life of crime her wayward boys of fourteen and upwards, turning them over, without effort for their reclamation, to the degradation of a prison. The thought of adopting such an alternative was saddening to us. In our dark doubtfulness, therefore, with regard to this class, the example and experience of a sister State, in her school ship, "The Massachusetts,"* were indeed cheering. (For account of this school see pp. 20, 37.) The benefits which would result from placing these restless, reckless boys under such a course of training appear to us to be great. Their old corrupting associations would be broken off, and they would be fitted for usefulness in life. When honorably discharged there would be no insurmountable stain upon their characters. The foreign and coasting trade of citizens of our own State would afford opportunities for procuring excellent situations for these educated young mariners, who would be desirable acquisitions in any crew. The extended sea and river coast of the State would afford ample circuit for the summer cruising of the ship in visiting various ports, from Fort Lee to Burlington, and a safe, commodious winter harbor.

3. The necessity for an institution where destitute or criminal young females may be shielded or reclaimed, must be manifest to every thoughtful observer. In some aspects it appears even more needful than one for boys. It is of incalculable importance to a state to raise high the standard of female purity and virtue. Woman, as the presiding genius of the home circle, moulds it according to her own ideas of excellence. And if those ideas are corrupted by unholy living, the sweetest and purest charities of human existence spring not along her pathway. Her influence is for evil. The annals of our criminal courts show an increasing number of girls who, for larceny, disorderly conduct, or other violations of law, claim their attention. That our jails are suitable homes for them, no one will affirm. There is no place to which a magistrate can commit them with the belief that such action will benefit them or the state. There is no place where a parent or friend can send an obstinate or morally endangered daughter or ward with any hope of reformation. This ought not to be in such a commonwealth as ours. We would, therefore, earnestly recommend the establishment of an industrial school for girls on the plan of that at Lancaster, Mass., for an account of which see p. 21.

Beside the direct benefit of the reform schools to the pupils themselves, we think there will be a reflex influence of great value. If a boy or girl is taken from its parents because they allow it to grow up in vagrancy and lapse into crime, the parents of its young associates

will feel that they can no longer permit their children to run the streets in neglected ignorance; that they must restrain or lose them.

We believe that three such institutions as we have suggested, under proper management, would arrest in their downward course to ruin many children, whom destitution, and ignorance, and evil influence have led astray, enabling them to walk honorably through life, in the light of Christian principle. We anticipate the prompt response, that three such establishments would be costly appendages to the State. So is our State prison; so are our county jails; so is all the machinery of our criminal jurisprudence; so are our blind, our mute, and our idiotic children. New Jersey appropriates for the education of each of these afflicted ones \$200 per annum, for four years. And she does wisely, generously, well. She provides, in her system of common schools, for the instruction of all her children, rich and poor alike, at a public cost of more than \$400,000 per annum. For the benefit of those laboring under one of the severest of earthly afflictions, she provides her Lunatic Asylum, an honor to the State. This has cost her \$300,000; but what high-minded Jerseyman grudges the expense? And shall her destitute youth, falling into evil ways from ignorance and want, be left in their sad condition, to sink yet deeper into crime, or be cast into prison, and thus be doomed to ignominy and confirmed in guilt, when, by timely care, a large proportion might be rescued? The awakened conscience of the State will surely demand the effort.

The proper question is, will the necessary expenditure be compensated by future benefits? To answer this correctly, we must consider that the children of whom we are treating are *already of us*. Their destiny for weal or for woe is connected with *our* community. The evil seed has even now been sown in their hearts, and if we look on in apathy, we shall in due time be compelled to reap the fearful harvest which will follow. May a merciful Providence avert it, by turning the hearts of our people to a wise consideration of our own enduring interests, leading us to cherish with affectionate parental interest these moral orphans, the least favored members of our commonwealth, and train them up in the paths of learning and virtue, to appreciate the rich blessings of our equal inheritance of religion, of liberty, and of law.

To meet the needful expenditure in purchasing land, erecting buildings, &c., for the proposed schools, \$100,000 would probably be required. This, considering the heavy burdens already existing, is a large sum. But the State, by an arrangement of last session, is to receive more for but a fraction of its lands lying under water, near Jersey City. We would therefore very respectfully suggest that a further portion of this now unproductive inheritance might be sold, and the proceeds be devoted to the reformation and instruction of her sadly neglected children. The reclamation of the lands which would follow would add to the common wealth, but the reclamation of the children, telling on their eternal destiny, would be a nobler, more enduring triumph.

To carry into effect the conclusions to which the Commissioners have come in the foregoing report, they would further propose:

The establishment by law of a Board of Control of Reform Schools, to consist of the Governor, the Chancellor, and the Chief Justice of the State, whose duty it shall be to appoint a sufficient number of discreet and suitable persons as trustees of said schools.

That the trustees of the State Reform Farm School, for criminal or vagrant boys under fourteen years of age, shall have authority to receive or purchase a tract of land, of sufficient area for the establishment of said school, to erect suitable buildings thereon, and to enact by-laws for their own government; these several particulars to be subject to the approval of the Board of Control.

That under the said by-laws, they shall appoint the superintendent and other officers, and have the management and control of said school and farm, making an annual report of their proceedings, the condition of the school and its finances, to the Governor, that he may present it to the Legislature.

That boys under fourteen years of age, who, from parental neglect or otherwise, are vagrants, have fallen into crime, or are imminently in danger of doing so, shall, on complaint, be examined by two magistrates, or by a judge of any court of record who shall be authorized to commit them to the reform school, with such provision for appeal as may be thought advisable.

That the board of trustees be empowered to detain, employ, and instruct such boys, indenture them when reformed, and be clothed with all needful authority.

That the trustees of the nautical school for boys, and of the industrial school for girls, should such institutions be established by the Legislature, have similar powers, varied to suit their different circumstances.

The Attorney-General has kindly offered to prepare laws adapted to such reformatory schools.

In the absence of sufficient statistics, we cannot report the number of criminal children of the different classes. A synopsis of the information received will be found in the Appendix.

In concluding our deeply interesting labors, which we feel have been very inadequately performed, we may remark that the more we have investigated the subject assigned to us by the Governor, the stronger has become our conviction of its importance. We trust that the deliberations of the Legislature will result in a recognition of the claims of the neglected *children of the State*, and provision for throwing pure and elevating influences around them.

GEORGE T. COBB,
P. B. KENNEDY.
SAMUEL ALLINSON.

APPENDIX.

NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA HOUSES OF REFUGE.

In such populations as those of our great cities there are always many children destitute and ignorant, with bad examples constantly before them. They *fall into* rather than *choose* evil ways, for in the low haunts of vice in which they are reared the path of honor and of virtue can scarcely be said to have been set before them. The surrounding influences stimulate them to precocity of crime. To save these erring children from the prison and from lives of wickedness, the New York "Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents" was formed about forty years ago and the House of Refuge established. The supervision is confided to thirty managers, annually elected by members of the association. A succession of noble and disinterested men have labored for the promotion of its truly benevolent objects. The State Legislature enacted the necessary laws and has largely aided from the public purse. Young culprits are sent from the courts or gathered in from the streets. The expense of their maintenance is lessened by various industrial employments and useful habits are fostered, whilst literary, moral, and religious instruction is given to prepare them for the responsibilities as well as the enjoyments of life. As their habitual conduct becomes satisfactory to the officers the boys are placed out mostly to farmers or mechanics or relinquished to their friends, and the girls are so given up or put to service in suitable families. There are at present about 550 boys and 150 girls in the institution, which is on Randall's Island in the East River.

Two or three years after the founding of the New York House of Refuge, philanthropic citizens of Philadelphia engaged in a similar enterprize and have earnestly sustained it through the long course of intervening years. There are here two adjoining establishments, one for white the other for colored children, with separate officers but under the care of one board of managers, twenty-six of whom are appointed at the annual meeting of contributors, two by the mayor, and three by the courts. The expenses are in part met by proceeds of labor and subscriptions, but principally by grants from the city and State. About 650 criminal or morally endangered children are instructed in literature and some mechanic arts and in the principles of christianity. A very considerable proportion of the children are committed by

magistrates at the request of parents who are unable to control them. Such on being reclaimed are frequently restored to them. Others are indentured principally to persons in the country.

That the practical benevolence which has found its field of operation in these well-named "Houses of Refuge" has been blessed to many thousands ample evidence exists. They were the pioneer institutions in our country for the benefit of the unfortunate class to which they are devoted, and we of the present day owe a large debt of gratitude to their founders. But Wichern, Demetz and others have since labored and thrown additional light upon the subject of juvenile reform, and the question will arise, Is the confinement of such large numbers of children in a costly prison-like building the best mode of effecting a change in their hearts and lives? We think experience has proved otherwise; and that farm schools on the family or colonial system, other things being equal, will produce better results. It is probable that the not distant future will witness a still further advance in the establishment of small reformatories managed, and to a great extent sustained by private individuals and associations. It will evince a most desirable state of moral progress, when throughout our commonwealth, local destitution, moral or physical, shall be relieved by local beneficence.

JUVENILE ASYLUM.

The Juvenile Asylum of New York was founded in 1851, with a view of benefitting a numerous class of young children who, from their parentage or other circumstances, were leading precarious lives, and likely to swell the ranks of misery, pauperism and crime; children between the ages of 7 and 14, who as destitute, abandoned by parents, petty pilferers, beggars, &c., claim the attention of the police, are taken before a magistrate, and by him committed to the Society's House of Reception. The parents or friends of any such child, if they can be found, are informed of the arrest by an officer; if within ten days they satisfy the magistrate that proper care will hereafter be taken of the child it is returned to them: but if not, it is regularly committed to the asylum, which then assumes the rights and duties of the parent. Many children too are voluntarily surrendered by their parents from inability to control them in some cases, and inability to support them in others.

As it is the object of the managers to fit the objects of their care as rapidly as possible for homes in private families, no profitable industry is pursued except the labors of the establishment; indeed, the age of the pupils and the perpetual change of inmates precludes it. But they are sedulously instructed in moral and religious truths, and in the elementary branches of learning. Their health and happiness and physical development are promoted by the gymnasium, the playground and the bath-room. The various efforts for their improvement result in a good direction being given to their thoughts and habits. In consequence of this, or of changed circumstances in their families, a very considerable number, on application of parents or

friends, are returned to them. Some are indentured to proper applicants; others are sent under care of an agent to Illinois, and placed out in homes previously provided for them. The parties taking them pay the expenses of the journey, and agree to give them a certain amount of schooling, and to pay to girls properly serving out their term \$100.00 on their arriving at 18 years of age, and to boys at 21 \$200.00. This plan has worked satisfactorily, and it is said that in a county where one company has been settled it makes homes for another. The agent whose business it is to locate them has recently furnished to the managers a detailed report of his visits within a few months to more than a thousand children at their new homes, or at some central point where they would meet him, and in very few instances was dissatisfaction expressed. A large proportion of them were well cared for, treated as equals in the families, and in several cases they were possessed of horses or other domestic animals as rewards for good conduct.

In the course of a year, 1,600 children are under the care of this institution; some of them, it is true, but for a short time. Whether longer or shorter, it is the aim of the officers to confer a lasting benefit upon them by impressing them with a love for truth and holiness. Such efforts, made in a loving spirit, seldom utterly fail.

Half the cost of the buildings was raised by private subscription, and half by the city, which, also, allows at the rate of \$75.00 per annum for each child. The children are younger and less criminal, generally, than those sent to the House of Refuge.

CONNECTICUT.

The State Reform School of Connecticut is beautifully located in the suburbs of Meriden. It is a large brick building, three stories high, with workshops attached. There are 176 dormitories with single beds. The smaller boys have single beds in a common room. Upwards of 200 pupils were at the school at the time of our visit. Boys between the ages of 10 and 15 years, for any offense punishable by imprisonment, not for life, may be sent here by the courts at their discretion, with the alternative sentence, which would otherwise have been passed. Those turned over to the alternative sentence as incorrigible, have averaged about one per annum. No boy can be committed for a less period than nine months, nor for more than during his minority. A justice of the peace may not commit for more than nine months, except with the consent of the selectmen of the town. The law directs the Treasurer of the State to pay to the order of the superintendent at the rate of \$1.50 per week for each boy in the institution. [Three dollars per week is allowed out of the State treasury for the board of convicts in the county jails in Connecticut.] This sum, with the products of the farm and proceeds of the boys' labor, has been found sufficient for the support of the school, and no other State appropriation has been made in the past three years. The farm contains 160 acres of undulating land, which is being brought under excellent culture; and a bed of fine peat is so worked as to add

greatly to the production of the soil. Some attention has been paid to market gardening, which it is proposed to increase.

Abundant labor for the boys is found in caning chair seats and backs, the manufacture of ladies' hoop-skirts, the mending of clothes and shoes, and in the various duties of the house. A number of trustworthy boys work on the farm. The "contract system" was tried and abandoned as adverse to the interests of the institution.

In the morning $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours are spent in school, after which the larger boys are detailed under proper officers to various branches of industry. The smaller continue in school an hour longer, when they, too, are sent out, and every one in the establishment is employed. Great stress is laid upon this *active* employment on *light* work. Suitable time is allowed them for play and recreation, and two hours more are allotted to school when the labors of the day are over. Our examination of the schools was necessarily brief, but the advancement of the children in the elementary branches, was very creditable. The prompt solution of various questions in mental arithmetic and of those worked out on the black-board alike surprised us. The reading classes, too, evinced careful instruction.

Great care is taken to keep up intercourse with the boys after they have left the school, and a knowledge of their course of life. The admirable superintendent told us that on a recent visit to the Connecticut State prison he found not a single inmate who had been at the Reform School, and he did not know of one in either of the county prisons. There are cases of evil life in those who have left the school, but the great majority do well. When we consider the previous life of these boys, and look at these results, we can not but regard the Meriden Reform School as a blessing to Connecticut.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The State Reform School for boys is about two miles north of the village of Westborough, on a farm of 300 acres, the southern boundary of which is a beautiful lake, three-fourths of a mile in length. The main brick building which had accommodated upwards of 600 pupils, was destroyed by fire some years ago. On rebuilding, the trustees concluded to diminish its size, and to adopt for the better class of boys the "family system." With this view the old farm house and another building were fitted up, one for 30, the other for 24 boys, and a new house was constructed to accommodate 30. Each of these houses is under the care of a man and his wife, who take the charge of their own boys, eat with them, and are expected to fill the parental relation. One is the farmer, one the gardener, and another has charge of the roads, pleasure grounds, &c. The boys of each family perform the various domestic labors, under direction of the "mother," who has no female assistant, and more neatly kept houses one need not desire to see. A teacher is assigned to each family, and the allotted hours for instruction are not allowed to be encroached upon by the demands for labor. If the farmer or gardener needs more help than his own family, a sufficient number of trusty boys is furnished him from the main building. Market gardening affords ample employ-

ment for many little hands who are always accompanied, assisted and instructed by a teacher.

In the principal building reside the superintendent, Joseph A. Allen and family, and the corps of teachers, with about 250 boys. The latter are confined to their own departments and play-grounds. Some children of good families are placed here by their parents or friends, who are unable to govern them, but far the greater number are committed on examination, *without trial*, by judges of the superior or probate courts. Their average age has been less than $11\frac{1}{2}$ years, and the average time passed at the school by those discharged last year was two years and nine months. None over fourteen years of age are now admitted. Criminal boys above that age are sent to the nautical school. The boys in the congregate school work at cane seating, and at domestic work in the kitchen, laundry, chambers, &c. They make and mend their shoes and clothes under the instruction of a competent person in each department. When occasion calls for it some of them labor on the farm. The teachers appear to be efficient and earnest in their efforts to instruct and improve the boys, and the five graded schools, four of which are divided into three classes each, certainly showed very happy results. One hour in the morning and three in the evening are devoted to study. A class was examined before us in contemporaneous history, answering with prompt accuracy. An arithmetical class was asked such questions as this: Take $6 \times 3 - 7 + 9$ square it, $+ 10 + 13 - 4$, take the square root $+ 9 \div 8$. What is the result? As the questions closed, 30 right hands out of a class of 50 were raised, each boy anxious to give the answer. A primary class was engaged in the elementary sounds, the true alphabet of our language, that being thought the best mode of breaking up foreign accent. Dull boys have special care devoted to them daily out of school hours by the teachers.

The plan is to keep the boys in these schools, advancing them as they become prepared for higher classes. When they reach the highest, their conduct also being good, they are promoted to one of the families on the occasion of a vacancy. Here their freedom is greatly increased, indeed is not much more restricted than that of children in ordinary households. As the boys go to the families on their way back to society, these homes are always objects of desire to them and a reward for permanent good conduct. Any one proving unworthy of confidence is, of course, remanded to the main building. In the four years which have elapsed since their establishment, but one boy has made a successful escape from either of the "families." Each boy in the "Homes" has a plot of ground allotted him which, in his leisure hours, he may cultivate as he pleases. If he raises articles needed at the school, the principal purchases at the market price.

The excellent superintendent is a *living man*, and his influence is felt in the school, the field, the work-shop, and perhaps not less on the play-ground. He considers happiness essential to reformation, and places much stress upon recreation. The national holidays are observed and marked by appropriate exercises. On Thanksgiving day many old pupils come back to their *home*, and receive a hearty welcome. At Christmas, last year, the whole school was on the lake, half of the

boys at a time on skates, and a concourse from the country round came to share and increase the enjoyment. A very interesting and useful Sabbath school has been kept up for a number of years by friends of the institution from the village. Ministers of several denominations voluntarily labor for the spiritual welfare of these wards of the State, whilst the daily moral influence of the corps of officers aids the good work. The permanent improvement of a very large proportion of the boys is believed to be effected by these varied efforts for their elevation. They become useful citizens though their tendencies had previously been downward to evil. Great care is taken in the selection of proper places on their leaving the school. Persons applying for apprentices, if not known to the officers, must procure satisfactory testimonials of their fitness, when the superintendent selects such as he considers adapted to the situation. Mechanics or farmers who themselves lead in the labors of their establishments are preferred as masters. A month's trial is allowed, when the parties return to the institution, and, if they are mutually satisfied, indentures are executed in which the interests of the apprentice are carefully stipulated for.

It may be of interest here to state that the commissioners for establishing the reform school were presented with \$10,000 by an individual who kept his name secret. He pledged \$10,000 more on conditions with which the Legislature complied. He subsequently added \$2,500, to complete a desirable addition to the farm. On the death of Theodore Lyman, he was found to have been the unknown donor, and that he had also bequeathed to the institution \$50,000. Has any wealthy Jerseyman a heart?

THE NAUTICAL SCHOOL.

As a needful complement to the Westboro' school, from which boys of over fourteen years of age have been excluded, the Legislature of Massachusetts, in 1859, resolved to purchase a ship, and establish a nautical school for criminal boys above that age. This was done in 1860, and four years' experience has proved it to be of great value. Massachusetts has an extensive sea coast, and the commerce and fisheries of the State create a constant demand for mariners. The moral, intellectual, and nautical training which the boys receive here, makes them valuable acquisitions to captains engaged in the coasting or foreign trade. The State school ship, appropriately named "The Massachusetts," is a sound, substantial vessel of 649 tons burthen. She is of capacity to accommodate 160 boys and the officers. The boys are divided into two equal classes, which are in school on alternate week days, under the care of a competent teacher. The class not in school is assigned to duty in preparing food, cleansing the ship, and other needful daily work; in repairing sails and rigging; in acquiring a practical knowledge of sheet and halyard, brace and clewline, and the technical language of sailors. A ready comprehension and rapid execution of orders, the dexterous handling of rope and oar, and agile climbing of the rigging, is thus acquired. During the summer season, visits are made to the various ports of the State.

These cruises are looked forward to with much interest by the boys, and test their seamanship.

In addition to this important education of mind and body, their spiritual needs are not lost sight of, but endeavors are used to awaken in them reverential gratitude to God, and to give them a knowledge of His holy laws. At the time of our visit, they were very feelingly addressed by the widow of a deceased missionary, and the tearful eyes of a number of the boys evinced, we thought, that the message of a Saviour's love had found a place in their hearts. We need scarcely say, that care is taken that all employed on board shall be men of exemplary lives. Boys are not sent to sea if, for any reason, they are unfitted for a sailor's life.

Who can estimate the value of an institution which receives from the criminal courts these neglected and degraded lads, picked up in the vile purlieus of the cities, with only a life of crime before them; shields them for a time from the power of temptation; instructs them in their duty to God and man, and opens to them a path of honorable usefulness? The practical results have been cheering. The very qualities which, under their evil training, were rendering them a terror to the community, have, in many instances, by the complete change in their lives, given them an impetus in a new career.

GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AT LANCASTER.

But whilst Massachusetts thus nobly cares for her sons endangered in childhood by moral orphanage, she does not forget her daughters in a similar condition, nor less sedulously provide for their welfare. On a farm of 140 acres, in the neat little village of Lancaster, is located "The State Industrial School for Girls." The scholars are in five distinct families, occupying separate buildings, scattered among the noble elms of a beautiful lawn. Each house is complete in itself, having kitchen, wash-room, dormitories, school-room, &c. The Superintendent has a separate dwelling. The chapel is the only building common to all. The smallest house can accommodate twenty, and the others thirty girls each. Under the care of the matron and house-keeper of each family the children are instructed in and perform the washing, cooking, &c., and make and mend their own clothing, it being the aim to fit all the scholars for the duty of life by proficiency in household labors. Each family has its own teacher, devoting herself to the mental and moral improvement of the girls. Children are sent here by the courts as criminal, obstinate, dangerously exposed, &c. Some are sent by friends for their protection or reformation.

The last report of the trustees to the governor and council contains some passages so permeated with the spirit of Christian philanthropy that we think the insertion of them preferable to any remarks of our own. They say "These poor children have none to love and none to love them; none to care for their souls." We seek to bring them into individual personal relations with those who shall love them and care for them. The immediate cause of all their faults, deficiencies, evils and sins is the almost utter neglect of their whole moral, affectionate

and religious nature. The remedy sought is their moral, founded upon their affectional and religious improvement, and redemption. Those teachers, matrons or superintendents only who are lovers of children, who are profoundly interested in their moral and spiritual reform and salvation, are suitable persons to be placed over them. No one can educate the conscience who has not a sensitive conscience himself. None but a loving spirit can impart a loving spirit. No one whose own soul is not full of reverence and love to God, can fill the soul of a little child with reverence and love. Such are the means which we believe to be efficient for their moral salvation.

“The greatest pains have been taken from the first to keep our children in a pure and healthful moral atmosphere, and to bring them under the influence of religious principles. This was to be done only by placing them in a Christian family and establishing a kind personal relation between them and the heads of such a family. The matrons, teachers and housekeepers have been selected with particular reference to this paramount object. Very many of the children came to the school with their moral nature scarcely awakened, indifferent to truth and falsehood, to right and wrong; selfish, stupid, stubborn, self-willed, violent, deceitful, almost without natural affection and seemingly capable only of a brutish and animal life. The good women who take charge of them are almost appalled at the sight. But the memory of success gives them courage and faith makes them strong. They see in these poor children the lost ones whom Christ came to seek and to save, the little ones to whom he called himself a brother. They set themselves bravely and devotedly to their task. They let patience, gentleness, kindness, disinterested affection have their perfect work. They feel that they are themselves in a mother's place, and the maternal heart warms toward their new charge. The strong magnetism of motherly love shows its irresistible power. The chilled bosom of their child is warmed; the heart is won and confidence, affection and respect are established. The desire of being good is infused. Slowly the old perverse habits are changed. A sense of duty is aroused. Foul language is no longer heard. The tongue becomes truthful. The desire to deceive departs. Obedience becomes voluntary and thankful. The conscience is at last enthroned; and the love of God, which the child sees to be the vital, moving principle in her new dear friend, takes the sovereign place in the child's soul which nothing of earth can occupy. The trustees have constantly had the satisfaction of seeing many cases in which the object of the institution has been thus fully accomplished. Children who had come from lawless homes, in which there was no order, no discipline, no obedience, often no sense of right or duty, have gradually yielded to Christian influences, and have become obedient, patient, industrious, submissive, kind, obliging and affectionate. Many who had been rebellious and obstinate have become exemplary in their deportment, and have exerted an excellent influence on their companions. Many of them, probably a majority, had come from families where there was no regard for truth, where there was little delicacy or even decency, and where the name of God or Christ was seldom heard except in an

oath. Most of these children have at last become truthful, all of them decent, some of them strangely refined and delicate in their appearance and habits, and all of them now daily unite, in the schools and chapels, with apparent feeling, in repeating select passages from Scripture, in offering prayer, and in singing hymns of praise to God."

To this prolonged extract from the report, we will only add, that, in our brief visit, we were much pleased with the beautiful order and neatness of the houses, and with the proficiency of the classes in the schools. It was a delightful sight to see these *reforming* children and the officers, when summoned to meet us in the chapel, wending their way from the different homes beneath the lofty trees; and when all were assembled, our hearts were deeply touched by the recitation in concert of various portions of Scripture, especially Proverbs, xxxi. v. 10 to 31, and the singing and recitation of various pieces of Christian poetry. The object of our visit awakened the earnest sympathy of the excellent superintendent and chaplain, Marcus Ames, with whom the spiritual well being of his pupils is a subject of deep concern, as is everything promotive of their advancement in morals, scholarship, and housewifery.

HOUSE OF REFORMATION—DEER ISLAND.

In addition to the institutions established by the State, the city of Boston has on Deer Island a house of reformation where about one hundred and seventy boys and thirty girls, picked up in her streets for truancy and vagrancy, receive employment and instruction. Different classes of the children are taught in separate schools. The girls are employed in domestic labor. The older boys are put to work on the farm in summer, with the other half of the year spent in school. Five or six acres of marsh had been covered with earth wheeled or hauled from the adjoining bank, and fine crops were growing upon it. Whenever a demand for other labor fails, this making of new land affords constant occupation both for these vagrant boys and the inebriate men who are sentenced to the adjoining house of industry. This semi-annual alternation between study and labor is approved by the board of directors of public institutions. The superintendent says in his last report: "Close observation for two years has served to strengthen the conviction that moderate farm labor, from May to November, is a proper, wise, and successful course for the 'employment and reformation' of juvenile offenders. Under this mode of management the boys are healthy, vigorous, and strong; ready to work, ready to study, ready to play. They come into the school in the autumn, and take hold of their books with an interest and determination which pale, sickly, languid boys, irksomely alternating between the shoe-shop and the school-room, do not and can not feel. There are many benefits, in part or in whole, resulting from the change. The hospital is almost empty. Punishments are neither frequent nor severe. The lessons learned by the boy on the farm will be of as much use to many of them in after life as lessons learned from books. They will gain more knowledge by study, in six months constantly spent at school,

after having become invigorated by six months of healthy out-door labor, than they will to drag the year wearily through from the school-room to the work-shop, and from the work-shop to the school-room, spending every one of his weary days alike, except the Sabbath."

That the advantages of out-door labor upon the farm, over the work-shop systems, necessarily adopted in city Houses of Refuge, are here truly stated, we do not doubt. But it is not clear to us that the plan, working with some degree of success in this noble charity of the city of Boston, and fraught with blessings to her vagrant children as compared with their former lives, is the best that could be adopted, or that the semi-annual alternation of labor and study is preferable to the daily routine of labor, study and recreation established at West-borough with such happy results. The moral and religious influence of a well conducted school room cannot, it appears to us, be safely dispensed with for half the year, in an institution especially designed to reform ignorant and degraded children.

JUVENILE FARM SCHOOL.

On our way back to the city from Deer Island, in Boston harbor, we were enabled, through the courtesy of Mr. Kimball, president of the board of directors of public institutions of Boston, to visit the farm school on Thompson's Island. This is not aided by public funds but is an institution of private benevolence, where nearly 100 boys are healthfully and very comfortably accommodated. Whilst very many of them are from the abodes of destitution and ignorance and crime, others are sent by friends who pay at least part of the expenses of their reformatory education. Ample provision appears to be made for their instruction in the common branches of learning, but the boys are mostly small and little farm labor is expected from them. The school, though unpretending, fills its place in the comprehensive reach of Massachusetts charity.

RHODE ISLAND.

"The Providence Reform School," under the direction of trustees appointed by the city authorities, contained about 150 boys and 60 girls, who had been committed to the institution by magistrates or the courts for theft, vagrancy, malicious mischief and other offences against the well-being of society. Ample play-grounds and a fine vegetable garden are enclosed with the building, which is situated on the high ground back of the city. The domestic labor of the establishment is performed by the girls, who also accomplish a considerable amount of sewing. The principal employment of the boys is in the shoe shop, and a more interesting spectacle of active industry than the large work room exhibited during the hours for labor, we have rarely seen. The children are very generally ignorant when received, but care is taken to instruct them well in the ordinary branches of education, and especially in the principles of morality and religion.

The age of the boys when admitted averages 12 years and nine months, of the girls 15 years and one month.

The experience of this school as of others for the reformation of youth, is not in favor of having criminal boys and girls under the same roof.

The condition of the girls at the Lancaster Industrial school we could not but regard as far more desirable, and their restoration more hopeful than those at Providence, and other houses of refuge. We refer to systems and appliances, not to the exertions of officers, which appeared to be all that could be desired.

OHIO REFORM SCHOOL.

In 1855, the Legislature of Ohio made arrangements for the establishment of a Reform School. Those who had the subject in charge, on behalf of the State, pondering the story of the wonderful success of the Rough House at Hamburg, and of the Agricultural Colony at Mettray, and believing that these institutions were a great advance beyond the Houses of Refuge which had grown up in this country, authorized the acting commissioner, the head of the contemplated establishment, who was going to Europe, to visit the reformatories there, and learn the secret of their power to change the hearts and lives of vicious and degraded youth, and confine, *without shackle, or lock, or wall*, those who had been accustomed to unlicensed freedom, and whose *imprisonment* had long been deemed necessary for the security of society. His report induced the adoption of the principles which are now being so successfully worked out in the Ohio Reform Farm School. This institution is located on a tract of nearly 1,200 acres, six miles from Lancaster, the seat of Fairfield county, and thirty-four miles south-east from Columbus. Several ranges of hills, occasionally rocky, two small streams of water, and a county road, run through the farm. The land is not fertile, but appears well adapted to raising fruit. Nine acres of vineyard; orchards containing upwards of 15,000 fruit trees, apples, peach, pear, &c., several acres of strawberries and other small fruits, an extensive garden, and a large nursery of young fruit trees bear evidence of careful culture.

We here saw 215 boys, nearly all of them committed by the courts, a very large portion of whom are in training, we cannot doubt, to be valuable citizens. They are divided into four families of about equal numbers, each under the care of two officers called elder brothers, all using a common dining-hall and chapel, but having their family dormitories and school, and sitting-rooms in separate buildings. The institution is under the charge of three persons, forming a board of commissioners, who meet monthly. The acting commissioner resides at the school, and devotes himself to its interests. The appointment of officers is to be approved by the governor; though the acting commissioner can suspend or appoint temporarily. The elder brothers have the boys of their respective families constantly under care. They are their teachers in school, their superintendents at farm labor and at meals, and their companions in recreation. The conduct of these

important officers, on whom so much depends, is expected to be what their title implies, to be marked with a *brotherly* kindness, looking to the permanent well-being of those committed to them.

The boys are collected after breakfast, and detailed to such labor of the day as they are severally fitted for, and appear to enter upon it with alacrity. Some take charge of the dining-rooms, and other household duties. These we met at a distance from the house, by the side of a bluff ravine, gathering chestnuts, as free and as happy as a farmer's sons. Others were then at labor; but, their tasks completed, this was the "house boys" time for recreation. One little fellow, to whom we spoke, came to us with a modest confidence, and proffered us nuts from his well-filled pockets. Some were digging potatoes; some gathering, others drying apples; some picking grapes for market—some trimming and clearing up the vineyard; some, under the instruction of an excellent shoemaker, were making and mending shoes; some in the tailor's shop, superintended by a competent tailoress. The sorghum mill, too, was claiming its share of attention. And thus, in varied forms of industry, all were occupied seven or eight hours a day. The vines of five or six acres, loaded with rich clusters of fine Catawbas, are proving a source of considerable income; the grapes being sold, delivered in Lancaster, at upwards of \$7 50 per bushel. The strawberries also produced well this season, adding to the income of the school.

The system of fruit culture and nursery business which has been adopted, seems peculiarly fitted to the location and to the physical capabilities of the laborers. The business of digging, planting and pruning, of gathering and assorting fruits—of budding, grafting, trimming and cultivating nursery trees, as well as the general operations of gardening and farming, and the care of sheep, cows and horses, is of great interest to boys. These occupations affect the mind in a very different manner from the dull routine of the workshop, where caning chair seats, or pasting paper boxes, or pegging shoes, admits of little variety and calls for little thought. An intelligent instructor constantly with the classes of farm boys, explaining, as occasion calls for it, the wonderful processes of nature, and conversing specially with those who need his care; the truly parental, Christian interest shown in them by the excellent commissioner and his wife; the instructions of the secular school, the chapel and the Sabbath-school; the hymns and other music they are taught and allowed to sing when at their field work; the comfortable provision made for them in food, and clothing, and dormitory; and last, but not least, the entire freedom from visible barriers to escape, and the certainty that if they conduct well they will leave these halls with no prison blight upon them—all these influences conspire to fill the minds of the pupils with new ideas and to crowd out the old thoughts of evil. In very many cases a radical change of heart and purpose appear to be wrought. When we consider the character of the homes which these poor little outcasts have left; the licentiousness, falsehood, dishonesty and perpetual quarreling, in the midst of which they were raised; the squalid destitution and misery of many, it ceases to

be a wonder that in this peaceful, comfortable, hope-inspiring abode, Christian love can hold them without bar or bolt.

One boy ran away and went to his mother at Cleveland. But he found his mother drunk and her home cheerless, and at once went back to the school. He is now a well-behaved boy. Two brothers were sent to the institution whose mother was an abandoned woman and their father a convict for life. On one occasion the school had been addressed by several members of the Legislature. Some remark touched the feelings of the elder boy. He rose from his seat and spoke of the Fatherhood of God in a manner which broke the whole assembly into tears. Nor was this a solitary instance of his power. He is now under the care of a clergyman with a prospect of entering the Christian ministry. The Acting Commissioner introduced us to one of his trusty elder brothers, remarking: "He was once a very unpromising pupil here." The young man smiled, and modestly said to us: "This institution has been a great blessing to me."

When a boy is committed to the school a record is made of his parentage, previous history, &c. He is assigned to the family thought most adapted to his needs, and placed for a time under the special oversight of an elder brother. The older scholars, too, exert a kindly influence over him, and so train him to the established ways that he soon ceases to be recognized as a new comer. He commences his term in what is called "Common Grade No. 8," and if till the end of a month his conduct has been good, he is advanced to No. 7; in another month to No. 6, &c. After attaining to No. 1, the advance is to No. 3 "Eagle grade," but the scrutiny is now stricter and the conduct of him who progresses to No. 1 of this grade must be nearly faultless. The highest grade is that of "Honor," and by *uninterrupted* good behaviour is attainable in twelve months, and one-third attain it in that time. Misconduct, of course, checks progress. It may degrade the scholar back to No. 8, when the twelve-barred ladder is to be climbed anew. Offences are punished by deprivation of amusements or favorite articles of food, by loss of rank in class, by solitary confinement for a short period, or, in extreme cases, by corporal punishment.

We will close with an extract from the report of 1862:

"The contentment and happiness exhibited by the boys has been greater during the past than in any previous year. There has been but one successful escape; and in this case we did not pursue the boy, as he was considered unworthy of a place in the school. We have been even more successful in preventing escapes than most of the institutions that are walled in. The Acting Commissioner took occasion during last summer to visit nearly all of the houses of refuge in this country, and notwithstanding magnificent structures, with beautiful surroundings have been constructed at great expense, in most cases, still he observed that the inmates did not seem in a single instance to possess that degree of buoyancy and cheerfulness of spirit found in our own school. Boys are exceedingly fond of freedom, and a large farm of 1,200 acres, with all its varied employments and beautiful

scenery, furnishes a home eminently better calculated, in our opinion, to make boys happy, than one confined to a few acres of land surrounded by a high wall."

GERMANY.

John Henry Wichern, in his early manhood, with the aid of a few friends, established in 1833, under a strong sense of duty, a home for some of the most depraved boys of Hamburg. The building had previously been called "The Rough House," and the name was continued. Here twelve of these poor lads were sheltered, cherished, trained to labor, and instructed in literature; but, above all things, did this simple-minded earnest man and his good mother endeavor lovingly to lead them to the Redeemer's footstool. The means were blessed, and the work prospered. Other destitute criminal boys demanded care, and another house was built, in which another family was placed, under the care of an assistant who proffered his services. Thus, around the original Rough House are grouped eight or nine family homes, in each of which dwells a family of twelve boys or twelve girls, under the care of a house father or a house mother.

Prof. Stowe says: "An ordinary man might suppose that the task of restoring such poor creatures to decency and good morals, was entirely hopeless. Not so with Mr. Wichern. He took hold with the firm hope that the moral power of the word of God is competent even to such a task. His means are prayer, the Bible, singing, affectionate conversation, severe punishment when unavoidable, and constant, steady employment in useful labor. On one occasion, when every other means seemed to fail, he collected the children together and read to them in the words of the New Testament, the simple narrative of the sufferings and death of Christ, with some remarks on the design and object of his mission to this world. The effect was wonderful. They burst into tears of contrition; and, during the whole of that term, from June till October, the influence of this scene was visible in all their conduct."

FRANCE.

In the courts of France, children under sixteen years of age who are found guilty of an offense, may be acquitted as having acted "without discernment," in which case they are liable to detention for a certain number of years, according to the sentence of the magistrate before whom they are tried; or, they may be treated as older offenders and convicted. The child, however, derived little benefit from his privilege of acquittal, as he was still exposed, often for a period of many years, to the injurious influences of a prison where, though taught some mechanical trade, he was frequently associated with hardened felons. To save these poor unfortunates from the evil of such association, and train them for valuable citizens, the Agricultural Colony, at Mettray, in the southeast of France, was established in 1839, principally through the efforts of two gentlemen of enlarged benevolence,

M. Demetz and Count de Courteilles. Without fee or reward they devoted themselves to the superintendence of this noble charity, working in beautiful harmony till the death of de Courteilles. Demetz continued his self-denying and responsible position. The Royal Family and many philanthropic individuals, aided by their contributions and sympathies. The government also made a small annual grant. When visited by Lord Leigh in 1856, there were six hundred and eighty-one boys in the school, divided into families of thirty to fifty each, to which families they remain attached during the period of their detention. They are trained to military drill, which greatly facilitates movements, and prevents confusion; lessons occupy from one to two hours daily. The instruction given is firmly based upon religion, and includes reading, writing and arithmetic, but very little beyond it.

Each family occupies its own dwelling. The basement story is used for workshops, &c., the second and third floors for dormitories of twenty boys each. On the second floor the hammocks in which the boys sleep are removed in the morning, and it becomes the eating-room. About two-thirds of the boys are engaged in cultivating five hundred and twenty acres of land, and the care of stock. The remainder learn trades connected with agriculture, or needed to supply the wants of the colony, as wheelwright, blacksmith, carpenter, gardener, shoemaker, tailor, &c. Of those who have left Mettray, being placed in situations by the directors, a very large proportion have conducted well. This might be expected, from their previous bearing. More than half the pupils are constantly enrolled on the "table of honor," which is made up at the end of every three months, of the names of those whose conduct has been irreproachable for that period.

"The grounds are not enclosed by walls or high palisades, but by low green hedges, through which a boy could easily creep. The real confinement to the spot is to be found in the encircling and attractive charities of the domestic life and occupations of the institution."

ENGLAND.

A reform school for convict boys at Red Hill, Surrey, England, founded on similar principles, though not on so extensive a scale as that at Mettray, has been attended with similar results.

H. Barnard, in his work on reformatory education, page 342, says Messrs. Baker and Bengough's school, at Hardwicke, in Gloucestershire, is perhaps the best instance of the progress of juvenile reform in England. It was established in 1852, by Mr. Baker, a country gentleman and magistrate, and Mr. George Bengough, a recent graduate of Oxford. This school has selected the worst juvenile criminals, those who are the centers or heads of the evil, and by Mr. Bengough's personal intercourse and influence with them, as a member of the same little family, has succeeded remarkably in transforming them into decent and useful members of society. After proving the power of the means used upon first a set of boys from London, Messrs. Baker and Bengough gathered in the worst boys they could find in Gloucester-

shire. So thorough a reformation has this single school worked, that whereas there were formerly in Cheltenham alone some twenty boys under fourteen who had been convicted more than twice, there were not known in 1856 more than two boys in the whole of Gloucestershire who had been convicted more than once. Boys have been sent from other counties to Hardwicke; and what is of much greater significance, county reform schools, more or less modelled after it, have been or are being erected in more than twenty of the counties of England. According to a summary of the reformatory institutions in Great Britain and Ireland given in "The Philanthropist" for May, 1857, the whole number is ninety-one, and of their inmates five thousand two hundred and seventy-six. The position and prospects of the English reformatory cause is on the whole encouraging. To the large number of active institutions mentioned above others are being added. Increasing numbers of the most intelligent and benevolent persons of influence, are joining in the movement, and in the various other benevolent undertakings related to it.

TABLE—Exhibiting the Date of Opening, Capacity of Accommodation—Number, Age, Detention, Reformation, Deaths, Escapes, and Employment of Inmates—Extent of Grounds, Aggregate Cost of Buildings and Grounds, Number and Salaries of Officers, Annual Expense and Cost per Capita, of the State and City Reform Schools, in the United States, as presented to the Convention of Managers and Superintendents of such Institutions, held May, 1859.

No.	TITLE.	LOCATION.		DATE.		WHOLE NO. INMATES.			PRESENT NO. INMATES.			Capacity of Accommodation.	Cost of Location.	Cost of Buildings.	No. of Acres.
		City or Town.	State.	When Established.	When Opened.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.				
1	House of Refuge.....	Randall's Is'ld.	N. Y.	1824	1825	5909	1828	7737	468	73	541	1000	\$15,000	\$815,441	87
2	House of Refuge (white department).....	Philadelphia	Pa.	1826	1828	3915	1360	5275	269	74	343	482	incl. in bdgs.	280,000	4
3	House of Refuge (colored department).....	Philadelphia	Pa.	1828	1850	502	269	771	108	46	149	180		108,000	2
4	House of Reformation.....	Boston	Mass.	1825	1826	1915		1915	208		208	240		100,000	
5	State Reform School.....	Westboro'	Mass.	1847	1848	2529		2529	541		541	550	12,425	121,275	280
6	State Industrial School.....	Lancaster	Mass.	1855	1856		136	136		94	94	90	10,000	40,000	100
7	State Reform School.....	West Meriden	Conn.	1851	1854	305		305	119		119	180	12,074	46,381	160
8	State Reform School.....	Cape Elizabeth	Maine.	1850	1853	504		504	208		208	240	9,000	73,000	160
9	House of Refuge.....	Cincinnati	Ohio.	1845	1850	949	228	1172	185	39	224	204	7,896	175,000	9%
10	Reform School.....	Providence	R. I.	1850	1850	578	141	719	187	44	181	180	incl. in bdgs.	40,000	2
11	House of Refuge.....	New Orleans	La.	1841	1847	589	175	764	94	11	105	150	15,000	10,000	2%
12	House of Refuge.....	Baltimore	Md.	1849	1856	372	73	445	212	17	229	800	5,663	141,348	50
13	Reform School.....	Chicago	Ill.	1855	1855	357		357	195		195	200		9,400	27
14	House of Refuge.....	St. Louis	Mo.	1853	1854	584	171	705	72	17	89	156	incl. in bdgs.	110,000	40
15	Western House of Refuge.....	Rochester	N. Y.	1847	1849	1106		1106	386		386	360	4,000	109,800	42%
16	Ohio State Reform School.....	Lancaster	Ohio.	1857	1858	85		85	60		60	120	15,000	13,000	1170
17	Industrial School.....	Cleveland	Ohio.	1856	1857	335	265	600	125	100	225	800	3,500	5,000	
18	Western House of Refuge.....	Pittsburgh	Pa.	1854	1854	452	186	638	164	58	222	290	10,000	113,884	10
19	Northern Home for Friendless Children.....	Philadelphia	Pa.	1853	1855	448	240	688	125	10	135	200	2,250	25,000	100x204
20	Institution for Idle and Truant Children.....	Brooklyn	N. Y.	1853	1858	271	36	307	76	16	92	100			
21	American Female Guardian Society.....	New York City	N. Y.	1834	1847		8861	8861		154	154	200	11,750	47,577	
22	Orphan Farm School.....	Zellenope	Pa.	1854	1854	51		51	40		40	72	1,500	25,000	25
23	Boston Asylum and Farm School.....	Thompson's Is.	Mass.	1833	1835	968		968	100		100	100		40,000	144
24	New York Juvenile Asylum.....	New York City	N. Y.	1851	1853	4254	819	5073	314	76	390	750	48,000	123,500	23
						27064	14647	41711	4196	829	5025	6574	\$183,058	2,167,556	

TABLE—CONTINUED.

No.	TITLE.	LOCATION.		Means of Annual Support. Whence Derived.	Employments of Inmates.
		City or Town.	State.		
1	House of Refuge.....	Randall's Isl'd.	N. Y.	State and City.	Shoemaking, Wire Working & Chair Seating.
2	House of Refuge (white department).....	Philadelphia ..	Pa.	State and City, Legacies and Donations, &c.	Daguer. Cases, Shoe Brushes, & Chair Seating.
3	House of Refuge (colored department).....	Philadelphia ..	Pa.	State and County and Labor of Inmates.	Umbrellas, Furniture, and Shoes.
4	House of Reformation	Boston.....	Mass.	City.	Shoemaking and Knitting.
5	State Reform School.....	Westboro	Mass.	State and Earnings of Inmates.	Farming, Gardening, &c.
6	State Industrial School.....	Lancaster.....	Mass.	State.	Clothing.
7	State Reform School	West Meriden.....	Conn.	State, Town, and Produce of Labor.	Clothing and Farming.
8	State Reform School	Cape Elizabeth.....	Maine.	do. do.	do. do.
9	House of Refuge.....	Cincinnati	Ohio.	City, and Produce of Labor.	Bird Cages, Shoes, Hata, Carpets, &c.
10	Reform School	Providence.....	R. I.	State, City, and Produce of Labor.	Shoemaking and Willow Work.
11	House of Refuge.....	New Orleans.....	La.	City.	Shoemaking, &c.
12	House of Refuge.....	Baltimore.....	Md.	State, City, and Produce of Labor.	Shoemaking and Tailoring.
13	Reform School	Chicago.....	Ill.	City Tax, and Labor.	Shoemaking, Tailoring and Farming.
14	House of Refuge.....	St. Louis.....	Mo.	do. do.	do. do.
15	Western House of Refuge.....	Rochester.....	N. Y.	State, and Produce of Labor.	Shoe Brushes and Chair Making.
16	Ohio State Reform School.....	Lancaster.....	Ohio.	do.	Farming, Shoemak'g, Carpenter'g & Tailoring
17	Industrial School.....	Cleveland.....	Ohio.	City and Subscriptions.	Sewing, Brushmaking and Picking Oakum.
18	Western House of Refuge.....	Pittsburgh.....	Pa.	State and County.	Making Chairs, Shoes, &c.
19	Northern Home for Friendless Children.....	Philadelphia ..	Pa.	State, City and Donations.	No Employment.
20	Institution for Idle and Truant Children.....	Brooklyn.....	N. Y.	City.	No Employment.
21	American Female Guardian Society.....	New York City.....	N. Y.	Private Subscriptions.	Gardening.
22	Orphan Farm School	Zelenople.....	Pa.	Contributions.	
23	Boston Asylum and Farm School.....	Thompson's Ia.	Mass.	Invested Funds and Donations.	Farming, Gardening and Boating.
24	New York Juvenile Asylum.....	New York City	N. Y.	City and Private.	Housework and Schools.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,
LANCASTER, August 29th, 1864. }

MY DEAR SIR,—Your very kind letter of inquiry is received, and I hasten to reply. In the first place, allow me to say I rejoice in the hope you express that a recommendation will be made to your legislature for the establishment of a "Home" or an "Industrial School" for girls as well as for boys; from my own observation in the cities of your State, as well as of our own; from my knowledge of human nature and the dangers to which young girls are increasingly exposed, I deeply feel the desirableness of each Commonwealth providing some suitable home where such unfortunates may be properly instructed, disciplined and trained. I should also strongly advise the *family system*, as only thus can you bring all those *individual* influences to bear upon the child, that are so desirable, and prevent those evil influences from being exerted, which so generally and almost necessarily arise from congregating scores or hundreds together in one building, one playground, one table, one dormitory. "God setteth the solitary in *families*," and I believe the nearer we imitate the Divine plan the more success we shall obtain. As to age, we have them committed from the years of 7 to 16, and may retain till 18, and if orphans till 21; indeed, all after this year, if we deem it best, and this I should say was desirable, if you had buildings and funds, to receive as many as would thus be committed to you, perhaps giving preference to those from 9 to 15 years of age.

I should desire also, "as to criminality," that not only those who are criminal, as those arrested for petty larceny, vagrancy, notorious obstinacy, and disobedience, should have the advantages of such a home, but also those who might be classed under the general head of "*exposure*." We have a number who are here, and, I trust, will be saved and become useful women, who had committed no crime; but their circumstances, inclinations, and temptations were such as made it evident, that in a short time they would be led astray and ruined. I should desire not to establish a *penal* institution, nor institute anything like *prison discipline*; by no means introduce a *prison garb* or *uniform*, neither give your institution a *name* that will attach any

stigma or odium upon its inmates after leaving, or not necessarily so. We are well pleased with our name—"The Industrial School for Girls."

There are very many points upon which I would love to speak, but it is unnecessary, and my time just now is occupied, but in a word I may say, my idea of an institution of this kind for children and youth would be, not punishment for crime committed, but reformation from evil, prevention from further wrong-doing by a change of character, by the firm, steady, loving discipline and instruction in industrial, educational, moral and religious objects and truths communicated by discreet, wise and christian teachers.

I think that arguments and statistics might also be brought forward by your commission to convince the people, that an expenditure of money for such an institution, would be in the course of years, (and even in a few years), a matter of economy; for it is cheaper to support *a child*, and train it for usefulness in such a school, than to allow it to run wild and then support the man or woman in jail, prison or almshouse, with all the evil wrought and costs incurred during years of evil, intemperance and crime.

You will see by reports I will send you, that the average cost of each girl with us the last year, was but \$89 17 for the year. A provision might be made that the town or city from which the child is sent should pay a part or all of this yearly cost. Some parents could and would, as with us, pay themselves for their children.

Please accept my very high regard for yourself and associates. If I can render you any service please inform me, and it will be a pleasure so to do.

Yours fraternally,

MARCUS AMES,
Superintendent and Chaplain.

LETTERS FROM ACTING COMMISSIONER OF OHIO REFORM SCHOOL.

STATE REFORM SCHOOL, NEAR LANCASTER, OHIO, }
May 11th, 1864. }

MY DEAR SIR:—Your kind favor of 5th instant was received. I am glad to hear that New Jersey is making the preliminary movements toward the establishment of a reform school. It seems to me that to judge properly of the merits of the different reformatory systems, it will be necessary to visit institutions that are founded upon them. We shall be happy, indeed, to have you visit us. You can then see for yourselves whether discipline can be maintained where boys work in the open fields. The money expended by your State a few years ago would have gone very far in establishing a school like our own. We are now prepared to accommodate two hundred and forty boys, and our entire expenditure for buildings of all kinds, in-

cluding barns, out-houses, &c., does not exceed \$26,000. I think an institution of this kind should be made substantial, but very plain. It should be a comfortable home, no better than any boy might aspire to, if he is industrious and prudent. It should be so constructed, arranged and managed, that the every-day life of the boys will not differ materially from that of a plain but well organized and Christian family. I consider our system vastly superior to the *Refuge*, if *reformation* is the object sought. We have always felt that "it is better to hold the key to the boy's heart than to his cell." If the object is merely to restrain boys, and protect society from their depredations, the refuge system is probably the best. There are many men who can be employed as guards and turnkeys, at low salaries, that would never do for reform school teachers. An institution like ours can only be successfully conducted by employing for its officers a class of teachers possessing high intelligence and great moral worth. Hence, to officer a school of this kind costs more than one that is surrounded by high walls, and has for its object the physical restraint of its inmates. In the event that you established a *Refuge*, I think a *liberal* provision should be made for the establishment of families outside of the walls for the best boys. Should our system be adopted, there are many things that ought to be well understood before you commence. Location is a matter of great importance. Isolation is necessary. Still, the idea of market and accessibility must not be lost sight of. Health, water, soil, kinds of employment, &c., are matters worthy of great consideration. I like your idea of appointing a superintendent who shall have a voice and an influence in the selection of the site and in the construction of the buildings. Much money would probably be saved to your State by the employment of a man to superintend the whole matter who understands the wants of such a school, not only as far as the convenience of buildings is concerned, but who knows what kind of labor can be carried forward to the best financial interests of the establishment, and at the same time produce the greatest amount of elevation in the boys themselves. Great improvement could be made upon our plan, with no more expense. I think you will do well to secure what appropriation you will need for putting up several buildings, and then use it only as fast as the wants of the school may demand. It is easier to get a liberal appropriation at first, than it is by piecemeal.

Truly yours,

G. E. HOWE.

LANCASTER, OHIO, July 30, 1864.

ESTEEMED FRIEND:—Yours of the 25th ult. is received. I fear, from the tone of your letter, that you will not visit this institution. Being the only one of the kind in the United States, and having proved eminently successful for seven years, growing more efficient each year,

and being in great favor with the people of Ohio in consequence of the results accomplished, I did hope you would visit us. We had hoped that the day of refuges and prisons for boys had gone by. If you should yet conclude to come, we shall be glad to see you, and you will find the route very direct.

I am not an advocate for the refuge system, as it is ordinarily conducted. In fact, I am opposed to it. A gentleman of high standing told me but a day or two since that the refuge, for *reformation*, was nothing to be compared to our system, and whenever he had a friend that had a wayward son, he always recommended him to commit him to our school.

The fact is, there are thousands of little boys in these refuges, locked up as prisoners and criminals, that are guilty of nothing but destitution and want of proper parental restraint; and these, *we* consider no crimes. If these little fellows, "by hook or by crook," come out as good as they went in, we consider it the exception to the rule. By the goodness of God we are surrounded by a vast space, filled with pure air, which we all love to breathe; and who enjoys it more, or loves freedom more, than a little boy. I know I am enthusiastic on this subject, but I believe God puts it into my heart to be so. I do believe the day will come that the present refuge and prison system will be abolished, and may God speed the day. We *know* there is a better system. The key to the *heart*, not the *cell*, as I said before, is our motto.

If we are to engage in a business that has for its object the highest and noblest of all pursuits, viz: the elevation of depraved humanity,—the restoring to society in a healthy condition, elements that at a time threatened to destroy it,—the purification of hearts and saving of souls,—would it not be economy to invest liberally. The whole question of cheap teachers, cheap food, cheap clothing, together with hard and constant labor of the boys, could properly be considered here, but it is not worth while for me to detain you. I admire plainness, prudence and economy, yet it is to my mind no reason that a reform school should be selected as a model, because it is conducted more cheaply than any other. It is always a loss to take or keep from boys that which would make them better if they had it. I speak freely, for having been long connected with reform schools, my great aim and desire is to have such schools established as will accomplish the greatest amount of good.

A work entitled "National Education in Europe, by Henry Barnard," would be of great service to you. There is also a little book written by Rev. F. W. Stevenson, called "Praying and Working," that you would like very much.

I shall be glad to assist you in any way.

Truly yours,

G. E. HOWE.

The following extract from a letter to one of the commissioners from the Superintendent of the Massachusetts Reform School, a gentleman of much experience and of liberal and comprehensive views, is too important to be omitted.

WESTBORO, Mass., Dec. 27, 1864.

Dear Sir: I am glad to learn that the prospect for a reform school is so good in New Jersey. The view you take seems to me to be the correct one,—to have the boys as well as the girls in “families,” and *dispense with the congregate system*. I have always thought highly of the school at Lancaster, Ohio. We have had but one successful escape from our families since they were established, now nearly four years. All the punishment I have ever inflicted was to return them to the main building. The government of our institution by a board of seven trustees, I like. The principal thing for them to do is to give assurance to the community that the school is what it ought to be and to change the superintendent if it is not. Trusting your fondest hopes will be realized in this great and good work,

Yours, very truly,

JOS. A. ALLEN.

CIRCULAR.

At the last session of the Legislature, the following Joint Resolution unanimously passed both Houses, and was approved by the Governor :

“**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That the Governor be authorized to appoint three commissioners, whose duty it shall be carefully to inquire into the character and influences of institutions in other states, designed for the reformation of criminal or vagrant youth, and from their experience to collate a system of reform, which they shall deem best adapted to supply the wants of New Jersey; to ascertain the probable number of children whose course of life demands the care of the State, and the manner in which criminal youth are at present dealt with; to propose such laws as may be necessary for the establishment of a suitable school or schools, and to report to the Governor the result of their labors, in order that he may present it to the legislature at its next annual session.”

Under the above resolution, the subscribers have been appointed by the Governor as Commissioners. In entering upon their duties, they are desirous to ascertain—

1. The number of children under fifteen years of age, who, during the past year, have been committed to prison in your county, or “bound over,” and upon what charges; the number convicted, and penalties imposed, and how many of each sex.

2. Similar information respecting those from fifteen to twenty-one years of age.

3. To what cause or causes can properly be attributed the cases which may have occurred of youthful depravity or delinquency.

4. Are the inmates of your County Jail classified as to sex, age and degree of criminality? Is there any systematic instruction or employment? Please communicate any other information as to the condition of your county prison, that will facilitate the object desired in the appointment of the commission.

5. Are there any institutions in your county founded by private benevolence for the benefit of friendless or destitute children?

It will give the commissioners great satisfaction to receive information and suggestions upon the important subject committed to them, from those who have given attention to it in any of its various phases.

PHINEAS B. KENNEDY,
Belvidere, Warren County, N. J.

GEORGE T. COBB,
Morristown, Morris County, N. J.

SAMUEL ALLINSON,
Yardville, Mercer County, N. J.

REPORTS IN ANSWER TO CIRCULAR.

ATLANTIC COUNTY.

BERGEN COUNTY.

BURLINGTON COUNTY.

In jail during year 1863.—Children under 15 years, none; from 15 to 21, committed 12, mostly for assault and larceny. Fined a few dollars, or imprisoned three months. Generally orphans or neglected children. An orphan house has ten or twelve children.

CAMDEN COUNTY.

The mayor of Camden says they have many boys and girls of evil lives, who greatly need from the State—what they otherwise have not—parental care and restraint.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Under fifteen years, one boy for larceny, three months county jail. Fifteen to twenty-one; one boy fined five dollars and costs; two, fornication, fourteen dollars and costs, and two girls, fornication, fourteen dollars and costs. Cause, want of proper home influence and control. Jail built in 1790, "without any reasonable comforts."

ESSEX COUNTY.

Under fifteen—boys, one hundred and seventeen; girls, five. For vagrancy, twenty-six; larceny, seventy-six; misdemeanors, twenty. Of these, seventy were convicted; imprisonment, ten days to six months; average, thirty-five days. Over fifteen—boys, eighty-nine; girls, thirty. For larceny, thirty-nine; vagrancy, twenty; assault, twenty; breach of peace, six; misdemeanor, thirty-four. Of the girls, fifteen common drunkards or common prostitutes. Intemperance the direct or indirect cause of crime; three-fourths of those under

fifteen cannot read nor write; one-half of those over that age can read and write. Boys work at polishing harness irons; girls unemployed. No instruction but Sabbath preaching. At Police Court, Newark, five hundred and thirty-three arrested, six to twenty years old; forty per cent. females; two-thirds for larceny. Arrested by justices, about two hundred and fifty minors. The very full report kindly furnished by R. B. Campfield, of Newark, will be furnished to the committee of the Legislature.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY.

HUDSON COUNTY.

No record of age kept at jail. Numerous boys continually sent there for vagrancy, &c., and occasionally for graver crimes. A number now there fit subjects for reform school. A report on behalf of chosen freeholders, says probably one hundred boys under eighteen, and six girls under sixteen years, have been committed in past year. A workhouse is connected with the jail where convicts labor; a well regulated poorhouse for friendless and destitute children, has a good school connected with it.

HUNTERDON COUNTY.

MERCER COUNTY.

Under fifteen, one girl, eight boys, larceny; fifteen to twenty-one, seven, assaults and larceny; cause, want of proper restraint,—parents often intemperate. An Orphans' Home in Trenton, inmates. Mayor of Trenton says the removal of fifteen ringleaders among the boys would be a great benefit to the city. Two boys escaped through feeding hole in cell door of prison, six by eight and a half inches.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

MONMOUTH COUNTY.

MORRIS COUNTY.

Under fifteen, boys thirteen, girl one; fifteen to twenty, boys sixteen, girls seven, (one for two and a half months as witness); eight for assault, twenty larceny, four disorderly conduct, one horse-stealing. Cause, dissolute parents, want of parental restraint, and natural inclination to vice and wickedness. Sabbath sermon in jail; convicts put to labor.

OCEAN COUNTY.

PASSAIC COUNTY.

SALEM COUNTY.

Fifteen to eighteen, one, for stealing; state prison one year. Jail a disgrace to the county; no employment *but card playing*.

SOMERSET COUNTY.

SUSSEX COUNTY.

Under fifteen, none; fifteen to twenty-one, four boys; passing counterfeit money, burglary and larceny. Two enlisted, one sent to state prison; one girl, infanticide, and one for disorderly house. Horse-racing at county fairs, ostensibly agricultural, the cause of much evil, also the drinking and gambling cellars. Jail "the most inhuman and unwholesome of any in the State."

UNION COUNTY.

Under fifteen, boys ten, girls two; larceny six, vagrancy four, arson one; average age eleven; above fifteen, boys twelve, girls three. The best arranged and regulated county prison we have seen New Jersey.

WARREN COUNTY.

The prosecutor says he could refer to fifty boys the fit subjects of reform schools—petty pilferers, &c.

STATE PRISON.

There were in the State Prison, June 4th, 1864, forty-one male, and ten female convicts under twenty-one years of age. The former have been convicted of almost all crimes in the calendar, and are sentenced, two for life, and the rest for terms varying from six months to ten years. The girls have mostly been guilty of larceny, and have sentences from six months to fifteen years. Some instruction in letters is given to the ignorant by the moral instructor, but this mode of teaching from cell to cell would be costly of time and unsatisfactory. They are often placed in cells with better educated convicts who are willing to teach them.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

WHO BIDS FOR THE CHILDREN?

Who bids for the little children—

Body and soul and brain ;

Who bids for the little children—

Young and without stain ?

“ Will no one bid,” said England,
“ For their souls so pure and white,
And fit for all good or evil
The world on their page may write ?”

“ I bid,” said Beggary, howling ;
“ I’ll buy them, one and all ;
I’ll teach them a thousand lessons—
To lie, to skulk, to crawl.
They shall sleep in my lair like maggots,
They shall rob in the fair sunshine ;
And if they serve my purpose,
I hope they’ll answer thine !”

“ And I’ll bid higher and higher,”
Said Crime, with wolfish grin,
“ For I love to lead the children
Through the pleasant paths of sin.
They shall swarm in the streets to pilfer,
They shall plague the broad highway,
’Till they grow too old for pity,
And ripe for the law to slay.

“ Prison and hulk and gallows,
’ Are many in the land ;
’ Twere folly not to use them,
So proudly as they stand.
Give *me* the little children,
I’ll take them as they’re born,
And I’ll feed their evil passions
With misery and scorn.

“ Give *me* the little children
Ye good, ye rich, ye wise,
And let the busy world spin round,
While ye shut your idle eyes ;
And your judges shall have work,
And your lawyers wag the tongue,
And the jailors and policemen
Shall be fathers to the young !”

“ Oh shame !” said true Religion,
“ Oh shame that this should be !
I’ll take the little children—
I’ll take them *all* to me.
I’ll raise them up with kindness,
From the mire in which they’re trod ;
I’ll teach them words of blessing,
I’ll lead them up to God.”

But all refused to listen ;
Quoth they, “ We’ll bide our time ;”
And the bidders seized the children—
Beggary, Filth and Crime.
And the prisons teemed with victims,
And the gallows rocked on high ;
And the thick abomination
Spread reeking to the sky.