

1860

REPORT

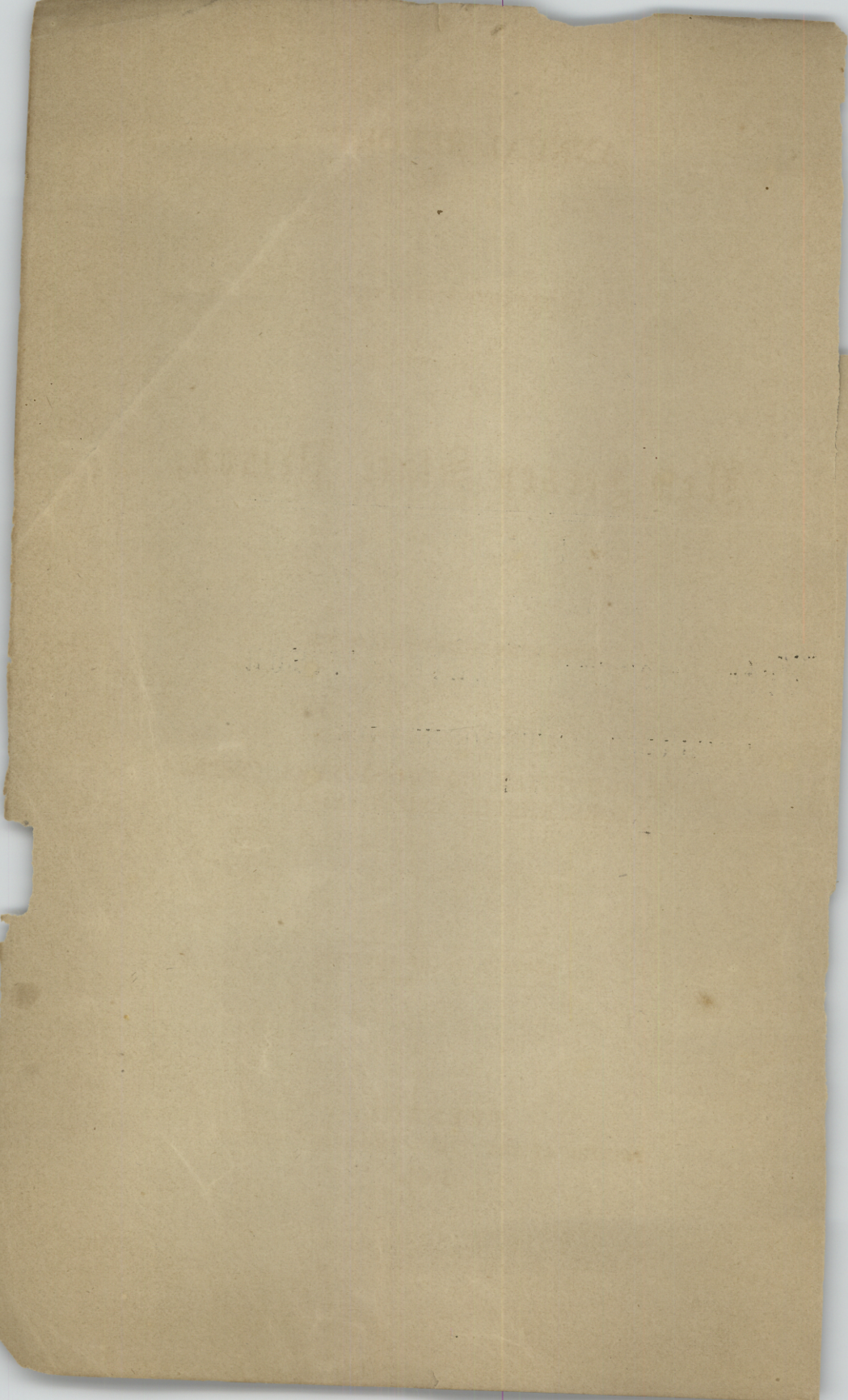
OF THE

New Jersey State Prison,

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY.

1861.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CONDITION OF THE

New Jersey State Prison,

EMBRACING THE REPORTS OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONERS, INSPECTORS,
KEEPER AND PHYSICIAN.

ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

TRENTON:

PRINTED AT THE "TRUE AMERICAN" OFFICE.

1861.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE

NEW YORK STATE PRISON

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRISONS, ASSEMBLY
AND SENATE

ALBANY: J. B. LEECH, 1871.

ALBANY:

PRINTED AT THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE.

1871

JOINT COMMITTEES' REPORT.

The Joint Committee on State Prison beg leave to report—

That we have examined the accounts and vouchers of the Prison for the last year ending December 31, and find them correct.

Your Committee further report, that they have made examination of the condition of the Prison, and find it neat and clean, the prisoners well provided with suitable food and clothing, and every proper attention paid to their comfort. Your Committee take great pleasure in bearing testimony to the faithfulness, ability and zeal with which the Keeper has discharged his various and important duties, and to the general good order and good management that pervade every department of the Institution.

Your Committee would further report, that they have examined the new wing to the Prison, built by A. H. Patterson, and take pleasure in saying it is a complete and well built building, and richly worth the money it cost the State.

We herewith submit the Keeper's report and accompanying documents, with a resolution that they be referred to the Joint Committee on Printing, with instructions (House of Assembly concurring) to have printed for distribution six

hundred copies for the Senate, one thousand copies for the House of Assembly, and one hundred copies for the Keeper of the Prison.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

EDWARD C. MOORE,
THOS. L. NORCROSS,
Committee of the Senate.

JAMES M. LANG,
GEO. B. WILLS,
JOS. H. DUFFIELD,
NATHAN HORTON,
ISAAC P. COOLEY,
Committee of House of Assembly.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

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

The undersigned commissioners, authorized by an act of the Legislature approved March 22, 1860, to erect a new wing to the State Prison, hereby report that they have caused to be erected within the Prison enclosure the building authorized in said act, which is now complete, at a cost as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| Austin H. Patterson, for building, per contract, | | |
| (exclusive of locks,) - - - | - | \$15,350 00 |
| Arnold Stevens, for 132 cell locks, - - | - | 250 00 |
| Upton & Miller, for 5 door locks, - - | - | 61 38 |
| Austin H. Patterson, for extra work, - - | - | 372 85 |
| Chauncey Graham, architect and superintendence, | | 450 00 |
| Expenses of commissioners and architect to Albany, to view Albany Penitentiary, - - | - | 97 00 |
| Advertising for proposals in five newspapers, in Newark, Trenton, Camden and Paterson, - | - | 23 78 |
| Isaac W. Lanning, for drawing contract, - | - | 5 00 |
| John M. Drake, for printing specifications, - | - | 8 00 |
| Services of Commissioners, - - - | - | 975 00 |
| Total cost, - - - - | - | \$17,593 01 |
| On account of which warrants have been drawn by the Governor on the Treasurer for the amount of the original contract with A. H. Patterson, - - - - | - | \$15,350 00 |
| Leaving a balance unpaid of - - - | - | \$2,243 01 |

Which seems to require a special act of the Legislature to provide for its payment. The early attention of your honorable bodies is requested to the subject. Although the act authorizing the erection of the building appropriates seventeen thousand dollars for that purpose, according to its literal interpretation authorizes the Governor to draw his warrants on the Treasurer only for the amount of the contract, which is for fifteen thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

The Commissioners have the confidence to say that in the erection of this building the State is furnished with one in every way suitable for the purpose for which it is intended. Safe and substantial, and for economy in its cost will compare favorably with any thing of its kind in this or any other State. We refer you to the certificate of the architect herewith annexed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SILAS H. KITCHELL,
JONATHAN PICKEL,
W. P. McMICHAEL,
JOS. CUNNINGHAM,
WILLIAM V. WARD,

Commissioners.

TRENTON, January 15, 1861.

INSPECTORS' REPORT.

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

The undersigned, Inspectors of the New Jersey State Prison, have the honor to submit the following Report of the concerns of the Institution for the year ending December thirty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty :

| | |
|---|-------|
| The number in confinement on the thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, | |
| was, | 317 |
| There has been received since that time, | 266 |
| Making the total number confined during the year, | — 583 |
| There were discharged during the year as follows : | |
| By expiration of sentence, | 128 |
| Pardoned on account of ill-health, | 21 |
| “ one day before expiration of sentence to retain citizenship, | 4 |
| Pardoned for other reasons, | 15 |
| Died, | 14 |
| Total discharged, | — 182 |

Leaving in confinement on the thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and sixty, 401

Being an increase of eighty-four over the number in confinement at the termination of the previous year.

The following tables, prepared by the clerk from the re-

cords of the Prison, will give the usual information, as required by law, concerning the convicts in confinement on the thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and sixty, their terms of sentence, crimes, number in confinement from each county, their age, color, sex, &c.

TERMS OF SENTENCE.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| During natural life, | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 30 years, | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 20 " | . | . | . | . | 6 |
| 15 " | . | . | . | . | 7 |
| 12 " | . | . | . | . | 2 |
| 10 " | . | . | . | . | 16 |
| 9 " and 4 months, | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 9 " " 3 " | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 9 " | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 8 " | . | . | . | . | 11 |
| 7 " and 6 months, | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 7 " | . | . | . | . | 17 |
| 6 " | . | . | . | . | 8 |
| 5 " and 3 months, | . | . | . | . | 3 |
| 5 " | . | . | . | . | 35 |
| 4 " and 9 months, | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 4 " " 6 " | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 4 " | . | . | . | . | 12 |
| 3 " and 6 months, | . | . | . | . | 3 |
| 3 " " 3 " | . | . | . | . | 4 |
| 3 " | . | . | . | . | 45 |
| 2 " and 6 months, | . | . | . | . | 4 |
| 2 " " 3 " | . | . | . | . | 2 |
| 2 " | . | . | . | . | 70 |
| 1 " and 9 months, | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 1 " " 6 " | . | . | . | . | 20 |
| 1 " | . | . | . | . | 80 |
| 9 months, | . | . | . | . | 14 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 8 months, | 4 |
| 7 " | 1 |
| 6 " | 28 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total, | 401 |

CRIMES COMMITTED.

| | |
|--|----|
| Arson, | 4 |
| Atrocious assault and battery, | 5 |
| Assault and battery with intent to commit rape, | 6 |
| Assault and battery with intent to rob, | 1 |
| Assault and battery with intent to kill, | 8 |
| Aiding and abetting in a rape, | 2 |
| Assault and battery, | 39 |
| Attempt to kill by poison, | 1 |
| Bigamy, | 1 |
| Breaking and entering, | 62 |
| Breaking jail, | 5 |
| Burglary, | 29 |
| Burglary, larceny and arson, | 1 |
| Burglary, larceny and arson, and escaping from jail, | 1 |
| Burglary and breaking jail, | 9 |
| Burglary and larceny, | 3 |
| Burning buildings, | 8 |
| Counterfeiting, | 1 |
| Entering, &c., | 6 |
| False pretences, | 1 |
| Forgery, | 1 |
| Grand larceny, | 66 |
| Having unfinished counterfeit money, with intent, &c. | 2 |
| Keeping a disorderly house, | 12 |
| Larceny, | 31 |
| Lewdness, | 1 |
| Murder, | 3 |
| Manslaughter, | 7 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Murder in second degree, | 12 |
| Misdemeanor, | 10 |
| Malicious mischief, | 3 |
| Making counterfeit coin, | 2 |
| Passing counterfeit money, | 14 |
| Poisoning, | 1 |
| Polygamy, | 1 |
| Prize fighting, | 1 |
| Picking pockets, | 1 |
| Perjury, | 1 |
| Rape, | 17 |
| Robbery, | 5 |
| Receiving stolen goods, | 3 |
| Riot, | 1 |
| Riot and obstructing railroad track, | 5 |
| Shooting, | 1 |
| Uttering forged order, | 1 |
| Uttering counterfeit money, | 6 |
| Total, | 401 |

COUNTIES WHERE CONVICTED, AND NUMBER FROM EACH.

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Atlantic, | 4 |
| Bergen, | 21 |
| Burlington, | 26 |
| Camden, | 34 |
| Cumberland, | 10 |
| Cape May, | 2 |
| Essex, | 76 |
| Gloucester, | 13 |
| Hudson, | 55 |
| Hunterdon, | 10 |
| Mercer, | 19 |
| Middlesex, | 15 |
| Monmouth, | 9 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Morris, | . | . | . | . | . | 18 |
| Ocean, | . | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| Passaic, | . | . | . | . | . | 17 |
| Salem, | . | . | . | . | . | 14 |
| Somerset, | . | . | . | . | . | 19 |
| Sussex, | . | . | . | . | . | 5 |
| Union, | . | . | . | . | . | 22 |
| Warren, | . | . | . | . | . | 8 |
| Morris and Union, | . | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| United States, N. J. District, | . | . | . | . | . | 2 |
| Total, | . | . | . | . | . | <hr/> 401 |

THEIR COLOR AND SEX.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| White males, | . | . | . | . | . | 302 |
| “ females, | . | . | . | . | . | 16 |
| Colored males, | . | . | . | . | . | 77 |
| “ females, | . | . | . | . | . | 6 |
| Total, | . | . | . | . | . | <hr/> 401 |

YEARS IN WHICH RECEIVED.

| | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| 1851, | . | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 1853, | . | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| 1856, | . | . | . | . | . | 8 |
| 1857, | . | . | . | . | . | 14 |
| 1858, | . | . | . | . | . | 32 |
| 1859, | . | . | . | . | . | 105 |
| 1860, | . | . | . | . | . | 240 |
| Total, | . | . | . | . | . | <hr/> 401 |

NUMBER OF COMMITMENTS.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| First offence, | . | . | . | . | . | 352 |
| Second " | . | . | . | . | . | 33 |
| Third " | . | . | . | . | . | 9 |
| Fourth " | . | . | . | . | . | 5 |
| Fifth " | . | . | . | . | . | 2 |
| Total, | . | . | . | . | . | <hr/> 401 |

AGES WHEN RECEIVED.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| From 13 to 15 years, | . | . | . | . | 2 |
| " 15 " 20 " | . | . | . | . | 58 |
| " 20 " 25 " | . | . | . | . | 140 |
| " 25 " 30 " | . | . | . | . | 63 |
| " 30 " 40 " | . | . | . | . | 74 |
| " 40 " 50 " | . | . | . | . | 38 |
| " 50 " 60 " | . | . | . | . | 23 |
| " 60 " 70 " | . | . | . | . | 3 |
| Total, | . | . | . | . | <hr/> 401 |

PLACE OF NATIVITY.

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| New Jersey, . | . | . | . | . | 134 |
| Pennsylvania, | . | . | . | . | 48 |
| New York, . | . | . | . | . | 53 |
| Maryland, . | . | . | . | . | 4 |
| Massachusetts, | . | . | . | . | 4 |
| Delaware, . | . | . | . | . | 4 |
| Connecticut, . | . | . | . | . | 3 |
| Virginia, . | . | . | . | . | 2 |
| Maine, . | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| New Hampshire, | . | . | . | . | 1 |
| Vermont, . | . | . | . | . | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Kentucky, | 1 |
| Indiana, | 1 |
| District of Columbia, | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 258 |

FOREIGNERS.

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Canada West, | 1 |
| Ireland, | 77 |
| Germany, | 37 |
| England, | 12 |
| Switzerland, | 1 |
| Scotland, | 3 |
| Belgium, | 1 |
| France, | 6 |
| Denmark, | 1 |
| Poland, | 1 |
| Saxony, | 1 |
| Holland, | 2 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 143 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total, | 401 |

The increase in the number of convicts during the year, largely exceeds that of any former year during the history of the Prison.

Order and discipline has been well maintained; no insubordination of a serious nature has occurred.

There has been fourteen deaths during the year, a larger number than usual; but the general health of the prisoners has been as good as ordinary, for the details of which, and the prevailing diseases, we refer you to the report of the Physician to the Prison.

In accordance with the act passed at the last session of the legislature, there has been erected within the Prison enclosure a new wing, containing one hundred and thirty-two cells, which

is now complete, and ready for use as soon as the walls of the cells are sufficiently dry to be occupied with safety to the health of the convicts.

This, with the two original wings, make three hundred and twenty available cells, and yet there is an excess of more than eighty prisoners over the number of cells.

After the new wing had been commenced, and the outer walls nearly completed, it was decided to appropriate the space between that and the centre of the main edifice for a hospital, which has been erected and is now complete, at a cost of two thousand six hundred and forty dollars and fifty cents. It is about thirty feet square, well ventilated, and by its convenience and location well adapted for the purpose for which it is designed—a place where the sick may be cared for—the want of which has been the complaint of the keepers and physicians of the Prison for more than fifteen years.

The excrement of the Prison was originally conveyed by a drain or culvert to the Delaware and Raritan Canal, the level of which was afterwards raised very near the level of the Prison, which rendered the drain useless; after which a large reservoir was made by an excavation on the State lot opposite the Prison, which for several years received its drainage. till at length it had become so offensive to the residents in its vicinity, and even injurious to health, as to be an undoubted nuisance. There seemed to be no practical way of removing the difficulty but by constructing a sewer to the Delaware river. A substantial stone drain pipe, twelve inches diameter in the clear, has been laid from the Prison to the river, a distance of nearly four thousand feet, at a cost of three thousand one hundred and twenty-two dollars and fifty-seven cents, for pipe, excavation and engineering, complete, which is now in successful operation, and answers perfectly the purpose for which it was designed.

For the details of the business operations and financial condition of the Institution, we refer you to the Keeper's report.

The hope entertained a year ago of increased receipts from the labor of convicts, has been but partially realized; the window shade business, which at that time promised well, has been gradually declining, until about one month since has become entirely suspended.

New and responsible parties have lately made proposals for the employment of one hundred and seventy-five convicts at shoemaking, intending to commence about the first of December last with a part of that number, increasing gradually so as to have had the full complement of one hundred and seventy-five employed by the first of February. Previous to the time set for commencement, the sudden and almost entire suspension of all business, induced them, for the present, to withdraw their proposals, and declined for the present entering into a contract, intending, as soon as prospects will justify, to renew their proposals and commence under a permanent contract.

With ample workshops now ready, and the enlargements of the Prison department, the facilities of the Institution are such, that on the return of business prosperity, the proceeds of the labor of the convicts, will, it is confidently believed, make it a paying Institution.

The prospects are now gloomy beyond all precedent. Out of four hundred convicts, nearly three hundred are wholly idle.

The attention of the legislature is respectfully requested to the subject of the salary of the physician to the Prison, which is three hundred dollars per year. Since the time that sum was fixed by law, the duties of the office has increased more than three-fold; it is clear that the present salary is quite inadequate to the duties performed. At the commencement of last year it was decided by the Inspectors to increase it, but on referring to the law, it was found that it could not be done without the authority of the legislature.

We cannot but refer to the assiduous, the careful and effi-

cient management of the Keeper, in his various and complex duties, which merits our cordial approval.

The conduct of the Matron, in her generous and self-denying efforts in ministering to the wants and comforts of the sick and dying, deserve the highest praise. The duties of the Moral Instructor, Clerk and Deputies have been promptly and faithfully performed to our entire satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted.

JONATHAN PICKEL,
W. P. McMICHAEL,
SILAS H. KITCHELL,
JOS. CUNNINGHAM,
WM. V. WARD,

Inspectors.

*Inspectors' Room, N. J. State Prison, }
January 15th, 1861.*

KEEPER'S REPORT.

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

In accordance with the usual custom, I herewith present to you my annual report.

I could have wished to present to your honorable body a more flattering statement of the business operations of our Prison for the year just closed, but under all the circumstances I feel that I can congratulate myself, and the people of the State through you, that it has been no worse. It would be a waste of time for me to repeat the causes which have operated against making our Prison more productive than we here show. This is a matter that is not only universally known by all, but very sensibly felt by a large class of the citizens of our State, and hence I deem it but sufficient to say that more than one half of our available force have been without employment most of the past year.

| | |
|---|-----|
| The number of prisoners in confinement on the 31st day of | |
| December, 1859, was | 317 |
| Received during the year, 1860, | 266 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Making the total number confined during the year, | 583 |
|---|-----|

There has been discharged during the year as follows :

| | |
|--|-----|
| By expiration of sentence, | 128 |
| Pardoned on account of ill health, | 21 |
| Restored to citizenship, | 4 |
| Pardoned for other reasons, | 15 |
| Died, | 14 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Total discharged, | 182 |
|-----------------------------|-----|

Leaving in confinement on the 31st day of December, 1860 :

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| White males, | 302 |
| White females, | 16 |
| Colored males, | 77 |
| Colored females, | 6 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Total number, | 401 |
|-------------------------|-----|

Here we find an increase of eighty-four in one year, exceeding in number by far any thing of the kind during my experience as Prison Keeper. Our Prison at the present time is crowded to a state almost beyond endurance. The Board of Inspectors, under the authority of an act of your honorable body passed at the last session of the Legislature, have erected a new wing, giving us an additional 132 cells, which, when in condition to be occupied with safety to the health of the prisoners, will relieve us very much.

The gains in the several departments amount in the aggregate to the sum of \$19,008 12, as follows :

| | |
|--|------------|
| From chair making account, gain, | \$6,745 34 |
| “ cordwainers “ “ | 1,242 99 |
| “ weaving “ “ | 1,284 27 |
| “ broom making “ “ | 1,748 08 |
| “ sundries “ “ | 2,059 01 |
| “ shade making “ “ | 5,928 43 |

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Total, | \$19,008 12 |
|------------------|-------------|

The expenditures during the time for various items used for the support of the institution are as follows :

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|-------------|
| For furniture account, | . | . | . | \$3,478 62 |
| " fuel | " | . | . | 2,353 54 |
| " provision | " | . | . | 11,340 12 |
| " incidental | " | . | . | 122 99 |
| " discharged convicts, | . | . | . | 521 89 |
| " interest, | . | . | . | 207 51 |
| " hospital, | . | . | . | 490 56 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| Total, | . | . | . | \$18,515 23 |
| Balance, being gain, | . | . | . | 492 89 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | \$19,008 12 |

Leaving a net gain in favor of the Prison of four hundred and ninety-two dollars and eighty-nine cents.

I here deem it proper to say that the business of shade making, which comprises a large item of the gains in the foregoing statement, has been entirely abandoned within our Prison. This I do not consider altogether a matter of regret, but a circumstance which I believe will prove advantageous to the future earnings of our Prison, whenever there is a resumption of business. Negotiations are now pending with a very responsible company for the labor of one hundred and seventy-five men (a part of whom are already employed,) to work at shoemaking, and who contemplate being able (at no very distant day,) to employ the entire labor of the Prison. The prosecution of this work will of course depend upon the revival of trade and the condition of the country.

There seems to have been a growing disposition in our State for many years for the adoption of some plan as a basis for prison labor, which would best promote the ends for which punishment is inflicted, whereof the labor, or the profits arising from it, is but a secondary consideration. The State of N. Jersey erected about twenty-five years ago at great expense, the present edifice as a solitary prison, but the increase in crime for a few years back has swelled the number of its inmates beyond the capacity of the original structure. An

addition became necessary, the manner and construction of which occupied the attention of our Board of Inspectors for a considerable length of time, when it was finally concluded to erect a wing, not after the original plan, but merely to be occupied as sleeping apartments. In this I concurred with them. I am aware that there are many persons interested in penal institutions, and who have given the subject much thought and study, who have great partiality for the solitary system, as a means of punishment and reformation; but I believe they are few, comparatively speaking, when compared with the number of those who hold adverse opinions. While Pennsylvania and New Jersey (the latter only in part,) are the only States that conduct their prisons under the solitary system; all others, so far as I have any knowledge, are pursuing the congregated mode or shop work system. So it seems not to be very clear, as some have contended, that the weight of evidence is on the side of the solitary. Both systems are undoubtedly open to abuses, but properly guarded I believe the congregated mode will be found less liable to abuse, is better adapted to the health of the prisoner, his labor is more remunerative, and possessing equal advantages in effecting a reformation.

The liabilities of the Prison on the 31st day of December, 1860, amounted to \$6,636 70. This sum is much larger than it would have been at this date, could we have made our usual collections.

The assets of the Prison on the 31st day of December, 1860, including cash, bills receivable, and book accounts, amounted to \$4,144 39. Of this sum \$605 97 is considered doubtful. The loss of bad or doubtful debts made during the past year, it is believed will not exceed the sum of \$200.

The foregoing statement shows an excess of liabilities over assets, which are classed as good and available of the sum of \$3,098 28. There are manufactured chair seats on hand at the present time more than sufficient to liquidate the above

sum, provided a sale could be made at any thing like regular prices.

In this state of our finances, taken in conjunction with the unsettled state of the country, it is difficult for me to form any opinion for the future wants and necessities of our Prison. The present we know to be full of gloom and despondency, and what is to be the final winding up of our national affairs, no mortal man can or will pretend to determine. Should the matters of difference between the two sections of our Union be amicably adjusted, there is no doubt but a revival of business would follow such a result, in which case there is every reasonable probability of the Prison being able to sustain itself without any aid from the treasury. But should it be otherwise; if secession is to go on, if we are to have civil war, if the clouds which are now hovering over us are to give place only to be succeeded by those of a more fearful and portentous character, then it will be next to impossible for your State Prison to sustain itself the ensuing year without help from the treasury.

I am happy to be able to inform you that a hospital room, and ample sewer arrangements, both so often recommended and so much needed, have during the past year been added to our improvements.

The sanitary condition of our Prison is as good as could be expected, when we consider its crowded state; although during the first six months of the year the mortality was greater than ever before known. For information on this subject I take pleasure in referring you to the report of the Prison Physician, Dr. T. J. Corson.

We have been remarkably fortunate in the work of maintaining the discipline of the Prison, when we consider the many interruptions to a strict observance of the rules. The necessity for placing two or three men in one cell, their restless natures, occasioned in part for the want of employment, we cannot but feel that Divine Providence has greatly favored us in preserving us from any violent or serious outbreaks, to

which the crowded state of our Prison exposes us. No punishments of a severe character have been inflicted, and but few of any kind.

To the Board of Inspectors, Moral Instructor, Physician, and the officers generally, I am under many personal obligations for their uniform kindness and courtesy during the past year.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT P. STOLL,
Keeper N. J. State Prison.

OFFICE N. J. STATE PRISON, }
January 15, 1861.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Board of Inspectors of the New Jersey State Prison:

GENTLEMEN:—I herewith present the annual report of the Physician to the New Jersey State Prison.

Since the first day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty, I have made one hundred and fifty visits to the Prison, making an average of over twelve visits a month.

In the annual report presented by me last year, I stated that "a larger number of prisoners has been incarcerated in the Prison during the last year than in any previous year." But the number of prisoners has been greatly increased since that time. The largest number of prisoners in 1859 was three hundred and forty-six, and on the 31st of December, 1859, there were three hundred and seventeen prisoners. But at one time in 1860 there were four hundred and thirty prisoners; and at this time there are four hundred and one convicts in confinement in the Prison. When we consider that this number of prisoners has been crowded together in one hundred and eighty cells, suffering from the unavoidable deleterious influences which surround them, it is not surprising that the necrological record should be correspondingly increased.

While everything has been done that could be done to ren-

der the sick comfortable, still it has been absolutely impossible to have them placed in such a situation as the circumstances of their several cases imperatively demanded. It is to be hoped that increased facilities for the care of the sick will soon be provided, so that their sufferings may be mitigated, and their recovery rendered more probable.

During the last year there have been fourteen deaths in the Prison, all of which, except that of Caspar Mellen, who died of secondary syphilis, have resulted from consumption.

The names, dates and causes of death are as follows:

| Name. | Color. | Date of Death. | Disease. |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------------|--------------|
| Elias Horton, . . . | Black. | Jan. 15. | Consumption. |
| James Paradine, . . . | White. | Feb. 24. | " |
| John Carey, . . . | " | " 26. | " |
| Joseph Bradley, . . . | " | March 15. | " |
| William Horton, . . . | Black. | " 18. | " |
| Simon Staats, . . . | " | " 20. | " |
| Josiah Johnson, . . . | " | " 22. | " |
| Henry Thompson, . . . | " | April 27. | " |
| Richard Murray, . . . | " | " 27. | " |
| Jane Probasco, alias Green, | " | " 29. | " |
| Aaron Tudas, alias Wilson, | " | June 21. | " |
| Julian Francis, . . . | White. | July 28. | " |
| Elijah Jones, . . . | Black. | Aug. 20. | " |
| Caspar Mellen, alias Jno. | | | |
| H. Shipmo, . . . | White. | " 27. | Syphilis. |

To the various officers of the Prison I am under obligations for many acts of courtesy and kindness.

Again thanking you for the trust and confidence which you have placed in me, I am,

Respectfully yours, &c.,

THOMAS J. CORSON,

Physician to the N. J. State Prison.

TRENTON, January 1st, 1861.

MORAL INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

To His Excellency the Governor of New Jersey, and the Board of Inspectors of the State Prison :

GENTLEMEN—The fifth year of my connection with this institution as Moral Instructor being about to come to a close, it becomes my duty, in compliance with established usage, to present a periodic report of my labors, and the moral condition of the inmates. The act of the 9th of February, 1848, which authorizes you "to employ a suitable person as a teacher and moral instructor to the convicts in said prison," does not define the powers nor prescribe the duties of such officer, but leaves them to be inferred from the general terms used in granting that authority. As to the nature, mode and amount of scholastic teaching, as well as the moral instruction to be given, the act is silent, and the whole subject is left to the judgment and discretion of the person to be employed for that purpose. My predecessors in this office being much engaged, either in professional duties or secular business, incompatible with the devotion of much of their labors to the instruction of the convicts, gave only a part of their time to this employment, and their labors were chiefly confined to the distribution of books among the prisoners, and preaching to them on the Sabbath. When I accepted this situation, I deemed it to be my duty to devote my whole time and attention to it, and to labor constantly with zeal and energy for the intellectual, the moral and the religious

improvement of these unhappy persons, I abandoned all other business and made this the chief end and aim of all my thoughts and all my actions. The great and laudable object of this system of prison discipline being to reform the convicts, as well as to deter others from the commission of crime, I have used every means in my power to gain their confidence in the sincerity of my friendship, and my desire to benefit them for time and for eternity. For this purpose I have made myself an inmate of their narrow cells, and spent much of my time in visiting them, each in turn, to study his history and character, and devise and practice the means best calculated to work out a reformation. In all their troubles I perform towards them the part of a faithful friendly counsellor, and endeavor to console them with true christian sympathy. When melancholy and despondent I cheer them with the hope of better days, and the assurance that by a genuine repentance they may repair the good opinion of their fellow men, and what is of vastly more importance, obtain the forgiveness of all their sins, and the approbation of Almighty God. I lead them to the gentle Saviour, who came not "to call the righteous but sinners to repentance," and who, even at the hour of mortal agony, promised the joys of Paradise to the believing thief. I pray for them, and encourage them also to pray; and I have the unspeakable satisfaction to believe that in this respect my labors have not been in vain. Many appear to have been awakened to a sense of their lost and ruined condition, and are striving to gain the mastery over their evil passions, and return to the path of rectitude and virtue. A number have been hopefully converted, and so far as I am capable of judging, have found "the pearl of great price," and are in the enjoyment of that peace and happiness which heartfelt religion alone can give.

During the past year fourteen prisoners have died in the Institution—a larger degree of mortality than has ever before occurred there. But then it must be borne in mind that the number of convicts has greatly increased of late years, and

is now nearly double what it was when I first received my appointment; and no doubt the necessity of confining two or more prisoners in each cell—originally designed for only one—has had a bad effect on their health, as well as a most pernicious influence on their morals. It was impossible to carry out in practice the theory of solitary confinement on which the Prison was established—a theory which, when fully realized, is, in my opinion, best calculated to produce a salutary influence on the convicts.

In my last annual report I alluded to this difficulty, and stated what every officer of the Institution has long felt and deplored, to wit: that it frequently happens that the young, and comparatively uncontaminated, sent perhaps for a first offence—a crime it may be of inferior grade—are brought into constant companionship with some veteran hardened sinner, who is but too ready to initiate them in all the mysteries of his bad preëminence in guilt, and by his scoffs and jeers drive from their minds all the virtuous impressions made by the Moral Instructor. This evil has been felt and complained of for many years, and is constantly increasing. The humane and just object of this Institution was to reform the criminal, not to harden him and turn him loose on society ten times more the child of Satan than when he was committed to its walls. “It is,” I added, “the obvious duty of the Legislature to remedy this defect, by making an appropriation for the building of a sufficient number of cells for the separate and solitary confinement at night, and at all times when not laboring in the shops, of every convict in the prison.” These views, seconded by the weightier and more influential opinions and efforts of the Keeper, and Physician, and Board of Inspectors, were acquiesced in by the last Legislature, and an appropriation was made to carry the same into effect; an additional wing, containing 132 cells, has been built during the past season, in accordance with the plan adopted by the Board. The health, comfort and reformation of the prisoners cannot fail to be greatly promoted by this very necessary im-

provement, and I congratulate the officers and friends of the Prison on its successful completion. But unfortunately the number of convicts increase in so large a ratio, that in order to secure these benefits it will soon be necessary to make additional extensions to the building; and I cannot forbear to say that I am daily more and more impressed with the necessity of a State institution for the reformation of juvenile offenders. In my judgment it is a very unwise and reprehensible policy to commit this class of convicts to the gloomy walls of a state prison. Here, in spite of all our efforts to counteract the baneful effects of evil association and the loss of self-respect from the degrading nature of the punishment, they are likely to become hardened and confirmed in their vicious propensities. On the other hand, a house of refuge and reform for this class of delinquents, such as the State unfortunately abandoned a few years ago, when almost ready to go into operation, would, as experience elsewhere has proven, restore many of them to society as useful, honest citizens. And I venture to repeat the opinion which I stated in my last report, that "prudence and philanthropy require that this subject should be taken into consideration by the Legislature. If such an institution were established, it would, I respectfully suggest, be a wise and beneficent improvement of our criminal code, to allow the judges to exercise the discretion of committing to it adults, also, when convicted of a first offence, and not amounting to a high crime. Many such persons are now sent here for short terms of six and nine months, and have their characters blasted by the indelible disgrace, as effectually as if they had committed the worst felony. This is alike unwise, unjust and impolitic, and tends to make men criminal rather than to reform them. The remedy of this great evil would diminish the expense of convictions, and obviate the necessity of further enlargements to the state prison.

In my last report, I took the liberty of calling the attention of the Legislature to the condition of the Library be-

longing to the Prison, and intended for the use of the inmates. A taste for good reading, and the proper means of gratifying that taste, being one of the most obvious and effectual means of reforming the vicious and fitting them to be good citizens, I regard a good library as indispensable to the success of this Institution. The small lot of old and worn out books we then had, were so defaced as not to be fit for use. I appealed to the Legislature for a small appropriation to remedy this defect, and happily my appeal was not wholly disregarded. The sum of three hundred dollars was granted for that purpose. Books were selected by a committee of the Board of Inspectors and myself, which we thought best calculated to promote the innocent amusement and moral improvement of the prisoners; and of course we were careful to choose them with a reference to the various tastes, acquirements and capacities of the prisoners, without in any wise pandering to their vicious inclinations; and we studied so to invest the money as to procure for it the greatest possible amount of valuable reading matter. But the appropriation was obviously too small to procure a library sufficient for so large a number of readers. And while I am grateful for what has been done, and feel confident that great benefit must accrue to the prisoners from the use of the books already obtained, I cannot repress the hope that something more will be done for us in this respect by the present Legislature. I would very respectfully suggest that an annual appropriation of one hundred dollars at least, would be necessary to keep a library at all commensurate with the wants of the Institution. The prisoners that can read, generally avail themselves with eagerness of the privilege of using the books furnished for them, and they appear to be very grateful for the rational enjoyment which is thus afforded. But a considerable number of them are denied this solace of the dreary hours of confinement by their inability to read, and part of my time and labor is devoted to the instruction of such as are willing to be taught to read and write; and I have to do their cor-

response for them, and reply to many letters which I have received from those who have been discharged. I have likewise the laborious, but not unwelcome task of distributing and changing all the books, at stated periods, among the inmates of the cells; and when any of them are sick or dying, I attend them and pray with them, and alleviate their sufferings by kindness and sympathy. I also perform the duties of Chaplain to the prison, and twice on every Sabbath I preach the Gospel to the inmates of the Institution. I state these things in no vain spirit of boasting; but to show that it was only just and reasonable in the last Legislature to make some addition to my small salary, for which I feel very grateful for this mark of their approbation.

In conclusion, I would express my acknowledgments to your Excellency and the Board of Inspectors; also to the worthy Keeper and his deputies, for the countenance and coöperation which I have constantly enjoyed, in my efforts to promote the moral and religious improvement of the prisoners.

A. H. ARMOUR,

Moral Instructor of the N. J. State Prison.

January 17th, 1861.

APPENDIX.

Statement A.

*Showing the effects of the New Jersey State Prison on the
31st December, 1859.*

| | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|--|--------|------|
| Amount of inventory of stock, furniture, &c., on hand, as per valuation made by appraisers, | 18,211 | 81 |
| Book accounts, | 1,015 | 02 |
| Cash on hand, | 212 | 23 |
| Bills receivable, | 218 | 69 |
| | 19,657 | 75 |
| Deducting liabilities amounting to | 2,936 | 53 |
| Net capital, | 16,721 | 22 |

Statement B.

Exhibiting the operations of the Institution from the
DR.

| | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|---|--------|------|
| CHAIR MAKING | | |
| To amount of inventory 31st December, 1859, | 3,951 | 09 |
| " charges since that time, | 3,016 | 44 |
| Balance, being gain, | 6,745 | 34 |
| | 13,712 | 87 |
| CORDWAINERS' | | |
| To amount of inventory 31st December, 1859, | 1,437 | 05 |
| " charges since that time, | 3,204 | 31 |
| Balance, being gain, | 1,242 | 99 |
| | 5,884 | 35 |
| WEAVING | | |
| To amount of inventory 31st December, 1859, | 1,070 | 54 |
| " charges since that time, | 2,158 | 63 |
| Balance, being gain, | 1,284 | 27 |
| | 4,513 | 44 |
| BROOM MAKING | | |
| Gain on this account, | 1,748 | 08 |

Statement B.—Continued.*1st January, 1860, to the 31st December, 1860, inclusive.*

CR.

| ACCOUNT. | DOLLS. | CTS |
|---|--------|-----|
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 8,054 | 46 |
| “ inventory “ “ 1860, | 5,658 | 41 |
| | 13,712 | 87 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 4,688 | 58 |
| “ inventory “ “ 1860, | 1,195 | 77 |
| | 5,884 | 35 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 3,973 | 03 |
| “ inventory “ “ 1860, | 540 | 41 |
| | 4,513 | 44 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 1,748 | 08 |

Statement B.—Continued.

Exhibiting the operations of the Institution from the
DR.

| | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|---|--------|------|
| SUNDRIES | | |
| To amount of inventory 31st December, 1859, | 20 | 90 |
| “ charges since that time, | 2 | 50 |
| Balance, being gain, | 2,059 | 01 |
| | 2,082 | 41 |
| SHADE MAKING | | |
| Gain on this account, | 5,928 | 43 |
| HOSPITAL | | |
| To amount of inventory 31st December, 1859, | 308 | 25 |
| “ charges since that time, | 496 | 68 |
| | 804 | 93 |
| FURNITURE | | |
| To amount of inventory 31st December, 1859, | 10,858 | 09 |
| charges since that time, | 3,891 | 27 |
| | 14,749 | 36 |
| PROVISION | | |
| To amount of inventory 31st December, 1859, | 371 | 34 |
| “ charges since that time, | 11,575 | 55 |
| | 11,946 | 89 |

Statement B.—Continued.*1st January, 1860, to the 31st December, 1860, inclusive.*

CR.

| ACCOUNT. | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|---|--------|------|
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 2,082 | 41 |
| | 2,082 | 41 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 5,928 | 43 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| By amount of inventory 31st December, 1860, | 314 | 37 |
| Loss on this account, | 490 | 56 |
| | 804 | 93 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 99 | 68 |
| “ inventory “ “ 1860, | 11,171 | 06 |
| Loss on this account, | 3,478 | 62 |
| | 14,749 | 36 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 396 | 62 |
| “ inventory “ “ 1860, | 210 | 15 |
| Loss on this account, | 11,340 | 12 |
| | 11,946 | 89 |

Statement B.—Continued.

Exhibiting the operations of the Institution from the
DR.

| | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|---|--------|------|
| FUEL | | |
| To amount of inventory 31st December, 1859, | 149 | 55 |
| “ charges since that time, | 2,820 | 24 |
| | 2,969 | 79 |
| INTEREST | | |
| To amount of charges since 31st December, 1859, | 321 | 77 |
| | 321 | 77 |
| INCIDENTAL | | |
| To amount of charges since 31st December, 1859, | 122 | 99 |
| DISCHARGED CONVICTS' | | |
| To amount of charges since 31st December, 1859, | 521 | 89 |

Statement B.—Continued.

1st January, 1860, to the 31st December, 1860, inclusive.

CR.

| ACCOUNT. | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|---|--------|------|
| By amount of inventory 31st December, 1860, | 616 | 25 |
| Loss on this account, | 2,353 | 54 |
| | 2,969 | 79 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| By amount of credits since 31st December, 1859, | 114 | 26 |
| Loss on this account, | 207 | 51 |
| | 321 | 77 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| Loss on this account, | 122 | 99 |
| ACCOUNT. | | |
| Loss on this account, | 521 | 89 |

Recapitulation of Statement B.

Exhibiting the operations of the Institution from the

DR.

| | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|---------------------|--------|------|
| Shade making, gain, | 5,928 | 43 |
| Broom " | 1,748 | 08 |
| Chair " | 6,745 | 34 |
| Sundries, | 2,059 | 01 |
| Cordwaining, | 1,242 | 99 |
| Weaving, | 1,284 | 27 |
| | 19,008 | 12 |

Recapitulation of Statement B.

1st January, 1860, to 31st December, 1860, inclusive.

CR.

| | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|-----------------------|--------|------|
| Furniture, loss, | 3,478 | 62 |
| Fuel, | 2,353 | 54 |
| Provision, | 11,340 | 12 |
| Hospital, | 490 | 56 |
| Discharged convicts', | 521 | 89 |
| Interest, | 207 | 51 |
| Incidental, | 122 | 99 |
| Balance, being gain, | 492 | 89 |
| | 19,008 | 12 |

Statement C.

*Showing the effects of the New Jersey State Prison on the
31st December, 1860, to wit:*

| | DOLLS. | CTS. |
|---------------------------------|--------|------|
| Furniture, as per inventory, | 11,171 | 06 |
| Chair making, as per inventory, | 5,658 | 41 |
| Cordwaining, " " | 1,195 | 77 |
| Weaving, " " | 540 | 41 |
| Fuel, " " | 616 | 25 |
| Provision, " " | 210 | 15 |
| Hospital, " " | 314 | 37 |
| Total amount of inventory, | 19,706 | 42 |
| Cash on hand, | 143 | 78 |
| Bills receivable, | 730 | 31 |
| Debts due on book account, | 3,270 | 30 |
| | 23,850 | 81 |
| From which deduct liabilities, | 6,636 | 70 |
| | 17,214 | 11 |

