

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1838.

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 4.

HOUSE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE WARDEN OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON.

*To the President of the Senate, and
Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

GENTLEMEN—In compliance with the requirements of the third Section of “An Act providing for the government of the State Prison, and for the punishment of convicts,” the undersigned has the honor to submit the following statement and account of the concerns of that establishment.

The whole number of convicts Dec. 30th, was 77, and their employments were as follows, viz:

In the Lime Quarry	17	Washers	2
“ Smith Shops	5	Attending sick	1
“ Shoemakers	14	Waiters	2
“ Wheelwrights	7	Coopers	10
“ Tailors	8	In solitary	1.
“ Cooks	2	Invalids	6.
		Sick in Hospital	2
			—
		Aggregate	77

The law of March last requires that an account of Stock shall be taken at the State Prison on the last day of December, which consequently makes fourteen months in the last fiscal year. During these fourteen months the results of labor performed by the convicts have been quite as favorable as could have been expected, when it is considered that a large portion of them are unskilful in the work. That many are wanting in skill, and that others are inefficient workmen, may be attributed to the fact that they are necessarily thrown upon the Institution

by short sentences, and in many instances in a diseased and decrepid state of body, as well as depraved in mind; so that their support is rendered a burden upon the Institution. Some of these would be more proper subjects of a Hospital or Infirmary; and but few, if any, have ever acquired habits of industry. Of the whole number confined in the Prison during the last year, not more than six had any claim to mechanical skill; and four of that number were pardoned by the Executive. In addition to this, the difficulties encountered in common with the rest of the community, in the increased high price of every article furnished for the support of the convicts, the diminished demand for their labor, and the consequent low price obtained for the sales of manufactured articles, together with other important circumstances about to be stated, have materially affected the result.

On the thirty-first day of March last, a fire took place on the premises, the work of an incendiary, which resulted in the total loss of the Wheelwright's, Painter's and Joiner's shops, with all their contents, amounting to three thousand dollars, exclusive of the buildings. A large portion of this amount consisted of new stock and manufactured articles, and new tools. Nearly the whole of the work of the preceding winter was still on hand; a part of which was made to order, but had not been delivered. By this misfortune we were deprived of one important source of available means; and for a long time were unable to procure seasoned timber to enable us to proceed again in those branches of business. The only place for a workshop then remaining, was entirely inconvenient and unsuitable for the purpose; and its location was such as to render it unsafe to admit some of the best workmen. The Legislature had then adjourned. But a communication was made to the Governor and Council on the eve of *their* adjournment, who authorized me to erect a suitable building for workshops. By their direction these shops were to be constructed of spurious rock from the Quarry; and all the labor possible towards erecting said building, was to be performed by the convicts. They

made also an appropriation of three hundred dollars only, for the accomplishment of this object. From the nature of the materials to be used in building, a firm foundation became indispensable. To effect this, a large mass of earth was removed, at no inconsiderable expense, to the outside of the Prison yard. The building was completed in November, and is occupied by Wheelwrights, Painters and Coopers, having also suitable rooms for storing seasoned materials for the use of the different manufacturers. This building is one hundred feet long, thirty-four feet wide, and two stories high, besides the attic, in which is a large chapel for the purpose of religious meetings for the convicts.

It should not be forgotten that the granite business, which formerly employed a large number of convicts, had been totally abandoned but a few days previous to my taking charge of the Prison. Consequently it became necessary to prosecute some other branch of business for the benefit of the establishment. I have, therefore, introduced the manufacturing of Lime, by the process of what is termed the *perpetual kiln*. This mode being altogether new in this section, and as I had to rely upon my own judgement in commencing the business, it was attended with many doubts in relation to the result. These doubts have since been succeeded, however, by a full persuasion of the propriety and economy of the measure. The kiln was principally built from the spurious rock near the premises, by the labor of the convicts, under the superintendance of the overseer of the Quarry. The embarrassments which have paralyzed the business of the whole community, caused but little demand for the article of Lime, and that at a very reduced price; consequently the kiln was not put in operation until late in August. This business was continued about four months, in the course of which period were manufactured about four thousand and eight hundred casks of Lime. Hard coal is used for fuel in this process, which renders this item of expense about ten per cent less than by the ordinary method. All the labor in this branch, including the making of casks for the Lime, is per-

formed by convicts, assisted only by an overseer to each department. There can be no doubt but that this branch of business may be carried on at a profit, even at the moderate extent of the present facilities. But whenever the State shall think it advisable to extend these facilities, which may be done in several ways, it is believed that a large profit may be secured.

One method for obtaining an additional advantage might be to erect kilns on the side of the quarry near the prison buildings, and to secure the heat which passes off from the kilns, and conduct it by means of pipes to warm the cells and work shops; it might also be applied to the purposes of cooking. Such an arrangement would effect the saving of a large amount of fuel. Another plan would be to erect kilns at the prison wharf. Then by removing the surplus earth which covers an inexhaustible quantity of lime rock, within a few rods of the wharf, a gentle slope would be formed, on which the gravity of a loaded car, moving from the quarry to the kilns, would return the light one back from the kilns to the quarry. The coal for burning could be landed from the vessel on the wharf, and the lime would be already on the wharf as it came out of the kiln. This business when under way, and properly managed, would save all the expense of team labor.

Some expense has occurred to the establishment, arising from the following particulars. The barn which stood within a few feet of the main prison has been frequently threatened by discharged convicts, to be set on fire; and its location being in other respects bad, it was deemed necessary to remove it. Upon subsequent examination it was found to need new sills, and many other repairs for the accommodation of large teams, which from the nature of our business the past season, could not well be dispensed with. A shed and fences enclosing a yard, with other necessary accommodations for a stable, including the excavating of a large well, have all been completed.

The large quantity of earth necessarily removed from the quarry and from the site of the new workshops, was placed on the prison lot in front of the dwelling house, thereby elevating

a low and barren plot of ground, which is now valuable for agricultural purposes. These improvements, in connexion, have added materially to the value of the property, and with comparatively little expense to the State. The dwelling house, stable, and out buildings, are now in good repair, and are of more value than when new, and will require but little expense for years to come.

The circumstance of the fire in March last, and a deep laid plot since by a combination of prisoners in the shoe shop to fire that building, were warnings to be in better readiness against such emergencies. Three hydraulic reservoirs have, therefore, been constructed within the prison yard, capable of containing about one hundred hogsheads of water. Previously to this there was no source upon which to rely in case of fire. We were even obliged to haul in water from without the walls, for the purpose of erecting the new building, and a portion of the time, for the ordinary use of the prisoners. The new well at the stable, and the reservoirs in the prison yard, are necessary and indispensable appendages to the prison, and will in future obviate evils similar to those just mentioned.

The state of health among the convicts* during the past season, has furnished additional proof, that simple diet, constant labor, and a systematic course of life, are the best antidotes to disease, and are amongst the best means for invigorating a debilitated body. Previously to their entering the prison, a very large proportion of the convicts were intemperate, and nearly all of them idle and dissipated in various ways. They are obliged suddenly and entirely to abandon every bad habit and vicious indulgence; and from this course, no ill effects seem to arise. Nevertheless, where so many prisoners of this description are congregated together, it will not seem strange that much time should be lost by sickness, or slight indisposition. The daily reports of the prison, for the last fourteen months, show that 1210 days labor have been wholly lost by *sickness*: and

*One death only has occurred, which was a case beyond all hope of recovery before he entered the prison.

1600 days labor may be considered as lost by that class termed *invalids*, who are exempt from hard labor, but are not in a state to require keeping in the hospital. This class are evidently a burthen to the institution, and as was before remarked, many of them would be more suitable subjects of a hospital, or of some other asylum.

The number of convicts now in the prison is about the same as last year, which is an average for the last eight years. This fact may be regarded as evidence, that the amount of crime in the community is diminishing, since during this period the population of our State has greatly increased. This apparent diminution of crime is doubtless to be attributed in part to the system of prison discipline, which reforms some, gives habits of industry to others, and it is believed deters many from the commission of crime. But it is doubtless true, that the amount of crime is diminishing from other causes; among which are the efforts to promote temperance; the educating of the children of the poor, as well as of the rich; and the assistance given to the indigent, in furnishing them with means to earn an honest living. The neglect of early education, the use of ardent spirits, and the practice of gambling, are the most prominent causes of crime. Amongst the whole number confined here, there is not one well educated man; no good readers even; and there were many who could not read at all until the last summer, when a teacher was employed for the purpose of instructing them. All who could be prevailed on to attend made rapid proficiency. Some who but a few months since did not know a letter, are now tolerably good readers, and seem to take much pleasure with their books. It may not be amiss to suggest, that it seems highly desirable, that this unfortunate class of men should be furnished with some further facilities for the improving of their minds.

The subject of remodelling our prison, with a view to convenience and economy, as well as to the comfort of the convicts, has agitated the public mind for some time. If no other considerations were to be regarded, it would still seem that

justice to that unfortunate class of our fellow beings, who from time to time may be subjected to the discipline of our penitentiary, calls loudly for reform. It is hardly necessary for the Legislature, at this time, to go into speculative investigations upon the subject; neither can much time be requisite to ascertain whether improvements be necessary; or to determine what mode should be adopted as the standard of discipline. For years past, the public, both in this and in other countries, have been more than ordinarily interested in reference to penitentiaries. There are now in the full tide of operation, two different systems of discipline and modes of confinement. One is the *Pennsylvania System*, under which the convict labors in solitude; and the other is the *Auburn System*, which has been generally adopted in New England and in many of the Southern and Western States. The Auburn system seems to afford great opportunities for the moral improvement of the convicts, and in almost every instance, its pecuniary results have immediately removed from the State the burthen of supporting them. It would be but just to remark here, that our prison was built at a time when but little, if any, improvement had taken place in our penitentiary system. Other States, which were, in some respects, far in advance of ours in the march of improvement, were still groping in darkness on this subject. The model of this prison was originally designed to test the effect of solitary confinement without labor. Hence but little regard was had to the construction of workshops, or to any other object, except the construction of cells. These seem to have been formed exclusively with a view to inflict a great degree of punishment in a short time, and that at the least expense. A few months experience, however, fully satisfied its most sanguine advocates that this mode must be abandoned.

It may not be improper here to notice some of the evils attending our present system. One is, the impossibility of preventing the prisoners, while in their cells, from communicating with each other, so that in the course of twenty minutes, they may form concert of action amongst one half of their number.

Another evil is, that cleanliness cannot be preserved, nor a thorough inspection had. Neither can any warmth be communicated to the cells ; consequently a large sum is annually expended for the purchase of bed clothes, which, from dampness or other causes, soon go to destruction. It may be worthy of inquiry, whether a greater amount of labor would not be realized from the convicts, provided they were furnished with different lodgings. A less amount of labor is performed on Monday, than on either of the other five days of the week. Some of the prisoners complain much of the ill effects of confinement from Saturday evening until Monday; as, during that time, they have only three hours of relaxation from their cells for the purpose of attending religious worship, and other instruction. Moreover, there are among the convicts several cripples and invalids, who, owing to deformity, can neither descend nor ascend these cells. They are therefore lodged in the hospital, which, under all circumstances, is by no means a suitable place for them. Probably there is no penitentiary in our country, which is subject to so many inconveniences as are experienced in this. It is a common remark of strangers, who have visited the prison of late, that our present work shops, as to their general construction for convenience, are not surpassed by any; but that our prison building, with its cells and hospital, is far behind the improvements of other penitentiaries, and that this must have an unfavorable influence in both a moral and pecuniary point of view.

It seems to be a question of great importance to the character of this State, whether this institution shall remain in its present condition, or be improved by remodeling its cells and hospital, so as to secure to it a rank equal to that of others in our own country. Of this, however, the Legislature in their wisdom are competent to decide.

JOHN O'BRIEN, *Warden.*

DR.

State of Maine in account with the State Prison.

CR.

1836		1837	
Oct. 31.		Dec. 30.	
For am't of stock on hand Oct. 31, 1836,	\$6,926 61	By am't of stock on hand Dec. 30, 1837,	\$11,063 51
“ “ purchases for Furniture	84 55	“ “ rec'd and charged for Stone Cutting	231 62
“ “ “ Books and Stationary	66 66	“ “ “ Arms & Military Stores	24 00
“ “ “ Stone Cutting	75 87	“ “ “ Tailors	31 29
“ “ “ Arms & Military Stores	11 74	“ “ “ Coopering	1,496 39
“ “ “ Hospital	45 61	“ “ “ Lime Kilns	40 68
“ “ “ Coopering	2,050 84	“ “ “ Granite Quarry	22 00
“ “ “ Fuel & lights, sales deducted	1,053 59	“ “ “ Lime Quarry	7,653 07
“ “ “ Labor, building & repairs do.*	6,087 12	“ “ “ Wheelwrights	2,374 87
“ “ “ Sabbath School Library	70 60	“ “ “ Shoemaking	6,123 61
“ “ “ Lime Quarry	4,111 76	“ “ “ Team	1,325 14
“ “ “ Wheelwrights	2,232 05	“ “ “ Blacksmithing	2,434 51
“ “ “ Shoemaking	3,948 05	“ “ from State Treasurer	11,152 84
“ “ “ Team	2,031 44	“ “ Clothing to Convicts discharged	300 17
“ “ “ Clothing	1,596 55	“ “ Fees from visitors	59 31
“ “ “ Blacksmithing	1,537 41	“ “ rec'd on old accounts more than paid out	660 14
“ “ “ Subsistence, sales deducted	4,370 67		
“ “ of Officers' Salaries, except Warden	5,454 87		\$44,993 15
“ “ transporting Convicts	420 75	Clear balance against the State of	1,779 29
“ “ incidental expenses	638 04		
“ “ to Convicts discharged	501 73		\$46,772 44
“ “ stated last year as necessary to pay the Prison's debts up to Oct. 31, 1836,	3,455 93		
	\$46,772 44	* Amount expended on new building	4,375 00
		“ do. Lime Kiln, &c.	1,000 00
		“ do. three Reservoirs	300 00
		“ do. removing Stable	178 00
		“ do. sundry other repairs	234 12
			\$6,087 12
		The loss by fire in March last is	3,000 00

LINCOLN SS. Jan. 23, 1838:—Then personally appeared JOHN O'BRIEN, Warden of the State Prison, and made oath that the above account is true, according to the best of his knowledge and belief—before me, H. PRINCE JR., Justice of Peace.

Examined and compared with the vouchers, and found correct. J. PATTERSON, }
H. PRINCE JR., } Inspectors.

Number of Convicts Dec. 31, 1836	76	Whole number of Convicts committed since	
Received since	34	July 2, 1824	683
	—	Discharged on expiration of sentence	448
	110	Died	16
Discharged on expiration of Sentence	24	Pardoned	86
Pardoned since Dec. 31, 1837	7	Escaped and not retaken	6
Died " " "	1	Remaining number	77
Escaped and not retaken	1		— 688
	— 33		
	—		
Remaining number	77		



Of the whole number discharged, 81 have been returned on a second commitment. Of the 77 now in prison, 56 are Americans; 11 Irish; 7 English; 2 Scotch; and 1 Nova Scotian.

CRIMES FOR WHICH THEY WERE COMMITTED.

Larceny	52	Adultery	2	Manslaughter	7
Forgery	2	Assault to kill	4	Arson	1
Counterfeiting	2	Assault to ravish	1	Murder, sentence commuted	1
Burglary and Larceny	1	Maiming	1	Robbery	1
Enticing a Female to a house of ill fame	} 1			Rape	1

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 25, 1838. }

ORDERED, That this Report lie upon the table, and that five hundred copies be printed for the use of the Legislature.

(Extract from the Journal.)

Attest : GEORGE C. GETCHELL, CLERK.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 29, 1838. }

ORDERED, That five hundred additional copies of the Report of the Warden of the State Prison be printed for the use of the Legislature.

(Extract from the Journal.)

Attest : GEORGE C. GETCHELL, Clerk.

REPORT

OF THE INSPECTORS OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON.

To the Honorable Governor and Council of the State of Maine.

The Inspectors of the State Prison met by appointment on the 8th of January instant, to enter upon the usual annual examination of the accounts, transactions, and present condition of said Institution. Having completed the investigation of its affairs required by law, we have recorded the following statement and remarks, as the result of our examination; and hereby communicate the same to the Executive, as our annual Report.

In the examination of the accounts, the Inspectors have required of the Warden, receipts or acknowledgements of payments for all articles or services charged to the Prison; and all items, for which mere statements or copies of accounts, or bills were exhibited, however proved by the known hand writing or even signatures of the makers of said bills, have been entered in a schedule; showing the amount and particulars of each of such items. This schedule we have placed on file, until the required vouchers shall be exhibited to us at some future meeting. These entries, excepting an amount of about \$250, (principally for articles of food and fuel, purchased of people in the neighboring towns, and which have been credited on their individual accounts on the prison books,) are predicated upon bills from Boston and other places at a distance, showing conclusively that they are true bills; but as those accounts remain unsettled, and the same bills of articles will be included in future and general bills, which will bear the proper receipts; it seemed proper to us that approval of such entries should be deferred until complete vouchers are exhibited. This course was adopted at our last annual examination, and we had the satisfaction at our quarterly meeting thereafter, to

find that suitable vouchers had been obtained to all the items thus noted.

The Warden in his account with the Prison as its Treasurer, has been charged with

Receipts from the State's Treasury during the last 14 months, of	}	\$11,153,84
With sales of Prison Manufactures and receipts from debts due the Institution, &c., to the amount of		
		<hr/>
Making a total amount of receipts, of		14,660,97
His credits for disbursements for said term, including the balance in his favor last year, are	}	\$15,168,28
Showing a balance in favor of the Warden, of		
		<hr/> <hr/>

The account of the Prison with the State is as follows, for the transactions of the past 14 months.

The State is Debited with		
The amount of articles purchased for us in the various departments of labor and expenditure in and about the prison, including payments of Officers' salaries, balances of old accounts due from the prison, and all disbursements, excepting Warden's salary,	}	\$36,389,09
With the balance reported against the State at the last annual examination as per report, and with stock &c. on hand Nov. 1st 1836, of		
		<hr/>
Total account of Debits		\$46,772,44

The State is credited with		
The amount received from the State's Treasury this year by Legislative appropriation and for Officers salaries,	}	\$11,152,84
Amount received from the sale of Manufactures and productions of the prison, and from old accounts		
		<hr/>
		\$22,776,80

and with amount of Stock, tools,)	
Manufactures, &c., on hand)	\$11,063,51
Dec. 31 1837,	
Total amount of credits	<u>\$44,993,15</u>
Balance of Prison account against the State	<u>\$1,779,29</u>

But as the expenditures at the Prison, including the balance reported against the State last year amount to	} \$39,845,83
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And all the receipts for manufactures and productions sold, together with am't rec'd from State's Treasurer, and old accounts, am't to only	} \$33,929,64
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It seems the State will again have to help the Prison to pay debts, to the amount of	} \$5,916,19
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It will be seen from the foregoing statements, that the expenditures of the last 14 months, exclusive of the balance against the State, as per report of last year, are	} \$36,389,90
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And that the receipts of the Prison, for said term, from its own resources, including the balance rec'd on old accounts, more than payments to same, are	} \$22,776,80
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Leaving the amount of expenditures over its natural receipts,	} \$13,613,10
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But the amount expended in building and repairs during said term, is	} \$6,087,12
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The am't or value of the present stock, &c., over that of last year, is	} \$4,136,90
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And there was a loss by the fire, of at least (in stock and manufactures,)	} \$2,500,00
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\$12,724,02

From this view of its transactions, it would appear, that by having credit for the increase in the value of the present stock over that of last year, for the building and repairs, and for the am't lost by fire ; its natural income has fallen short of its other expenses, including all officers' salaries, excepting Warden's,	}	\$8,889,08
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At the last session of the Legislature, the time for closing the Prison year was changed from Nov. 1st to Dec. 31st of each year. This has extended the term we have now had under examination to 14 months. All the statements herein made and hereunto appended, must therefore be understood as embracing this term of time.

We would state in general terms, that we found the accounts of the Clerk neatly kept, his entries perspicuously made, and all things in his office showing industry and order.

The old accounts due the Prison, which had accumulated under the former Wardens, and as turned over to the present Warden on the 5th of August, 1836, amounted to \$12,239 07. Of this amount \$3,477 are due from Ira Norris, and from Foster Bryant \$3,399; making the total amount due from those two persons \$6,876. These claims have been in suit for some four or five years, in the New York Courts, and the latter is still pending in her Courts of Chancery, with all the uncertainties of a contested claim hanging over it. The progress of these suits has been reported from time to time by the Inspectors, in their quarterly and annual reports of former years. It is perhaps enough to say at this time, that the expenses paid already on these suits, by the present Warden, amount to \$54, and bid fair to be much increased. Of the above amount of old accounts due the prison, there have now been received \$1,098, which sum has been duly entered on the Prison books. The amount paid out for old balances due from the Prison, is \$437 86.

Contrary to the expectations of the Inspectors, as expressed

in our last Annual Report, the expenditures of the Prison, on account of building and repairs, during the term we have now had under examination, have exceeded those of any previous year, since the addition to the western wing of the main prison in 1828. But it will be remembered that this has arisen from a cause which could not then have been foreseen. The destruction of the wheelwright and paint shop, in March last, by fire, as represented in our letter to your board, under date of March 31st, 1837, and in a subsequent quarterly report, is the unfortunate circumstance to which we must attribute the principal amount of these expenses for the past year. A new building was indispensable; and in the exercise of the discretion lodged with the Warden, to erect one, he has judiciously provided for other wants of the Prison than those which were created by the fire. The new building is 100 feet long by 34 wide, two stories high; and contains a cooper's shop and lumber room in the basement, wheelwright's and painter's shops on the second floor, and a spacious and convenient room in the roof for a chapel. This building, together with the shops which were erected during the previous year for blacksmiths, shoemakers, &c., now afford as great conveniences for employing the convicts in mechanical labor, as can be desired. We are therefore obliged to say that, if, with these improvements and facilities, the prisoners cannot hereafter be made to pay the ordinary expenses of the establishment, it will be time to look in earnest for mismanagement in its concerns.

The other operations of the year, which have helped to swell the account of building and repairs, which, it will be seen, amounts to \$6,087 12, are, first the removal of the barn from near the west wing of the Prison (a dangerous position, as in case of its taking fire it would have been likely to have communicated with the main Prison) to the front of the lot, near the road on the west line; where it has been fitted up with the appendages of a shed, a chaise-house, a well, and other conveniences for the accommodation of the prison team, the Warden, &c. This, together with raising of the ground between

the road and Warden's house, with the rubbish from the quarry, and the earth from the site of the new building, which it was necessary to remove out of the prison yard, thus transforming hitherto barren and almost useless grounds into a neat and highly fruitful garden, and that too at a small expense beyond that which was necessary in getting rid of this earth and rubbish, has very much improved the front view of the premises.

The erection of a perpetual kiln, for burning lime in the quarry with coal, has been another expense included in this account. We stated some of the results of this experiment in our report of September last. Our estimates of the profits from this kiln, as there given, will not materially vary from the results, excepting in the prices realized for the lime, which has been, on an average, about 80 cents, instead of 90 as we estimated. This difference having been all out of the profits, will account for the difference between the nett earnings from this source, as now stated, and that estimate. The quantity of lime drawn from this kiln during the $4\frac{1}{3}$ months it was in operation, was 4,800 casks, which has been sold for \$3,893 23. Four convicts have been employed about it; and after deducting all expenses of coal, rock, team work, overseer, inspection fees, and for casks at 30 cents each, it leaves as the nett earnings of those four convicts for the $4\frac{1}{3}$ months employed, \$354 27. Thus under the disadvantages of the beginning, the low prices of lime for the past season, and other circumstances which it will readily be supposed would attend a new business, it has paid better than any other department for the labor spent upon it. This kiln belongs to the quarry department, and the whole will hereafter appear under the head of Lime and Lime Quarry.

In addition to the foregoing, the account of building and repairs has been farther increased by the sinking of three large cisterns in the prison yard, made with the hydraulic cement, with a capacity to contain nearly 100 hogsheads of water. These are the principal improvements of the year, and must account for the large expenditures charged to building and repairs.

In these various improvements to our prison establishment, especially in the design and erection of the new building for workshops, and the perpetual kiln, we are gratified in being able to say that the Warden has manifested a spirit of enterprise, energy and intelligence, highly creditable to the head of such an institution.

We have visited and thoroughly examined the various departments of the prison—have found in the workshops and store-houses an abundant supply of stock, mostly new, and of an excellent quality; together with all the tools and apparatus necessary to carrying on the mechanical employments to advantage. The overseers appear to be faithful and intelligent, and the prisoners respectful, industrious and healthy. The quarry appears to be in a great measure free from the rubbish with which it was so much encumbered during the previous year.

The cooking department has been enlarged and improved during the past year, and appears neat and orderly. In its store-rooms and cellars were found ample supplies of provisions, of good quality.

The demand for the manufactures of the shops and the productions of the quarry has of late been uncommonly good. The great difficulty at present is to furnish a sufficient quantity to meet the demand.

The following calculations show the average cost of food and clothing for a prisoner :

The provisions on hand Nov. 1st, 1836, together	
with the amount purchased since, after deducting	
sundry sales* is	\$4,775 37
Deducting from this the stock on hand January 1st,	
1838, viz.	1,755 38

We have the amount consumed during said term, viz. 3,019 99

* This practice of selling or retailing out from the articles purchased solely for use in the prison, for the accommodation of officers and others living in the vicinity, has been always practised in this prison. We nevertheless object to it, as a bad practice—encumbering the book with needless items, and helping, with other bad practices, to confuse the accounts. We have requested the Warden to have it discontinued.

This sum divided by 80, the average number of convicts, and again by the days in the term, viz, 426, shows the cost for each per day to be $8\frac{86}{100}$ cents. A similar process with the clothing account shows the cost for each year to be \$18 77.

The earnings of the convicts in the different branches of labor are as follows. The income of the quarry, exclusive of that arising from the perpetual kiln, after paying the overseer's salary, is \$2,630 40. By dividing this sum by the number of days work performed there, it appears that the nett earnings of each convict per day, has been 49 cents.

This is considerably lower than statements of former years, for two reasons; one is that the building and repairs which have been going forward the past year, have drawn away the laborers for days and parts of days, thereby breaking in upon the regular and systematic operations of this department. The same cause has more or less affected all the departments of labor. The second reason is, that in the above deduction of expenses we include the overseer's salary, leaving the amount of earnings free from every expense attending the operations of this department, which we consider the true principle on which to make the calculation; whereas, in former years they have not included the overseer's salary, in the expenses deducted from the earnings.

The nett income of the shoemaking department, after paying overseer and all expense, is \$2,198,50. By the same process before named, we find that each convict there employed, has earned 39 cents per day.

The wheelwright's department, from the loss sustained by fire, in which 2500 or 3000 dollars of stock, tools and manufactures were destroyed, and the consequent breaking up of its operations during the past year, affords nothing on which to ground a calculation. This department is again well stocked and in successful operation; and we think will show a good account of itself another year.

The nett income of the Blacksmiths shop, after paying every

expense, and its overseer, is \$647,53—making the earnings of each prisoner at this employment, 30 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per day.

Those employed at coopering, have earned but 16 cents per day.

Among the large classes of expenses for the past year, that of the team has drawn heavily upon the funds of the Institution. The expense of the team for the last 14 months, after deducting the amount of property now on hand, has been \$1,207,44. The Warden has considered the team indispensable to the business of the past year, as it was necessary to keep one employed about all the time; but as this expense has amounted to a sum equal to nearly 3,50 cents for each working day, it may well be enquired whether the teaming of the prison could not be done by contract for a much less sum. This will claim the special attention of the Inspectors.

The health of the prisoners during the past year, has been generally as good as in former years. Only one has died, and he of consumption, with which he entered the prison, and which kept him a constant inmate of the hospital, and unable to perform any kind of labor from the day of his entrance to his death. There is now but one permanent inmate of the hospital; and he, too, is gradually wasting away with consumption.

There are, however, several broken constitutions, and aged and infirm persons, whose labors amount to scarcely a tithe of the cost of keeping them; and we trust the clemency of the Executive, in restoring these disabled persons to the better care and kinder attentions of their families and friends, will be made to subserve justice in their cases, as well as the pecuniary interests of the prison. These cases will be specially presented to the Executive hereafter.

Among the subjects claiming the attention of the Inspectors during the past year, is that of striving to promote a moral and religious feeling among the convicts. Our application to the Governor and Council in March last, for an appropriation to purchase bibles, for the purpose of supplying each convict

with a copy of this good book, of which we found a quarter part of them deficient; and for purchasing a new supply of new, interesting and useful books for the Sabbath School Library, was promptly and liberally met, and all deficiencies in this respect have ceased.

After the fire, the Chapel was appropriated to the use of the Wheelwrights, and the religious services of the Sabbath and Sabbath School, had to be held in the open room over the west wing of the cells—a most uncomfortable and inconvenient place for the performance of, and attendance on, these important and interesting parts of the prison duties. These services have, in consequence of this, been much interrupted, and in October and November before the new Chapel was completed, had to be discontinued.

Religious services are now regularly held and attended by the prisoners on each Sabbath afternoon; but the Sabbath School is discontinued, as is usual in winter, because the prisoners can find but little time to study or read their books—laboring from sun to sun as they do on week days, and on the Sabbath, if the weather is severe, being obliged to keep in their beds to avoid suffering from the cold.

The Inspectors are convinced that these religious services, few and short as they now necessarily are, have a most salutary effect upon the convicts; one of our board has frequently attended those meetings during the past year, and from observation and conversation with the Prisoners, is satisfied, that they are not only interesting and acceptable to those unfortunate men, but they do divert the thoughts, even of the more vicious and abandoned, from the common current of their unhappy propensities. Engaged in their labors and tasks from daylight to sunset, and all the remaining time spent in the darkness of their comfortless cells, the mind seems to have nothing left for it to act upon, but its degraded self. Hence mental vices and sensualities, as they may with seeming propriety be called, supply the lack of opportunities for physical indulgencies.

Frequent attendance upon religious services, must and will break in upon, and often break up, the current of these evil workings of the mind. From these and other considerations, we have thought it our duty to recommend the appointment of a permanent Chaplain, with a suitable compensation, to command the most of his time in the prison; to have morning and evening prayers—to carry forward with more energy and perseverance, the interesting and profitable duties of the sabbath school—to have the prisoners together at the chapel, both forenoon and afternoon of the sabbath, for religious and moral instruction; and also to perform the duties of Schoolmaster, to such of the young men and others in the prison, who are unable to read or write.

If the present worthy and faithful Chaplain could be secured in the performance of these services, we think they could not fail of exerting a most salutary influence, not only upon the inmates of the prison, by his kind and faithful instruction, separately and collectively, but it would be felt and appreciated by the subordinate officers of the Institution. For his wisdom, counsels and experience among the prisoners, from the commencement of the Institution, they need, and would be sure to avail themselves of, under the many peculiar and trying circumstances in which they must often find themselves placed, in the discharge of their responsible duties.

We informed the Governor and Council in our last quarterly report, that the Chaplain had been employed, upon our recommendation, to spend an hour or more at the prison every morning, in teaching a class of the convicts who were unable to read, and who were desirous to learn.

This course of instruction was continued for three or four months, until the cold weather set in, and was then discontinued. The bill charged for this service, and approved by us, amounts to \$30. We hope permanent provision will be made to resume this school in the spring of the present year. It can never do any injury to those who come here in ignorance,

to make an effort to instruct and enlighten their minds; it may do them great good.

The Inspectors would again respectfully call the attention of the Governor, and through him, the Legislature, to the subject of a remodel of the main prison building. The ill designed and inconvenient construction of this prison, is probably known to every member of the Executive Board, and to the greater portion of the members of the Legislature.

The mere appearance of these stone jugs, into, and from which, the prisoners must descend and ascend by the help of a ladder, is a sufficient cause of objection to them. But it is not the appearance of these cells, or the inconveniencies attending their peculiar construction, which we would urge as the principal reason for abandoning them or remodeling this prison.

There are real and unavoidable ills imposed upon the convicts by their confinement in these cells, which claim consideration, as violations of the common feelings of humanity.

These cells are so constructed as to be incapable of being either warmed, or kept in that degree of cleanliness, which can make them at all times suitable for the residence of human beings.

It is true that by the attention and care of the Warden and other officers, in furnishing to the prisoners extra clothing in extreme cold weather, and by keeping in their beds while in their cells, they may avoid suffering. And so in the lack of cleanliness, we are not aware that it materially affects the health of the prisoner, because there is an aptness in the human system to adapt itself to the peculiarities of its locality. But is it right—is it creditable to the State, to have a public Institution so constructed as to render these evils unavoidable?

We trust the liberal and enlightened policy of other States in the Union, as exercised in the construction of convenient and comfortable prisons for the confinement of that unfortunate class of our fellow creatures, who are from time to time

convicted of crimes, will not be disregarded by the Legislature of Maine.

Other States as well as our own, have failed in building upon the best plan, in their first structures; but have upon the discovery of the error, promptly corrected it, by the erection of new and improved ones.

We will name one example, with which we will leave the subject to the wisdom and better judgment of our State authorities.

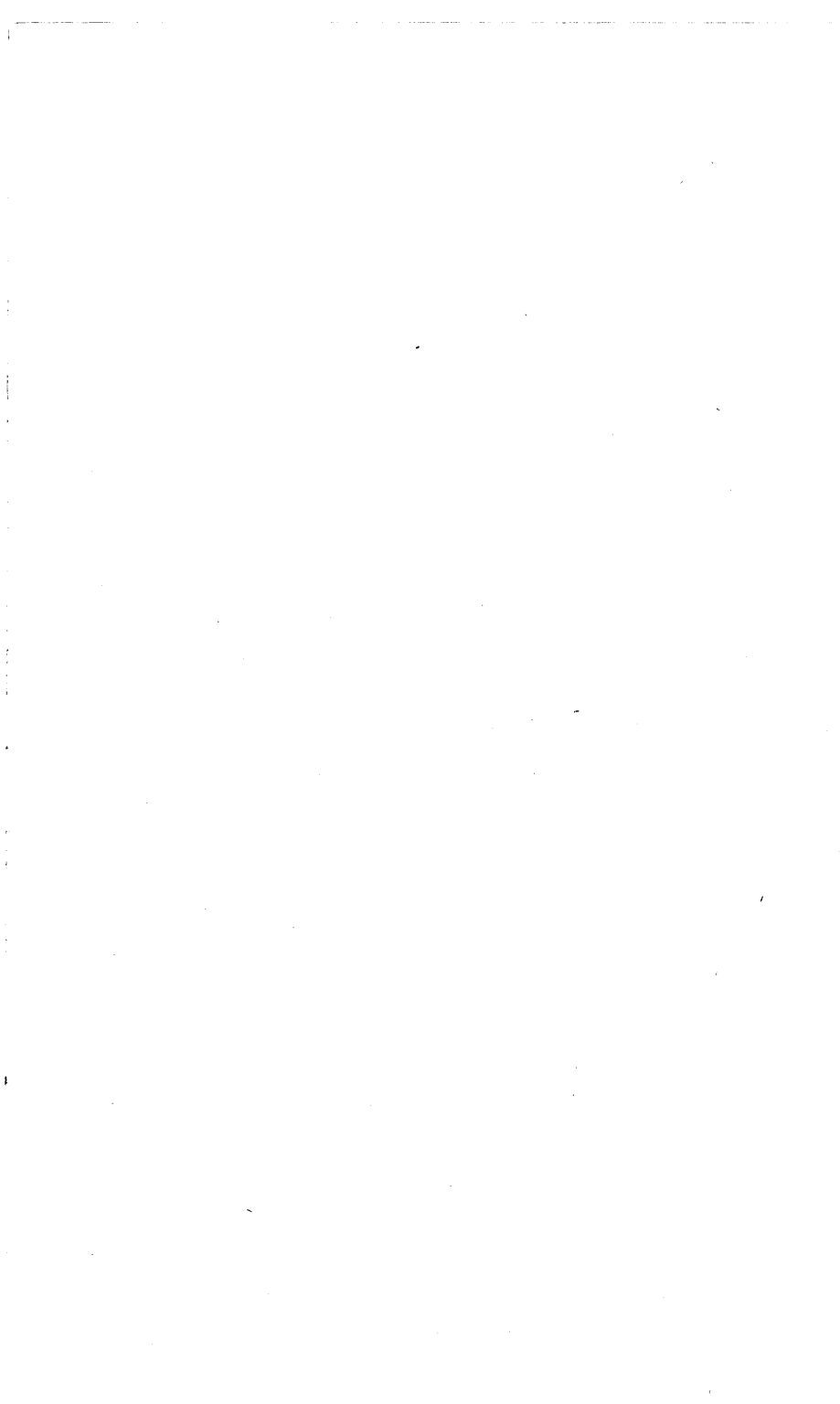
Massachusetts, it will be remembered, became in 1830 or 31, convinced of the inconvenient and injudicious plan of the original prison building at Charlestown. It was abandoned, and a new structure was erected at the expense of ninety thousand dollars. And the Massachusetts State Prison has ceased to be a disgrace to the State.

We transmit herewith a statement of the number of prisoners received and discharged during the past year—of the manner in which the prisoners are now employed—a more particular statement of the account of the prison with the State—the various accounts of income and expense, to all of which we would refer, for more particular information as to the present standing of the Prison.

Respectfully submitted.

HENRY INGRAHAM,
JOSEPH PATTERSON, } *Inspectors.*
HEZEKIAH PRINCE, JR.

Thomaston, Jan. 16, 1838.



The whole number of Convicts which have been received into the State Prison since its establishment to Dec. 31, 1837, is 633.

Number of Convicts Dec. 31, 1836,	76	Whole number of Convicts committed since July 2, 1824,	633
Received since,	34	Discharged on expiration of sentence,	448
	—	Died,	16
	110	Pardoned,	36
Discharged since,	24	Escaped, not retaken,	6
Pardoned,	7	Remaining,	77
Died,	1		—
Escaped, not retaken,	1		633
	—		
	93		
	—		
	77		

Of the whole number discharged, 81 have been returned on a second commitment. Of the 77 now in Prison, 56 are Americans, 11 Irish, 7 English, 2 Scotch, 1 Nova Scotian.

CRIMES FOR WHICH THEY WERE COMMITTED.

Larceny,	52	Adultery,	2	Manslaughter,	7
Forgery,	2	Assault to kill,	4	Arson,	1
Counterfeiting,	2	Assault to ravish,	1	Murder, sentence commuted,	1
Burglary and Larceny,	1	Maiming,	1	Robbery,	1
Enticing a female to a house of } ill fame, }	1			Rape,	1

Dr.**The State of Maine in account with the State Prison.****Cr.**

1837.	To amount stated last year as necessary to pay the Prison debts up to Oct. 31, 1836,	3,455 93
Dec. 31.	“ amount paid to, and purchased for, the following accounts from Oct. 31, 1836 to this date, viz:	
	For Furniture, Books and Stationary, and Arms and Military Stores,	162 95
	“ Stone Cutting,	75 87
	To expense account,	638 04
	For Hospital and Sabbath School Library,	116 25
	To Convicts discharged 501 73, transporting Convicts 420 75,	922 48
	“ Officer’s Salaries, including Chaplain and Physician,	5,454 87
	For Coopering \$2,050 84, Team 2,031 44,	4,082 28
	“ Fuel and Light, sales deducted,	1,053 59
	“ Building and Repairs, sales deducted,	6,087 12
	“ Lime Quarry \$4,111 76, Wheelwrights \$2,232 05,	6,343 81
	“ Shoe Making \$3,948 05, Blacksmithing \$1,537 41,	5,485 46
	“ Clothing \$1,596 55, Subsistence, sales out \$4,370 67,	5,967 22

1837.	By amount received and charged from Oct. 31, 1836, to this date from the following Departments:	
Dec. 31.	From Stone Cutting,	231 62
	“ Arms and Military Stores,	24 00
	“ Tailors’-work done to orders from without,	31 29
	“ Coopering 1,496 39, old Lime Kilns 40 68,	1,537 07
	“ Granite Quarry \$22, fees from visitors \$59 31,	81 31
	“ Lime Quarry, including lime from perpetual kiln,	7,653 07
	“ Wheelwrights,	2,374 87
	“ Shoemaking,	6,123 61
	“ Team, as charged to other Departments,	1,325 14
	“ Clothing to Convicts discharged,	300 17
	“ Blacksmithing,	2,434 51
		<hr/> 22,116 66
	To balance received from old accounts turned over to the present Warden, over the sums paid out on same account,	660 14
	“ amount received from the State’s Treasury in said term,	11,152 84

1837.

Dec. 31, Disbursements of the past year, including
balance of last year or term, \$39,845 83

By the above it will appear that the Prison
has again brought the State in debt for
this year's operations, 5,916 19
The Stock on hand Nov. 1, 1836, as re-
ported last year, was 6,926 61
\$12,842 80

1837.

Dec. 31. Total amount of receipts for the past
year or term, \$33,929 64
Balance for the State to pay for the dis-
bursements of the prison for the
past year or term, 5,916 19
\$39,845 83

The Stock &c. on hand Dec. 31, 1837, was \$11,063 51
Which leaves the prison a clear outset
to the State, beyond all that has been
paid, to the amount of 1,779 29
\$12,842 80

The following is an estimate of the probable Expenses of the Prison for the ensuing year, to wit:

For Provisions,	3,000 00	OFFICER'S SALARIES, VIZ:	
“ Clothing,	1,200 00	Warden,	700 00
“ Fuel and Lights,	850 00	Deputy do.	350 00
“ Tools and Furniture,	500 00	Clerk and Commissary,	400 00
“ Transporting Convicts,	400 00	Guards and Overseers,	3,828 00
“ Raw Materials for the Mechanic Shop, &c.	4,000 00	Chaplain, as at present,	150 00
“ Building and repairs, (part of this is for bills not yet in),	1,000 00	Physician,	100 00
“ Incidental expenses,	600 00	Total to Officers,	5,528 00
Total expenses of Departments,			11,550 00
Total estimates for Prison expenses for 1838,			<u>\$17,078 00</u>

JANUARY, 1838.—The Prisoners are at present employed as follows :

Laborers in the Lime Quarry,	17	Washers 2, attending sick 1,	3
Blacksmith's Shop,	5	Waiters 2, Coopers and Lumpers 10,	12
Shoemakers,	14	In Hospital 2, Invalids 6,	8
Wheelwrights,	7	In solitary, as a punishment,	1
Tailors, mostly making Convict's Clothes,	8		
Cooks,	2		<u>77</u>

DR.

ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF INCOME.

CR.

		1837.	
Stone Cutting—stock on hand Nov. 1, 1836, and purchased since	\$411 93	Dec. 31. By stock on hand this date,	\$154 32
		“ sold the past year	231 62
		“ depreciation of value,	25 99
	<u>\$411 93</u>		<u>\$411 93</u>
No debits.		Lime Kiln—By rents this year,	\$40 68
		Granite Quarry—Receipts from	22 00
		Fees from visitors received	59 31
		Oakum—Stock on hand	12 78
			<u>\$134 77</u>

The Stone-Cutting business has been discontinued, and the stock on hand having been nearly disposed of, as will be seen by the account, this account will be closed, and the stock carried to the account with Granite Quarry.

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS.

DR.	BUILDING AND REPAIRS.		CR.
1836.		54 50	1837.
Nov. 1. To materials on hand at this date,			Dec. 31. By materials on hand at this date
" materials purchased since,	6,160 21		" articles sold
	6,214 71		" amount expended in repairs, including
			\$73 09 sold
			6,096 96
			6,214 71

DR.	FUEL AND LIGHTS.		CR.
1836.		186 80	1837.
Nov. 1. To amount of stock on hand at this date			Dec. 31. By amount of stock on hand at this date
" amount purchased since	1,060 77		" amount consumed, including 7 18 sold
	1,247 57		
			1,247 57
			1,247 57

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS — CONTINUED.

DR	SUBSISTENCE.	CR	
1836.		1837.	
Nov. 1. To amount of stock on hand at this date	404 71	Dec. 31. By amount of stock on hand at this date	1,755 98
" amount purchased since	5,590 17	" amount sold during year	1,119 50
	5,994 88		2,874 88
	5,994 88	" amount consumed	3,120 00
			5,994 88

DR.	CLOTHING.	CR.	
		1837.	
To amount of Stock on hand, Nov. 1,		Dec. 31. By stock on hand this date,	1,246 92
1836,	1,156 68	" amount furnished convicts when dis-	
" amount purchased since,	1,596 55	charged,	300 17
			1,547 09
	\$2,753 23	" amount used by convicts in the prison,	1,206 14
	\$2,753 23		\$2,753 23

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS.—CONTINUED.

EXPENSE ACCOUNT, TRANSPORTING CONVICTS, CONVICTS DISCHARGED, OFFICERS'	CR.
DR.	SALARIES AND TEAM.

Expense Account—to amount of this account from Nov. 1, 1836, to Dec. 31, 1837,	638 04	
*Transporting Convicts—to amount paid to this account for said term,	420 75	
Convicts Discharged—to amount of cash and clothing furnished on this account for said term,	501 73	
Officers' Salaries—to amount charged in this account for said term, including Chaplain and Physician,	5,454 87	
	2,031 44	
Team—to amount of cost and expenses for 14 months to Dec. 31, 1837,	117 70	
Balance,	2,149 14	
	2,149 14	

	1837.	
Dec. 31. By amount of property at this date,		824 00
" labor charged to the Prison Departments, Beef and Oxen sold,		1,325 14
		\$2,149 14
		2,149 14

* There has been a small saving in the expense of transporting Convicts during this term by the course pursued by the Warden in not contracting as in former years for this service. He has paid reasonable expenses for teams, time, &c. according to circumstances.

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS.—CONTINUED.

FURNITURE, SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY, STATIONARY, ARMS AND MILITARY STORES, DR.	HOSPITAL AND TAILORS.	CR.
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		1837.	
Furniture, Stock and Tools, Nov. 1, 1836, and purchased since,	271 28	Dec. 31. By stock at this date,	618 94
*Balance,	347 66		
	\$618 94		
Library, amount on hand Nov. 1, 1836, and purchased since,	85 60	Dec. 31. By Books, &c. as valued this date,	88 00
Stationary, &c. amount on hand Nov. 1, 1836, and purchased since,	79 06	Dec. 31. By Books and Stationary as valued this date,	47 45
Arms and Military Stores, Hospital, and Tailors—amount on hand Nov. 1, 1836, and purchased since,	220 35	Dec. 31. By amount on hand as valued this date,	45 00

* This increased value of Furniture has been caused by the transfer of a quantity of stoves, funnel, and other articles from the Blacksmith's Department to this, as a more suitable way of classing the property.

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS—CONTINUED.

DR.	BILLS PAYABLE AND BILLS RECEIVABLE.	CR.	
<p>1837. Dec. 31. To amount of Bills Receivable or notes due the prison</p>	<p>883 93</p>	<p>1837. Dec. 31. By amount of Bills Payable now out against the Prison,</p>	<p>6,562 04</p>

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 27, 1838. }

ORDERED, That this Report lie upon the table, and that five hundred copies be printed for the use of the Legislature.

(Extract from the Journal.)

Attest : GEORGE C. GETCHELL, CLERK.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 29, 1838. }

ORDERED, That five hundred additional copies of the Report of the Inspectors of the State Prison be printed for the use of the Legislature.

(Extract from the Journal.)

Attest : GEORGE C. GETCHELL, Clerk.