

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1856.

PART FIRST.

Augusta:

FULLER & FULLER, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1856.

REPORTS

OF THE

WARDEN AND INSPECTORS

OF THE

MAINE STATE PRISON,

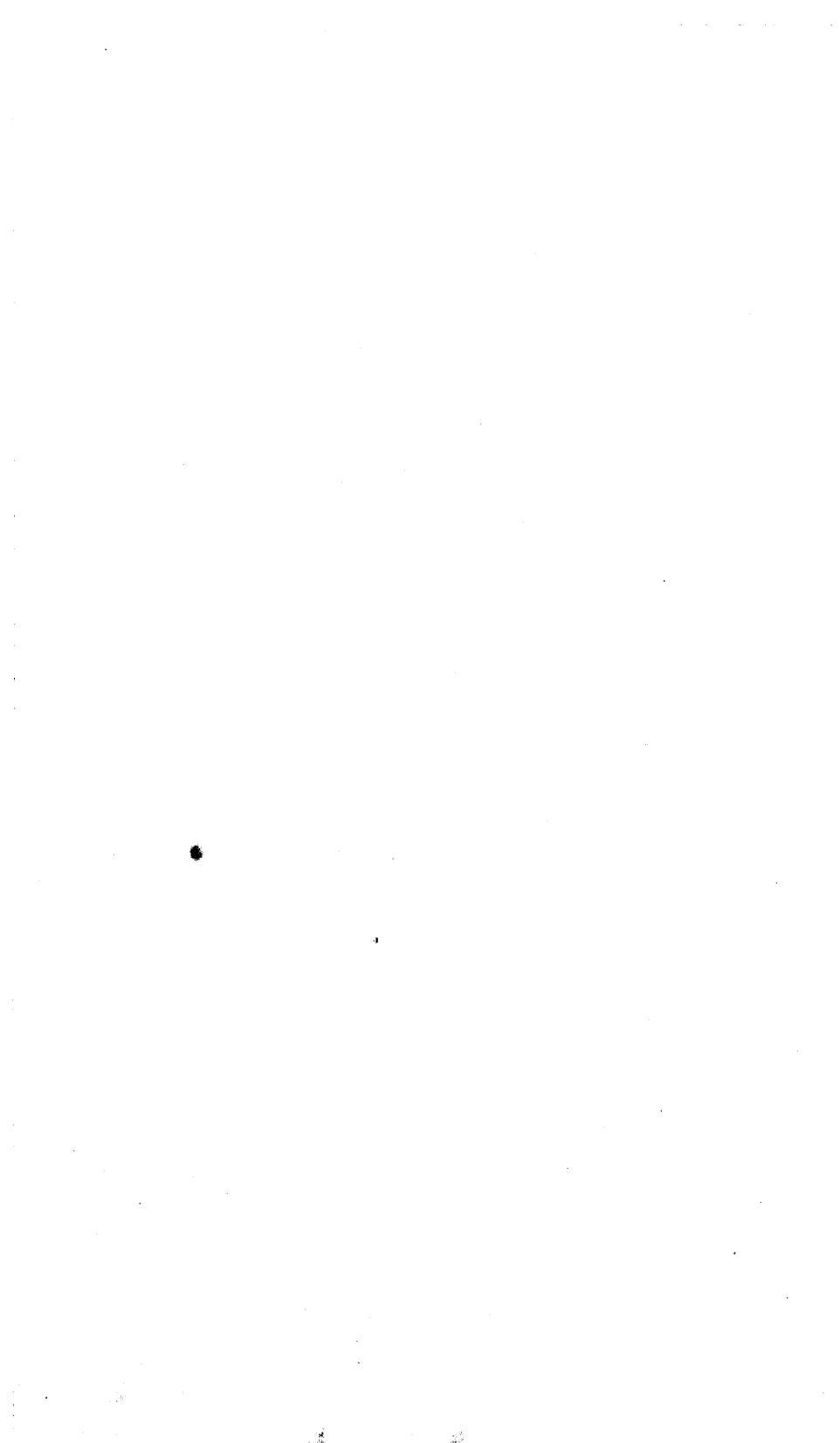
AND OF THE

PHYSICIAN AND CHAPLAIN.

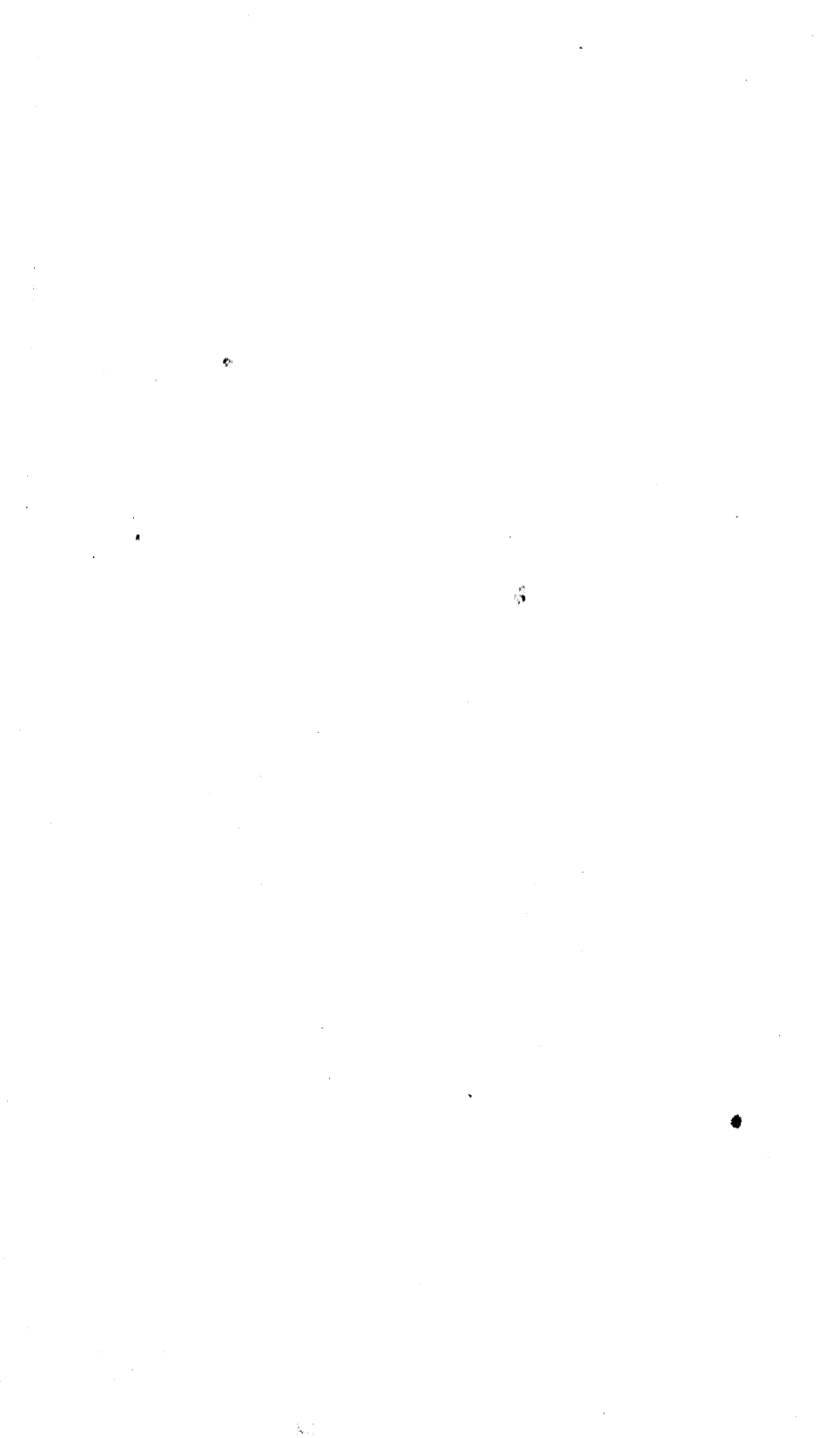
Published agreeably to Resolve of March 16, 1855.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENSON & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1856.



WARDEN'S REPORT.



REPORT.

To the President of the Senate and

Speaker of the House of Representatives :

GENTLEMEN:—The Warden of the State Prison respectfully submits the following report :

Having so recently been placed in charge of this institution, it will hardly be expected that a labored report will be presented, or that in giving my views of the condition of the prison or the proper policy to pursue, they will in all cases run in the same channel with my predecessors. It needs no argument to prove, that the merchant, whether he has a small or large capital invested, cannot succeed, unless his receipts are equal to, or greater than his expenditures. Nor can he be considered successful, though his goods appear to be profitably sold, if a large portion of them have gone into the hands of insolvent men who will never pay. In short, small profits and quick returns would seem to be the true desideratum. But whether this principle has been applied in relation to the prison, I do not pretend to say. I state things as I find them.

The commissioners appointed to take account of stock and examine the books and accounts of the prison previous to my taking charge, found outstanding debts due from the prison, to the amount of five thousand dollars over and above the debts due. I would state however that some five thousand dollars of old demands were in the hands of an attorney and uncollected, but for which he was unwilling to offer over one hundred dollars. Thus it will be seen that I was placed in very embarrassing circumstances. With numerous calls for pay, and without funds, the only alternative seemed to be to hire fifteen hundred dollars and settle some of the most urgent. I did so, and would remark in passing, that an amount of about two thousand dollars of these old liabilities, was for

money hired by former wardens, a part of which has been standing nearly eight years. Whether it is more reputable for the State to leave its agents to hire money to pay old debts, or make an appropriation at once to do it, is a question most respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The additional story to the wheel-wrights' shop, for which an appropriation of three thousand dollars was made by the last Legislature, has been completed, and we now have a pleasant and spacious room of about seventy feet by thirty, occupied by basket-makers, tailors, shoe-makers and wheel-wrights, and one separated from it by a sash partition, thirty feet square, used for carriage trimming and painting, making altogether two of the most pleasant and airy rooms to be found about the prison. In addition to this, a double flight of stone stairs has been erected at the principal entrance of the shop on the ground floor, with portions of flagging and curb stone extending each way, which when completed will run the whole length of the shop, and make a permanent walk one hundred feet long by five feet wide.

For the greater security of the convicts during the summer, it was thought advisable to build a guard house on the south east corner of the wall and place in it another guard, adopting the principle that it is better to incur expense to prevent escapes, and before they occur, than after they happen. Five of Peavey's new rifles, with patent cap primers, have also been purchased for the use of the guard, whereby they can load and fire with increased facility and expedition.

A careful examination of the subject of solitary confinement in cold damp cells, as a punishment for misdemeanors in prison, has led to the conviction that its effect on man's physical organism is highly deleterious; and the inquiry naturally suggested itself, whether some other mode, free from this objection and equally effective, could not be adopted? Due reflection has led to the introduction of the following. A cell is prepared with an eye bolt protruding from the covering, through which as a pulley, runs an iron chain. To one end of this chain the hand-cuffs of the subject are fastened, and the drawing down of the other end, extends the arms upward to any required distance. It will readily be seen that

this punishment may be severe or not, at the option of him who inflicts it. So far as this experiment has been tried, it has proved perfectly satisfactory, subduing the most turbulent spirits in less than two hours time, giving the State the benefit of their labor, and themselves the satisfaction of knowing that their sentences are still advancing, which would not be the case were they in solitary.

During the last nine months the whole amount of solitary is only eighteen days, and but three cases of the new mode of punishment, and yet I think I am not saying too much when I add that the discipline of the prison will not suffer in comparison with what it was formerly.

The stable of the prison and adjoining out-buildings, are in a very dilapidated condition, having been standing some thirty years, and so much decayed as not to be worth repairing. They are also badly located, especially the main building, which is set some ten or more feet in advance of the line of buildings on Main Street, rendering it a nuisance that calls for abatement. It would be very desirable also, to have a larger engine house with a suitable room in which to hold the company meetings. If it should be thought best to make these improvements, an appropriation of two thousand dollars would be needed.

You are respectfully referred to the reports of the physician and chaplains, for an account of the physical, moral and religious condition of the prisoners. The financial condition of the prison is shown in the accompanying account, and the profit and loss in the different departments, by the tables of the Inspectors. It will be seen that the expenses of the prison have exceeded the income, by the sum of sixteen hundred forty-two dollars and eighty-three cents, during the last nine months. This amount added to the old debts before alluded to (of \$5000—I spoke in round numbers) makes the actual indebtedness of the prison at this time, sixty-seven hundred twenty-six dollars and ninety-eight cents.

I have thus endeavored to give you a plain statement of facts as they appear to me, in regard to the affairs of the prison; and in closing this report I cheerfully accord my regards to the inspectors, chaplains, physician, clerk and all the other subordinate officers, for

their efficient aid and uniform courtesy and faithfulness; and while they have tended to ease the burden of my duties, have also raised themselves greatly in my esteem.

THOMAS W. HIX, *Warden.*

December 31st, 1855.

Dr. The State Prison in Account with the State of Maine. Cr.

1855. April 1	For stock and tools pr. commissioners, . . .	\$8,153 67	1855. Dec. 31.	By stock and tools pr. inspectors,	\$13,935 01
	For balance of officers' salaries account, . .	4,280 63		By balance of shoemaking account, . .	2,528 78
	For balance of convicts discharged account,	210 21		By balance of basket-making account,	349 61
	For balance of expense account,	622 53		By balance of wheelwrights' account, . .	1,952 70
	For balance of team account,	419 43		By balance of blacksmithing account, . .	1,034 32
	For balance of subsistence account,	4,304 06		By balance of fees from visitors account, . .	89 49
	For balance of building and repairs acct.	3,582 66		By balance of Lime quarry account,	1,257 65
	For balance of clothing account,	581 96		By balance,	1,642 83
	For balance of fuel and lights account,	635 19			
		<u>\$22,790 39</u>			<u>\$22,790 39</u>

THOMAS W. HIX.

LINCOLN, ss.—December 31, 1855.

Personally appeared, Thomas W. Hix, and made oath that the above account, by him subscribed, is true to the best of his knowledge and belief. Before me,

ABNER RICE, *Justice of the Peace.*

WARDEN'S REPORT.

9

CONVICTS.

No. of convicts Nov. 30, 1854,	92	Whole No. received since July 2, 1824, 1150	
Received since,	29	Discharged on expiration of sen-	
		tence,	828
	121	Discharged on writ of error,	1
Discharged on expiration of sen-		Pardoned,	192
tence,	24	Died,	28
Pardoned,	8	Escaped and not retaken,	8
Remaining Dec. 31, 1855,	89	Removed to Insane Hospital,	4
	—	Present No. Dec. 31, 1855,	89
	121		— 1150

CRIMES.

Larceny,	51	Malicious burning,	1
Arson,	3	Rape,	3
Robbing mail,	1	Adultery,	5
Burglary,	4	Assault with intent to ravish,	4
Passing counterfeit money,	1	Robbery,	1
Murder,	3	Assault to kill,	2
do. second degree,	3	Shopbreaking and larceny,	3
do. sentence commuted,	1		—
Manslaughter,	3	Aggregate,	89

EMPLOYMENT OF CONVICTS, DEC. 31, 1855.

Making Baskets,	6	Waiters,	2
In the Smith Shop,	12	In Solitary,	1
On Contract,	31	Lumpers,	9
Wheelwrights,	19	Sick in the Hospital,	1
Tailors,	4		—
Cooks,	2	Aggregate,	89
Washers,	2		

NATIONALITY OF CONVICTS.

From Ireland,	10	From United States,	69
“ England,	4		
“ Nova Scotia,	6		89

SEX AND COLOR OF CONVICTS.

White Males,	85	White Females,	3
Negro, “	1		—
			89

Convicts in the State Prison, Dec. 31st, 1855.

County.	Names.	Sentence.		Crimes.	When Committed.	Place of Birth.	Age.	No. of Committals.
		Years.	Mos.					
Kennebec,	Allen, Elisha T.	6		Arson,	Oct. 29, 1850,	Fairfield,	21	1
Waldo,	Alexander, James	5		Larceny,	Jan'y 23, 1854,	Hampden,	54	4
Cumberland,	Boyle, Enoch	6		do.	Oct. 29, 1852,	Richmond,	17	1
Hancock,	Beckett, Robert	5		do.	Feb'y 1, 1853,	Ireland,	28	2
York,	Brown, Jackson	4		do.	Oct. 19, 1854,	New York,	19	1
Washington,	Bingham, John	2		Assault to Ravish,	Jan'y 11, 1855,	Ireland,	40	1
Sagadahoc,	Burnham, James	2		Larceny,	Aug. 24, 1855,	Edgecomb,	23	1
Kennebec,	Barter, Lois	1	6	Adultery,	Sept. 25, 1855,	Belgrade,	32	1
"	Boynton, Albert A.	2		Assault to Kill,	Dec. 8, 1855,	Mercer,	21	1
Penobscot,	Canny, Ezra	Life.		Murder—second degree,	Nov. 13, 1846,	Tuftenboro',	42	1
Waldo,	Connors, Samuel	5		Adultery,	Dec. 30, 1851,	Cherryfield,	37	1
Lincoln,	Carpenter, Geo. W.	7		Larceny,	March 16, 1852,	Phippsburg,	22	1
Penobscot,	Cilley, Chas.	5		do.	Dec. 18, 1852,	Atkinson,	21	2
Lincoln,	Cilley, John	4		do.	Oct. 6, 1854,	N. Hampshire,	27	1
York,	Chase, Lemuel G.	3		Adultery,	April 27, 1854,	Phillips,	28	1
"	Collins, Geo. H.	6		Larceny,	April 27, 1854,	Barnstead,	26	1
Kennebec,	Chute, Oliver H.	6		Burglary and Larceny,	Sept. 26, 1854,	Poland,	30	1
"	Crocker, Enos	2		Assault to Ravish,	Sept. 26, 1854,	Patricktown,	28	1
Cumberland,	Chambers, Thos.	2		Larceny,	Dec. 15, 1854,	Newport,	19	1
York,	Clough, Lorin S.	3		do.	April 19, 1855,	Fayette,	28	1
Sagadahoc,	Crips, Charles	Life.		Murder—second degree,	Sept. 13, 1855,	Brunswick,	42	1
York,	Delay, Morris	10		Manlaughter,	Oct. 7, 1851,	Lebanon,	43	1
Hancock,	Dodge, Frreman	3		Larceny,	Feb'y 1, 1853,	Burnham,	24	1
Aroostook,	Dow, Mary Ann	3		Arson,	Oct. 9, 1854,	N. Brunswick,	23	1
Kennebec,	Dunton, Samuel	2		Larceny,	Sept. 25, 1855,	Wiscasset,	18	1
Washington,	Elliot, William	2		do.	Jan'y 23, 1854,	N. Brunswick,	21	1
Maine Dist. US	Emery, Josiah	10		Stealing from Mail,	July 3, 1854,	Berwick,	40	1
Androscoggin,	Edwards, Collins	Life.		Rape,	Sept. 16, 1854,	Gorham,	39	1
Lincoln,	Edgerly, Cyrus	3		Larceny,	Oct. 6, 1854,	Sebec,	22	1
"	Erskins, James 2d.	2		do.	Nov. 2, 1855,	Bristol,	27	1
Kennebec,	Fellows, Russell S.	10		Assault to Ravish,	Oct. 29, 1851,	Winthrop,	25	2
Penobscot,	Fee, John W.	3		Larceny,	Dec. 28, 1853,	Calais,	24	1

Waldo,	Fox, Patrick	2	Larceny,	Jan'y 11, 1855,	Ireland,	22	1
Cumberland,	Getchell, Benja.	Life.	Robbery,	Dec. 22, 1852,	Wiscasset,	43	2
"	Graham, Reuben	2	Larceny,	April 8, 1854,	Nova Scotia,	19	2
Kennebec,	Guild, Davis	2	Adultery,	Sept. 25, 1855,	Mass.,	54	1
Oxford,	Higgins, Edmund	Life.	Rape,	June 6, 1850,	Denmark,	40	2
Cumberland,	Hickey, Charles	6	Larceny,	Dec. 22, 1852,	E. Machias,	35	2
York,	Haskell, Wm. E.	17	do.	Oct. 26, 1853,	Unity,	19	2
Waldo,	Hardy, John	5	do.	Jan'y 20, 1853,	Nova Scotia,	22	1
York,	Kittredge, Joseph	6	do.	Oct. 19, 1854,	Haverhill,	42	1
Waldo,	Knowlton, Hosea	3	do.	Jan'y 11, 1855,	Appleton,	24	2
Androscoggin,	Kelton, Chas. T.	3	Pass'g counterfeit money,	May 5, 1855,	Warwick,	43	1
Waldo,	Larrabee, Rufus A.	7	Manslaughter,	Dec. 30, 1851,	Monroe,	22	1
York,	Lull, Samuel E.	1	Larceny,	April 19, 1855,	Haverhill,	32	1
Cumberland,	Littlefield, Nat. S.	1	do.	Dec. 18, 1855,	Salem,	22	1
Penobscot,	Mitchell, Joseph	7	Manslaughter,	Dec. 3, 1849,	Oldtown,	28	1
Somerset,	Merrill, John	6	Larceny,	Jan'y 30, 1850,	Newport,	21	1
Oxford,	Monk, Elijah	6	do.	Sept. 4, 1852,	Buckfield,	40	1
Lincoln,	Murray, Alexander	5	do.	Dec. 8, 1852,	England,	30	2
Cumberland,	Marshall, Wm.	4	do.	Aug. 28, 1855,	Portland,	27	3
Washington,	Maxwell, Joseph H.	5	Shop Breaking,	May 8, 1854,	Dover,	50	1
Aroostook,	Mathews, James	6	Murder,	Oct. 9, 1854,	Virginia,	54	1
Hancock,	McGrath, John	To be hang'd	Larceny,	Nov. 2, 1854,	England,	46	1
Cumberland,	McLaughlin, Jas.	3	do.	Sept. 22, 1855,	Ireland,	19	1
Lincoln,	Mason, Charles	2	Burglary,	Nov. 2, 1855,	Sedgwick,	18	1
Washington,	O'Conner, John	2	Larceny,	Oct. 17, 1854,	Ireland,	33	1
Cumberland,	Ploughman, Geo.	Life.	Murder—sen. commuted,	Jan'y 11, 1850,	England,	59	1
Androscoggin,	Perkins, Alexander	3	Larceny,	Sept. 16, 1854,	Minot,	24	1
Cumberland,	Pero, Charles H.	4	do.	Dec. 15, 1854,	Westport,	19	1
"	Payton, Thomas	4	do.	Aug. 28, 1855,	Halifax,	25	1
Penobscot,	Rollins, Benja.	Life.	Rape,	Nov. 28, 1851,	N. Sharon,	45	1
Lincoln,	Richards, Nathan	15	Shopbreaking and larceny	Aug. 18, 1852,	Wayne,	36	4
Kennebec,	Randall, Reuben P.	2	Larceny,	Sept. 26, 1854,	China,	25	1
Somerset,	Richardson, Columbus	20	Burglary,	Oct. 9, 1854,	Litchfield,	38	3
York,	Rogers, Wm.	7	Malicious Burning,	Oct. 19, 1854,	Buxton,	23	1
Kennebec,	Shaw, John Jr.	10	Arson,	May 25, 1850,	Augusta,	38	1
Lincoln,	Stowell, Henry S.	12	Shopbreaking and larceny	Aug. 18, 1852,	Norwich,	22	2
Oxford,	Smith, William	10	Assault to Ravish,	Sept. 4, 1852,	Cabot,	16	1
Washington,	Smith, David	6	do.	Oct. 14, 1852,	Ireland,		

Convicts in the State Prison, Dec. 31st, 1855.

County.	Names.	Sentence.		Crimes.	When Committed.	Place of Birth.	Age.	No. of Committals.
		Years.	Mos.					
Somerset,	Smith, Albert F.	2		Larceny,	April 15, 1854,	Greenfield,	25	1
York,	Smith, Wm. B.	To be hang'd		Murder,	Feb'y 11, 1855,	Hide Park,	24	1
Somerset,	Smith, Elliot R.	2		Larceny,	July 3, 1855,	Parkman,	18	1
Cumberland,	Smith, William H.	4		do.	Aug. 28, 1855,	N. London,	21	1
Penobscot,	Smith, Samuel B.	3		Passing forged orders, &c.	June 29, 1854,	St. Johns,	22	1
Washington,	Scott, Timothy	2		Larceny,	Jan'y 11, 1855,	Ireland,	25	1
Penobscot,	Staples, Esther	3		Adultery,	April 18, 1855,	Kirkland,	24	1
Cumberland,	Thorn, Thomas	To be hang'd		Murder,	May 17, 1843,	Long Island,	24	1
York,	Tuttle, James W.	12		Breaking Jail, &c.,	Oct. 19, 1854,	Saco,	29	1
Hancock,	Vance, John	5		Larceny,	Feb'y 1, 1853	Boston,	18	1
Penobscot,	Woodbine, Henry	Life.		Burglary,	Nov. 14, 1850,	Indiana,	30	1
Lincoln,	Worthing, Ensign	15		Shopbreaking and larceny	Aug. 15, 1852,	Corinth,	17	2
Somerset,	Welch, Wil iam	2		Passing counterfeit money	Jan'y 11, 1854,	Ireland,	37	1
"	Welch, Cyrus	1	6	Larceny,	Oct. 9, 1854,	Casco,	18	1
Penobscot,	Watson, Alexander	3		do.	June 29, 1854,	England,	20	2
York,	Wilson, Robert	4		do.	Oct. 19, 1854,	N. York,	22	1
Kennebec,	Waterman, Geo.	1	6	do.	Sept. 25, 1855,	Boston,	25	1
York,	Waters, John	10		Assault to Kill,	Oct. 6, 1855,	Ireland,	21	1
Cumberland,	Martin, Conley	Life.		Murder,	Dec. 29, 1855,	Ireland,	30	1

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INSPECTORS' REPORT.



REPORT.

*To his Excellency the Governor and the
Honorable Council of the State of Maine :*

The Inspectors of the Maine State Prison respectfully submit the following report for the term of nine months, ending December 31, 1855.

The report of the Warden, together with the tables annexed, will show the number of convicts, the departments of labor in which they are employed, and the financial condition of the prison.

And to this report you are referred, likewise, for such further information relating to the affairs of the prison, as comes within its province to give.

In the report of the Inspectors—April 30, 1851—it is stated : “The amount of debts due the prison in the hands of an attorney, are more than one-half worthless.” And, by the report of your late commissioners, this amount is found to be “five thousand dollars;” for which (see Warden’s report) “the attorney is unwilling to offer over one hundred dollars.”

We would suggest, therefore, whether it would not be better to sell these demands at once “to the highest bidder,” than to have the State’s recollection of their existence uselessly perpetuated, from year to year, through the reports of the Inspectors.

That the financial affairs of the prison have been conducted with highly creditable ability during the last nine months—the result of which, is the pecuniary benefit of the State—the report of the Warden, with proper vouchers, clearly evinces. But, we are happy to state, *that* is also to be observed, as one effect of the method by which the prison has been regulated—*that*, for which had evidence of its *real* existence been in the least wanting, no pecuniary benefit to the State would have compensated.

We refer to the presence, unquestionably, of "comfort and convenience" among the prisoners.

Good food and raiment; clean and well-bedded sleeping apartments; well arranged and well furnished workshops; necessary care when sick, and proper attention to their intellectual, moral and religious wants, under the supervision of officers, the Warden and his subordinate officers, physician and chaplains, whose humanity, as well as "sense of duty," has led them cheerfully and assiduously to cooperate in promoting the welfare both of convicts and State, in the performance of their official duties.

For the gentlemanly and prompt manner in which the doors of the prison have been opened by day and night to the Inspectors, and for the readiness with which every officer has given aid to them, when, for any reason, aid of any kind was needed, the undersigned would take this opportunity to make their acknowledgments.

Satisfied as we are, that the money which the State annually expends, small as the amount is, (\$300), to give convicts the instruction, which, not to speak of all the good it does, evidently tends to help them to resist temptation both while within as well as without the prisoner's cell, we are of the opinion, that double the sum at least now expended, and much more time might be given for this object, with proportional good resulting.

While the good of the State requires the *punishment* of the criminal, the State's greater good is effected by his *reformation*. We think it evident without argument that a wise plan, embracing more extensive, continuous and persistent measures for *the reformation* of our prison convicts, might be devised, should legislative wisdom take the matter in hand—and, if an appropriation was made, such as would be necessary to carry the plan into effect.

The preservation of subordination and quietness, and the continuance of industry among the prisoners, is exceedingly desirable.

And while a certain kind of punishment, as is the case with the mode now in use in this prison, (see Warden's report) is of more effect than another to deter the insubordinate and spur the indolent, still, may there not be "a better way," a way involving a *better* mode of *punishment* even, than has been adopted as yet, by which to attain the end in view?

We are of the opinion that "a better way" would be found in the effect of an act providing that all convicts sentenced for the term of one or more years, shall have their time of confinement shortened one day at least in each month of the time they serve, and have their forfeited rights restored, *provided their conduct, while in prison, is wholly unexceptionable.* The result would be, we are convinced, that nearly all would receive the benefit of the good-behavior-time.

Subordination and industry would be greatly promoted. Every day cut off from the term of labor, would give additional effect to a powerful motive constraining to exemplary conduct; nor would the convict hastily disregard this motive.

The self-punishment accruing from the forfeiture by bad behavior, would be the most unbearable and effective, as it seems to the Inspectors, of any mode of punishment which has been as yet suggested.

Again: the revelations of prison walls show that a large proportion of the convicts are young men, in their first commitment—some in their second—and a few cases there are of men who are in State Prison for the third and even fourth time.

It is not to be supposed that all convicts are equally hardened and irreclaimable: on the contrary, we should act on the benevolent and gospel principle that, by proper efforts, all may be morally benefitted, and the most of this class of men restored to the path of honesty and respectability. Would not consistent action on this principle result in diminishing crime, and in various ways inure to the good of the State?

It should be regarded as a question of much importance, and well worth considering by the State, how can this reformation, of which we speak, be effected? What may reasonably be done with the reasonable expectation of accomplishing the object to an extent hitherto unreached?

Our plan would be, in its outlines, somewhat as follows: An officer, whose duty it shall be to devote himself entirely to this great and good work, beginning with the convict the day he enters prison, nor leaving him, if there is proper evidence that he has been and may be still more benefitted, until he is started in the world, at

the expiration of his sentence, *with some fair chance for a virtuous, industrious, and successful life.* Let this officer endeavor to acquaint himself thoroughly with the character and history of each prisoner, and let the nature of his efforts for the convict's reformation, as to what they shall be and how far they shall be carried, be determined *by facts and results*, as they are developed from time to time. For example: A. B., age nineteen, is found to be in prison on his first commitment; crime, larceny; sentence, one year. On diligent inquiry, the account which he gives of himself is found to be true. A neglected, ignorant boy; his father an intemperate man; the son early thrown upon the world to shift for himself, and early led in the paths of the destroyer, soon became the miserable dupe of intemperance.

The facts brought to light by what we have ascertained of the history of the convicts now in our prison, show that, with *seven-eighths* (7-8) of them, intemperance preceded, and was in proximity to the crime for which they have been incarcerated.

And still it is ascertained that he is possessed of redeeming traits of character. And now, his term of sentence has nearly elapsed; his conduct in prison has been unexceptionable; he has acquired a good trade; he has come to the night preceding the expiration of his sentence at last. It is a *sleepless night*. With the rising of to-morrow's sun he is "going out!" and these words have *meaning* with him.

And what is the nature of his thoughts?—whither do they carry him?

We cannot say; but we use what we know to be the often repeated words of some, when they speak of the expiration of their sentence:

"It's no use; the brand is upon me. I've disgraced myself and my friends—I'll not go back to them. Wherever I go, I can give no true account of myself without saying I have been in State Prison; and then nobody will employ me. I have no means to set up for myself;—I don't know what will become of me;—and I don't know that it is much matter."

"But we hope your conduct will in future be good. We should be sorry to see you again in prison."

"Hope you will not—don't know—shall keep out if rum and I

don't come together again. But in prison or out, I'm about used up as to much of a living in this world."

The morning comes—his prison garb is exchanged for citizen's apparel—the pittance of three or five dollars is put into his hand—the door of the prison is unlocked, and he passes out—we wish we could add, followed by our expectations that he will lead a sober, industrious, virtuous life. But such expectations, in most instances, as the case now stands, are disappointed. "Their poor chance" is their evil spirit: good resolutions are weakened—temptation conquers—and the demands of the law soon re-sentence and return them to State Prison.

But this officer to whom we alluded has, in consequence of what he knows of this young man, anticipated his case. He has opened the way for his return to those friends whose presence he would have shunned in his shame and disgrace. By his timely interposition, he goes at once to an employer; and he goes knowing that now is his chance to redeem in full his character, and to live and die a good and successful and respected citizen. This young man leaves the prison with the right kind of joy. He will leave it, we think, "a new man."

He will leave, the friend of the State, for the State has been his friend. In short, we are convinced that, pecuniarily, it would be a great saving to the State—while the interests of all her citizens would be better promoted—should one do more in the way of moral appliances to her prison convicts, to prevent the repetition of crimes.

We respectfully recommend a thorough revision of our State Prison laws as they now exist on the Statute book, since some of these laws are in fact "dead letter;" and since time and observation have shown the necessity of some additional provisions that all interests may be sufficiently protected. Especially we are of the opinion that a Warden's "contracts" should not be permitted to extend beyond three or four years, since it is liable to be detrimental to the interests of the State to have his successor bound by them.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES T. STARRETT, {
SAMUEL C. FESSENDEN, } *Inspectors.*

January 1, 1856.



Statement of Net Profits and Expenditures in the Different Departments, from April 1, 1855, to Dec. 31, 1855.

		WHEELWRIGHTS.	
1855.			
Dec. 31.	Cr.	By balance of account,	\$1,952 70
	"	By Stock increased,	369 47
		Net gain,	<u>\$2,322 17</u>
—			
		SHOE-MAKING.	
	Cr.	By balance of account,	\$2,528 78
	"	By Stock increased,	55 65
		Net gain,	<u>\$2,584 43</u>
—			
		BLACKSMITHING.	
	Cr.	By balance of account,	\$1,034 32
	"	By Stock increased,	1,424 39
		Net gain,	<u>\$2,458 71</u>
—			
		LIME QUARRY.	
	Cr.	By balance of account,	\$1,257 65
	"	By Stock increased,	700 63
		Net gain,	<u>\$1,958 28</u>
—			
		BASKET-MAKING.	
	Cr.	By balance of account,	\$349 61
	"	By Stock increased,	101 25
		Net gain,	<u>\$450 86</u>
—			
		FEEES FROM VISITORS.	
	Cr.	By balance of account. (Net gain,)	\$89 40
—			
		FUEL AND LIGHTS.	
	Dr.	For balance of account,	\$635 19
	Cr.	By Stock increased,	139 06
		Amount expended,	<u>\$496 13</u>

Statement of Net Profits, Expenditures, &c. (Continued.)

CONVICTS DISCHARGED.		
1855.		
Dec. 31.	Dr. For balance of account. (Amount expended,) . . .	\$210 21

TEAM.		
	Dr. For balance of account,	\$419 43
	Cr. By Stock increased,	238 50
	Amount expended.	\$180 93

EXPENSE ACCOUNT.		
	Dr. For balance of account,	\$622 58
	Cr. By Stock increased,	905 99
	Net gain,	\$283 41

SUBSISTENCE.		
	Dr. For balance of account,	\$4,304 06
	Cr. By Stock increased,	784 42
	Amount expended,	\$3,519 64

BUILDING AND REPAIRS.		
	Dr. For balance of account,	\$3,582 66
	Cr. By Stock increased,	162 50
	Amount expended,	\$3,420 16

CLOTHING.		
	Dr. For balance of account,	\$581 96
	Cr. By Stock increased,	899 48
	Net gain,	\$317 52

OFFICERS' SALARIES.		
	Dr. For balance of account. (Amount expended,) . . .	\$4,280 63

STATE TREASURY.		
	Cr. By balance of account. (Amount received,) . . .	\$6,975 00

Statement of Notes and Accounts.

Due sundry persons on new notes,		\$2,859 31
" " " books,		2,706 03
" " on old notes,		3,613 31
" " " books in office,		1,334 29
		10,512 94
Due from sundry persons on new notes,	\$748 84	
" " " books,	2,451 69	
" " on old notes,	328 13	
" " " books,	257 30	
		3,785 96
The prison owes this amount at this date, Dec. 31, 1855,		\$6,726 98



CHAPLAINS' REPORT.



REPORT.

To the Inspectors of the Maine State Prison:

During the year 1855, four of the settled clergymen of Thomaston have, by turns, conducted the service in the Chapel of the Prison. The undersigned, who served during the last quarter, makes, by request, the following

REPORT.

During the hour of religious service on Sunday morning, the prisoners have been uniformly quiet and attentive, seemingly controlled as much by their own sense of what was due to their place of worship, as by the strict discipline maintained throughout the Prison. Some of the convicts have manifested an interest in religious truth; and we, who have officiated in the Chapel during the past year, hope that our labors and counsels have not been altogether in vain.

The excellent Library used by the prisoners seems to be increasing their desire for reading, and to be employing the time that would be otherwise wasted or abused. It may do much for the cultivation of the mind, and the awakening of the moral sense of the convict, and therefore we hope that it will be judiciously enlarged.

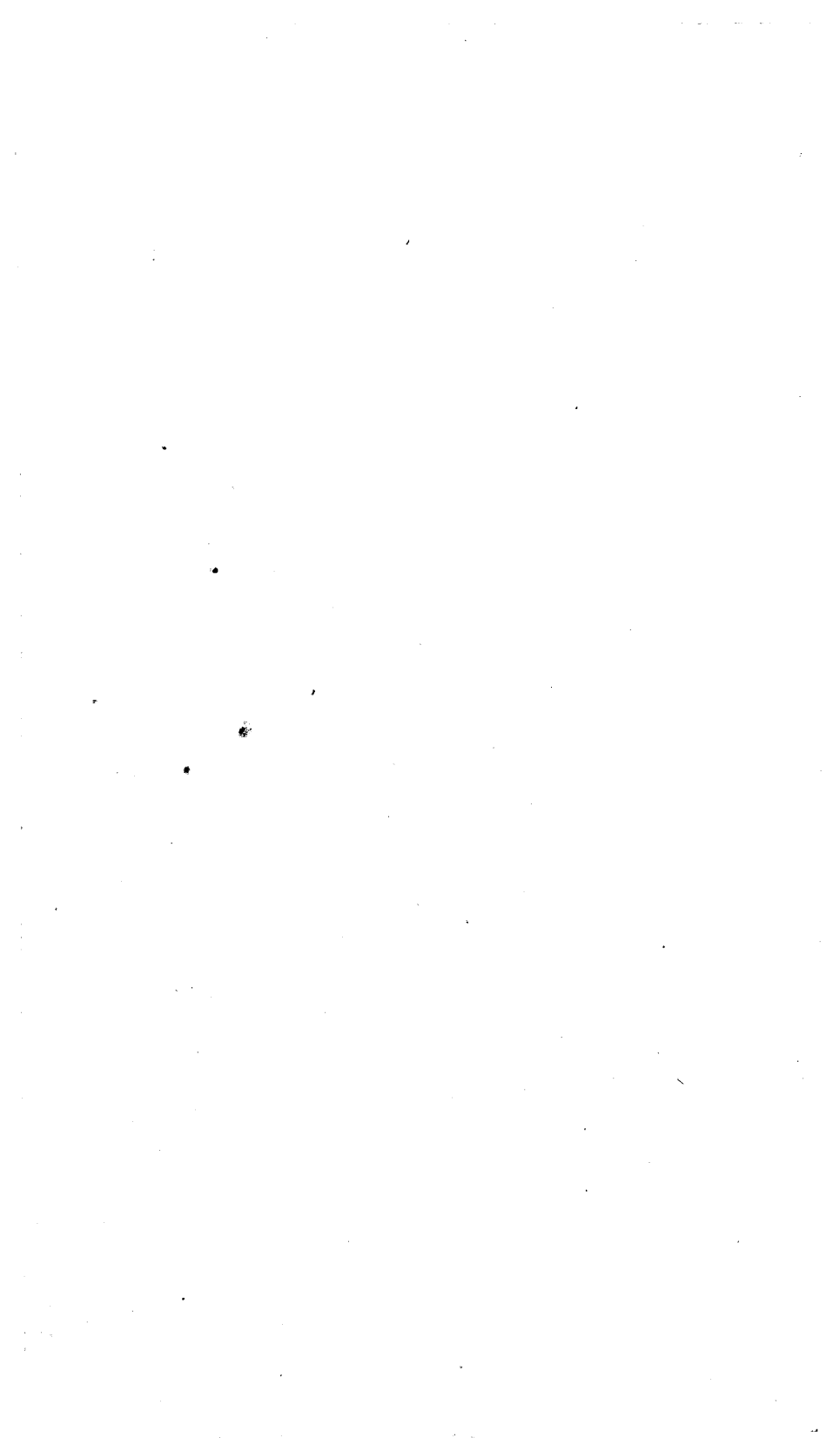
The Warden has cared for the comfort and health of the prisoners under his charge, and has co-operated in all efforts for their mental and moral improvement.

Our thanks are due to the Deputy Warden and other officers, for their attentions, which have facilitated our intercourse with the prisoners.

Respectfully submitted.

O. J. FERNALD.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.



REPORT.

To the Warden and Inspectors :

GENTLEMEN :—As Physician to the Maine State Prison, I respectfully submit my annual Report.

The past year has been one of unusual health in this Institution. With the exception of some chronic diseases, under which the subjects had been suffering before their commitment, or to which they were strongly predisposed, there have been comparatively few cases of severe or protracted sickness.

Epidemic influences, so prevalent in this section of New England, in Autumn, have not interrupted our usual health, and a gracious Providence has brought us near the close of another year, without the occurrence of a single death within our walls.

But one case of typhoid fever came under my care in the hospital, and this of a very mild type. Some cases of billious derangement were noticed during the Summer, and two or three of *pneumonia*, one of which was the case of the convict Delay, fifty years of age, who inherited a very strong family predisposition to pulmonary consumption. He is now quite feeble, and, without doubt, *tubercles* have already developed themselves in his lungs. He is not confined to his cell, but entirely unable to perform any labor. We have had the usual number of sudden attacks of cholice, diarrhoea, cholera-morbus, &c., but none of much severity or of long continuance.

There are some cases of *chronic* diseases which seem to demand some attention. Benjamin Rollins, who was sentenced for life, in 1851, has been unable to perform the duties of a convict for more than two years. He is suffering severely from disease of the *prostate* gland and chronic inflammation of the bladder. I see no prospect of his recovery.

In this connexion, I would also mention William Stevens, sixty-four years old. His disease is Phthisic, of long standing; but recently it has become complicated with *abdominal dropsy*, rendering respiration exceedingly difficult and laborious.

Charles Hickey will be remembered as having been mentioned in my Report of last January. For some years before, and ever since his imprisonment, he has been troubled with a disease of one *testis*. During the past year it has been almost impossible for him to perform any labor, and as I feared his disease was about taking on a malignant character, it was deemed advisable to perform the operation of *castration*. I accordingly operated the first of November, assisted by Drs. Rose and Chase. The patient is now entirely recovered, and is discharging the ordinary duties of the convict.

Connors, who has applied to the Executive for pardon, on account of declining health, still remains with us. When able to do anything, he works at the blacksmith forge. His lungs are extensively diseased, and I have no doubt he is already beyond the reach of recovery.

The only convict pardoned during the year in consequence of ill health, was a female, who had become pregnant before her sentence.

Rheumatism, formerly imposing so much care and trouble upon the Physician and officers, is now almost entirely unknown here. I have no doubt this is mainly owing to the humane change in the character of the punishment. Formerly, every fractious, obstinate or disobedient convict, who was deemed deserving, was thrust into a low, solitary cell, where the air was chilly and humid, without a ray of light, and in this condition they were kept, without food or bed, until, by "contrition and acknowledgement, they had redeemed themselves from solitude." The result was, that nearly half the cases punished, especially in cold weather, came out crippled with acute rheumatism; and, in one instance, the prisoner was unable to walk without crutches for months.

This sort of punishment has been entirely abandoned by the present Warden, Capt. Hix, and another, far more humane, and almost infinitely more practicable, substituted. I have seen but two cases of acute rheumatism for the whole year.

I am happy to notice that the increasing exertions of the Warden to render the situation of the prisoners comfortable and pleasant, are heartily reciprocated by them; that they look upon him more in the light of a father, than one who is constantly seeking occasion to punish.

In closing this hasty Report, I can but express my warm thanks to the various officers of the Prison, for their kind assistance and courteous attentions to me, while in the discharge of my perplexing duties.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. ROBINSON, M. D.,

Physician to Maine State Prison