MEMORIAL

SOLICITING A

STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,

SUBMITTED TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY,

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TRENTON:

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MEMORIAL.

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

GENTLEMEN:

I come to solicit your attention to the condition and necessities of Idiots, Epileptics, and the Insane Poor, in the State of New Jersey.

I ask your consideration of the *claims* of this large and much neglected class of sufferers, and such effective legislative action as shall check that tide of misery, the destroying force of which, each year witnesses the increase. I do not come here to quicken your generous impulses, and move you to emotion, by showing the existence of terrible abuses, revealing scenes of almost incredible sufferings. I come to ask *justice* of the Legislature of New Jersey, for those who, in the providence of God, are incapable of pleading their own cause, and of claiming redress for their own grievances. Be patient with me —it is for your own citizens I plead; it is for helpless, friendless men and women, in your very midst, I ask succour—into whose broken minds hope and consolation find no entrance—the foul air of whose dreary cells still oppresses my breath—the clanking of whose heavy chains still sounds upon my ear. Have pity upon them! have pity upon them! "for their light is hid in darkness, and trouble is their portion;"—have pity upon them! their grievous, forlorn estate may be shared by yourselves or your children. A solemn responsibility is intrusted to you: it is for you to put a termination to evils and miseries which may yet be remedied or alleviated;—it is for you to surround these unfortunate beings with such protecting influences, as their incapacity for self-care demands, and to guard against the aggravation of like evils and miseries for the future.

Within the last few months, I have traversed a considerable portion of your state, and have found, in jails and poor-houses, and wandering at will over the country, large numbers of insane and idiotic persons,

whose irresponsibility and imbecility render them objects of deep commiseration. These, whether the subjects of public bounty or of private charity, are inappropriately treated for recovery, or injudiciously managed, through ignorance or limitation of suitable means; thus they are left to exposures and sufferings, at once pitiable and revolting, and however in detail strongly represented, incapable of being exaggerated. I appeal to the public to sustain this strong assertion, and I appeal to medical men, whose professional duties conduct them amidst every form of painful disease, to unite their testimony with mine, and to aid in showing how great is the need, how important the demand, for a State Asylum for Insane Persons.

It is my duty to speak explicitly upon this subject. I shall be sorry to wound the feelings of any individual; I disclaim all personality—calling attention to defective systems, not to those who are officially appointed to carry them out. I shall not attempt to detail full histories, nor to refer directly to all cases embraced in the class of insane and idiots; but shall confine myself chiefly, to *facts* at present existing, and scenes to which I lately have been witness.

Allow me, first, to refer you to the able report of your commissioners, who, in 1839–40, made to the Governor, by a joint resolution of the Council and Assembly, a statement of the condition of the insane, and represented the pressing want of a State Hospital—urging that "*the Legislature of New Jersey will not be wanting in its duty to her people, nor behind the age in which we live. She will follow the example of her sister states, in alleviating the sufferings of humanity.*" Four years have passed, the duty is *unfulfilled*—and New Jersey has been suffered to remain *behind* the age in this humane work.

The documents above referred to, prepared with care from statistics laboriously collected, exhibit plainly your need. Dating four years back, it was found, according to the lowest computation, that there were in New Jersey *two hundred and fifty-two insane males; one hundred and sixty-three insane females;* and of *idiots, ninety-three males, and one hundred and three females.* It will be found that this large number, allowed *to be below the probable amount*, is much increased, not lessened. Numbers are added to those who class as incurables, and recent cases are, for want of appropriate remedial care, fast falling into the same deplorable condition.

It was my design to have laid before you the present numerical amount; but it appeared not important to the cause advocated to do this, when a cursory survey of the state has exhibited so many patients distributed in the state prison, the county jails, the poor-houses, and also in the hospitals of the two adjacent states of New York and Pennsylvania, as to prove that your pecuniary interest is united with the plea of humanity, to urge you to immediate action on the subject. The hospitals above referred to contain unitedly, above sixty patients from this state; but while neither New York nor Pennsylvania reject your insane, it should be remembered that the whole public and private provision in both these states, is far short of meeting the wants of those who are fit subjects for hospital care, and that *many hundreds* are needing the places which your patients occupy. It is certainly difficult to comprehend why New Jersey, with ample means, unembarrassed by state debts, and prosperous in all her public relations, and more private channels of business, should fail to take an honorable and an honored position in the establishment of such state institutions as the wants of her citizens require. On this subject, through the length and breadth of New Jersey, I have heard but one and the same opinion and wish:—"We need a hospital; we desire its immediate establishment."

I proceed to show the actual condition of those jails and poor-houses which I have visited.

Salem County Jail, at *Salem*, is an old building, very inconveniently constructed, but kept remarkably clean: there were here three prisoners in November: the supply of food by the jailor, I learned, was sufficient in quantity, and of good quality: twenty cents per day is allowed by the county for board; *but no beds of any kind* are provided or required by law: there were no insane in the prison at the time of my visit.

The County Poor-house is several miles from Salem, near *Sharptown:* attached is a well managed farm, and the cost for each individual averages about eighty cents per week. The establishment seemed, in general, very well conducted: the inmates, who in November numbered eighty, were comfortably and decently clad, and the food, as far as I could learn, was well prepared and of good quality. It is the custom to bind out the children at a very early age, therefore no school is provided. Religious meetings are seldom holden, and

religious counsel or consolation rarely imparted by visiters. There are here, beside several epileptics and persons of infirm minds, eight insane. One woman of middle age has been crazy seventeen years. Two of the patients were in chains; one man, very crazy for nearly thirty years, has been out of his small apartment but "ten times for more than nineteen years." He is considered very dangerous, and is so. No appropriate care can be rendered here to lessen his frenzied excitement, or diminish the terrible horrors of madness. The master said, if he could "take him out daily for exercise in the open air, it would do him good; but with the care of a farm, which he is expected and required to keep under profitable cultivation, with a family of paupers—often exceeding one hundred—to manage and provide for, he has not time to nurse madmen, or to give them in any degree the care they need." The propensities of this poor wretch are homicidal: he is dreaded by all save the master of the house, whose only safety, as he thinks, consists in governing him through the *principle* of *fear*. In illustration of this, I give his own account of the manner by which this influence is gained, and, utterly horrible and revolting as it is, I believe it only justice to the keeper to add, that *in his circumstances*, with his *limited means*, he does not what he approves and wishes, but that to which he considers himself compelled. "Going to his room one day, not long since," said the keeper, "in order to shave him, my hands both being full, as I came near, he suddenly sprang upon me, and dealt a violent blow at my chest; his being chained, alone prevented his killing me. I knew I must master him now or never: I threw down the shaving tools, caught a stick of wood from the entry, and laid upon him until he cried for quarter: I beat him long enough to make him know I was his master, and now he is too much afraid of a thrashing to attack me; but you had better stand off, ma'am, for he won't fear you." Brute force is the cruel alternative left for those who are compelled to a charge for which they lack both time, and means, and knowledge. A letter, some time since, reached me from a stranger, relating to this very madman, round whose limbs these, so many long and sorrowful years, have weighed the heavy chain and fetters! "There are many," says my correspondent, "whose sufferings are greatly augmented for want of proper treatment and attention. In our poor-house is a man who has been *chained by the leg* for more than twenty years; and the only warmth which can be introduced into his cell, is from a small stove-pipe, which passes

through one corner of it!" This history neither needs, nor will bear comment.

In one apartment I found an epileptic, bleeding from fresh wounds inflicted by falling, in a fit; his mental faculties much impaired, and his condition very sad. He was placed on the floor for safety, having already fallen from a raised bed. This class of patients are often peculiarly dangerous; as the fit passes off, becoming highly excited, often malicious and disposed to violence: this terrible and unmanageable disease, so warps the natural dispositions, that, from being mild and gentle, they become highly irritable and furious.

On a level with the cellar, in a basement room, which was tolerably decent, but bare enough of comforts, lay, upon a small bed, a feeble aged man, whose few gray locks fell tangled about his pillow. As we entered, he addressed one present, saying, "I am all broken up, all broken up!" "Do you feel much weaker, then *Judge?*" "*The mind*, the mind is going—almost gone," responded he, in tones of touching sadness: "Yes," he continued, murmuring to himself, "the mind is going." This feeble, depressed old man—a pauper, helpless, lonely, and yet conscious of surrounding circumstances, and not now wholly oblivious of the past—this feeble old man—who was he? I answer as I was answered;—but he is not unknown to many of you. In his young and vigorous years he filled various places of honor and trust among you: his ability as a lawyer, raised him to the bench. As a jurist, he was distinguished for uprightness, clearness, and impartiality: he also was judge of the orphans' court. He was for many years a member of the Legislature. His habits were correct, and I could learn, from those who had known him for many years, nothing to his discredit, but much that commends men to honor and respect. The meridian of an active and useful life was passed; the property, honestly acquired, on which he relied for comfortable support during his declining years, was lost through some of those fluctuations which so often produce reverses for thousands. He became insane, and his insanity assumed the form of frenzy; he was chained "for safety:" in fine, he was committed to the county jail for greater security! Time wore away, excitement gave place to a more quiet, but not a rational state; he was after a considerable period, placed in a private family. When the little means left of the small remnant of his once sufficient property was consumed, he was removed to the poor-house—there I saw him: without vice and without crime, he has been the victim of

disease and the prey of misfortune; he is withering away in an obscure room of a county poor-house, receiving his share of that care and attention that must be divided and subdivided among the hundred feeble, infirm, and disabled inmates. For such men as Judge S., is no hospital needed? or if too late for him, hasten—it may be finished only to open its merciful shelter for yourselves or your children.

The JAIL IN BRIDGETON, *Cumberland county*, contained but one prisoner, an ignorant coloured boy, who was detained for trial. The apartments were in order and respectably clean.

The COUNTY POOR-HOUSE, a short distance from *Bridgeton*, had sixty-two inmates, which is less than the average. The house was remarkably neat and comfortable throughout; nothing could seem better ordered in a building which was not conveniently constructed for the purpose to which it was appropriated. The farm includes two hundred and fifty acres, and is well conducted. There is no school for the children: religious meetings are holden at irregular intervals. Several imbecile, idiotic, and epileptic patients are here, but none at present in a highly excited state. If any should be sent, or if any now there, become violent, there is no suitable provision either for their comfort or security. *Chains* are resorted to when deemed necessary.

CAPE MAY POOR-HOUSE, is said to be well regulated as regards the poor in general; but the insane here, as elsewhere, have suffered from the injudicious management to which they have been subjected. Sometimes a patient may seem well enough to labor, and no doubt, if this was directed with judgment, it would prove beneficial; but excessive exertion may produce the most disastrous effects. This has been the case in one instance at least, in this poor-house, and examples are not wanting of like results, elsewhere.

The JAIL AT WOODBURY, *Gloucester county*, is of good size, well built, and contains one dungeon, and five rooms, well lighted and neatly arranged. I found here no prisoners.

Some time since, an insane man was sent *from* there to the penitentiary, at Trenton. I am informed, by citizens resident in the county, that the offence with which he was charged, was committed when he was known to be insane; that he was exceedingly troublesome in the jail; and after various delays, at a time when the violence of his paroxysms had subsided, he was produced in court, tried, convicted,

and sentenced for a term of years to the state prison. Beyond doubt, he was a dangerous person to be at large; but that it was unjust to send him to the penitentiary, is equally beyond doubt.

The POOR-HOUSE of *Gloucester county*, some miles west of *Woodbury*, is populous with imbecile, insane, and epileptic patients, amounting to from twenty-five to thirty individuals. Twenty-three, at first, were counted by name, but others afterward recollected and referred to. Of these, three were very crazy, and one man dangerous and difficult of control at all times. The crazy-house contains ranges of small cells, having the single recommendation of strength, and are altogether unfit for the class of unfortunate beings to whose use they are appropriated. But this is not all, these insane cannot have fit care—*responsible* care and judicious management. One of the paupers, so far as *his education* and *capacity* enable him, takes the active charge, and is called "*the keeper.*" There are both men and women; and round about all the place are the irresponsible and the corrupt—corrupt in speech and in act. I believe that those who have charge of this poor-house, with all its appendages, seek to discharge their very onerous duties to the county and to the inmates; but they must possess rare gifts for discipline, and rare personal influence, if they are successful in maintaining here either morality or order. Taking into view the character of the largest portion of the inmates, and the construction of the buildings, I consider this to be absolutely impossible; yet this is the only resort the county affords, except the jail, for insane men and women. County-houses, except at immense expense, can never be made fit places for the reception of the insane; they will be mere receptacles, where starvation is prevented, but where deficient protection and aggravation of the malady are sure to be found.

BURLINGTON COUNTY JAIL, at *Mount Holly*, was in thoroughly good order, clean throughout, and evidently conducted by persons who understand how to maintain discipline. There were several prisoners.

BURLINGTON COUNTY POOR-HOUSE, near *Pemberton*, contained, in November, one hundred and thirty-four inmates: no school for the children; religious meetings sometimes. This establishment is directed by very respectable persons, qualified for the difficult place they fill. The house is well ordered, all the apartments very neat, well scrubbed and white-washed. Ventilation, as in almost every crowded dwelling, entirely insufficient, especially in the cold season, when stove fires are

kindled. I found here twenty-two insane—ten of these were occupants of the cells in the cellar, "or low basement." Here was a strange and woful contrast to the rooms above; the dreary confined cells, insufficiently lighted, insufficiently warmed, and pervaded with foul air to an intolerable degree, offer scenes at which humanity revolts. Here is a want of competent "care-takers," and a want of all, that to a humane mind appears necessary for the helpless and debased insane paupers. Here they are left to acquire or confirm brutal and brutalizing habits, which without control, exercise their destructive and offensive influence. "We have no other place for such as these," replied the master of the house, to my remarks upon the unfitness of the cells for those crazy *men and wowen:* "we need a State Hospital." Some feeble and incompetent persons were beginning to perform the necessary duties of arranging and cleansing the cells; a crazy woman was attempting to light a fire, for the morning was cold, and the place below somewhat damp. The mistress, who accompanied me to these dismal abodes, admonished some loiterers to be more alert in performing their tasks, but it seemed little likely these would be properly accomplished. I cannot hastily censure the superintendents of this establishment, for what was much amiss in this department of the otherwise highly creditable institution, and I shall be very slow to blame the visiting physician for neglect in prescribing for some cases evidently needing medical care; for I much doubt if prescriptions under such untoward outward circumstances would be of any avail, if even they would not be positively injurious. I cannot complain, either, that the county does not build a hospital; but there is a sin of omission somewhere.

Monmouth County Jail, at *Freehold*, is tolerably well arranged, and the apartments are sufficiently large and numerous to admit, in some sort, a classification of the prisoners. The only individual held there at the time of my visit, was a coloured man, who is represented not only as dangerous to be at large, but dangerous to "his keeper," being of late years subject to violent paroxysms, and when suffering under any injury, real or imaginary, both threatens and attempts personal violence. His history, as related by citizens in the county, is briefly this: He was from infancy of an eccentric and excitable temper, and was "brought up" by a family to which he was much attached, the master of which, perceiving a mental defect, avoided what disturbed his quiet, and by skilful management made him a faithful and useful servant. Death deprived him of this judicious guardian: he remained

with the family; but the son-in-law of his late master less well understood his mental disabilities, and how to manage him: the result was, that in dealing him a blow for some supposed neglect of duty, he instantly returned the attack, and was roused to a terrible excitement. The master, through fear, caused him to be committed on a charge of assault and battery, with intent to kill: he proved very ungovernable in the county jail, and, after a considerable time had passed, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to *ten years imprisonment* in the State Penitentiary. During all this dreary period, he was considered a "very crazy man," and of course, as the warden himself told me, came out worse than when he entered; "for how can we," continued he, "bring madmen under curative treatment in the prison, even if they are curable at all?" He received his discharge, poor fellow! what was he now to do? his heart yearned for his old home—the home of his "dear old master, who was dead and gone." True to the instincts of his nature, thither he wandered, for neither friends nor home had he beside; he was received, but his obvious insanity made him feared: indeed he was a dangerous inmate at times. He roamed over the fields and through the old familiar woodlands, gathering into heaps old wood, that "nothing should be wasted." On this ground, occasion was made to charge him with petty depredations: he was again committed to the county jail, and there I found him. The keeper said he was often "dangerous to approach, especially if long kept close." I have refrained from giving the details of this painful history: they are known to many of your citizens.

We have not dwelt upon his sufferings in the jail; we have not followed him to his dreary prison, and there looked into his cell, cheerless and lonely, as month after month, and year after year, the crazy man, incapable of occupation, and beyond the reach of appropriate care, wore away time till ten times twelve months were numbered. It is possible it may seem no great evil, such a life as this, just as here it is briefly touched upon, but it is terrible in its reality. The poor-house pauper, the wandering beggar, find the relief they seek, the aid they ask; but who are the friends of the insane poor, and what is the meed rendered to their necessities? What do our investigations reveal? kindly care, skilful remedies, guardian protection, or chains, bondage, and long imprisonment? mitigated suffering or unmitigated wo? Where is the hospital? for a hospital, behold I show you the cells of the poor-house, the dungeons of the prisons?

I have asked, who are the friends of the insane poor—few can effectually befriend them—this affecting christian duty devolves on *the state;* and the state will cancel this sacred obligation, only by acknowledging the wardship of these, the *Pariahs* of our country, and establishing an asylum for their protection.

Attached to the SHARK-RIVER POOR-HOUSE, in *Monmouth county*, is a farm of nine hundred acres, one hundred of which are cultivated. The cost of supporting the poor, is about sixty cents per week for each individual; the supplies appeared to me sufficient and of good quality, although the system of the distribution of provisions, and separate cooking in the lodging-rooms, is very objectionable; and the more so, as there is no infirmary or hospital department connected with the establishment. The sick, the infirm, and the imbecile, are indiscriminately distributed and associated. The house, which is built of wood, is very old and inconveniently constructed for the purpose for which it is occupied. It contains, in winter, about sixty paupers, gathered from three townships: in the spring, a portion of these seek maintenance elsewhere. At this poor-house I found, in November, forty inmates, chiefly aged and infirm persons, imbeciles, idiots, and insane: of the latter there are *seven idiotic, two whole idiots, two very insane,* and several demented.

In the vicinity of the main dwelling is a small brick building, containing on the first floor two poor cells, from eight to nine feet square, warmed in cold weather by a stove set into the dividing wall, or partition. A straw bed and blanket, spread upon the floor, constitute the furniture, if one except the *ring-bolts* and *iron chains for securing the patients!* Ventilation by a small window, is quite deficient. At the time of my visit, there was but one cell occupied: the crazy man was allowed to go abroad during the day, for it was "his calm time," and it was deemed necessary to fasten him up only at night; at present, too, the chains were disused. Over these cells was a third, which could be reached only by a ladder, "quite unfit," as I was told, "for any one to be kept in." A kind and considerate master and mistress directed this establishment.

I heard in this township, of three wandering insane persons, but learned nothing special of their history; little interest was expressed for them. Where they belonged, to whom they were allied, or what their name and degree, were facts equally obscure and equally uncared for.

At SHREWSBURY POOR-HOUSE, at the present time, are no cases of violently excited insane, and no accommodations for any such, if the superintendent should again be charged with the care of them. At one period they had great trouble with the unmanageable patients. A portion of the poor belonging to this township are boarded with one of the overseers, preferring that residence, to the regularly appointed poor-house. I understood one dollar per week was paid for their board, and am not sure if this charge included the cost of clothing; I think it did not. A crazy man had lived there; but, to employ the words of the mistress of the house, "he took worse in August, and would wander into the woods, absenting himself till hunger forced his return;"—hastily appeasing his appetite, he would again depart, and finally, "*he did not come back at all.*" "He was worse, wonderfully worse," said an old man sitting by, who listened to my inquiries with curiosity. "*Perhaps,*" resumed the mistress, "he has gone home to his friends—we lay out to write; we have talked of it for some time." "How long has he been gone, do you say?" "He went off in *August.*" It was now *November;*—a feeble insane man gone *three months* from the watch of those who had, officially, the care of him, and no diligent inquiry yet made; no search instituted, if perchance the perishing remains might be found in the forest, or the swollen disfigured corse given up by the returning tide in the Shark-river: no letter yet written to relations "at home," to learn if, in sickness and pain, he had reached the familiar fireside, and the few he had loved; or to acquaint those poor kindred that he was "missing," and they knew nothing of his fate. Fancy may busy itself concerning the probabilities of protracted suffering through pining debility, and the slow, painful approach of death; or it may picture the sudden, and almost unfelt termination of a miserable life: it may follow the, *perhaps*, yet living wanderer through difficult paths, and on weary journeys, now hungry, and cold, and confused, half comprehending evil, but not competent to combat with, or avoid it;—all this may fancy do; but *one* of these conditions must have been realized—*one was the sad true history.*

MIDDLESEX COUNTY JAIL, in *New Brunswick*, is in decent order, contains two apartments on the first floor, and a dungeon below. I found here but one prisoner; he occupied the same room with an idiotic or demented man, who had been committed here, either for his own safety, or the safety of others. Of his history, I could learn only this:

He was found wandering from place to place, and incapable of rendering any account of himself; the *jail* opened its strong doors to receive and *protect* him! I was informed, that insane persons were often brought to the jail, "and," added the speaker, "we should be glad to use them well, but this is a hard place for such; we can't deal justly by them here."

The Township Poor-house, in *North Brunswick*, contained sixteen paupers, several being of feeble and imbecile minds. Here were four children; no school; religious meetings held usually once a month. The house is neat and comfortable, but not sufficiently ventilated. A *wooden* building, opposite the dwelling-house, is appropriated to the insane: a passage ranges the entire length, on one side of which are the "crazy cells," which were four in number. These could, in moderate weather, be sufficiently warmed by a stove, which was placed in the passage opposite the wooden gratings, or barred doors of the cells. One cell was occupied by a crazy man, who at times was subject to furious madness. He was chained, and lying in a sort of box on the floor: as far as I could see, this was a sort of narrow pen, made by nailing two boards of unequal length to the floor and partition; it contained some straw and sufficient coverings. The condition of this man was repulsive and filthy:—one of the paupers had charge of him, and lodged in one of the cells to guard against fire—a needful precaution. I believe the superintendents of the poor-house do as well for him as they are able; it is a difficult task to change his garments, and wash, and shave him: there are times when this is considered quite impracticable. I saw him, they said, "at the best;" sometimes he was outrageous, uttering the most furious imprecations—threatening, by word and act, all who approached him. The cells measured six feet by ten, were lighted by a grated window, and could be tolerably ventilated.

The Poor-house in *Piscataway township*, in November, contained fifteen poor persons, comfortably provided for, and the house generally neat; there were several partially, and several altogether insane. One violent madman was chained in a small wooden building, which had been constructed for the purpose, a few hundred yards from the principal dwelling. This consisted of one strong dark room; a stove had been placed upon one side as remote from the chained man as possible, to guard from the dangers of his firing the building: this precaution had proved unavailing, he had twice contrived to put some straws into

contact with the stove, and the dry boards of the floor and partition readily taking fire, he was nearly suffocated by the smoke, and destroyed by burning. Some children playing nigh the place, saw the flames, and gave timely alarm. To guard against a similar danger, the stove was *enclosed*, so that it was absolutely inaccessible. This effectually prevented the recurrence of a fire, it is true, but at the same time also prevented all advantage from the heated stove. The room was cold and damp, and in itself entirely bare of all furniture; dark and dull, and utterly comfortless. The madman chained, naked, except a straight jacket laced so as to impede the motion of the arms and hands, exposed and filthy, now raging like an imprisoned tiger, of which he was no inapt type—now uttering the foulest, vilest language; for a moment soothed into quietness, then like a demon writhing and raving: these circumstances all presented a scene utterly horrible and appalling. "We try in vain," said the kind-hearted mistress, "to have him comfortable; we can neither keep him clothed nor warmed: the stove is of no use, and he destroys at once whatever is put in for bedding, thrusting it through the opening in the floor." "He suffers dreadfully," continued she, "and sometimes we are afraid he will die in some terrible manner, of cold, and wounds, and pain." This maniac, always dangerous, always difficult to manage, if placed in a hospital, would at least be made in some degree comfortable most of the time, and the lives of those who have charge of him would be no more in danger. The demoralizing influence of such a being, whose impure language continually reaches the ears of the children and others, is sufficient objection to his being at a poor-house.

The Poor-house at *Woodbridge*, nigh Matuchin, has one strong room where insane persons can be chained or shut up, according to their degree of violence. One had died some time past, who wore, for the safety of other inmates, the "secure chain." In the vicinity of Matuchin are three noisy idiotic children, and nigh, in different places, several epileptics, needing care they cannot receive, and dangerous during temporary excitement. These I did not see.

Essex County Jail, at *Newark*, is well built of stone, and adapted to carry out, by its construction, "the separate system;" but the *county does not require* either order, or classification, or the employment of offenders. Persons waiting trial, prisoners sentenced, of both sexes and all colours; the young, the children, old men, and men of middle age, all are promiscuously associated during the day, and can talk from

their cells by night. This intercourse is not for better or worse, for good or evil, for of the good there can be no trait ordinarily manifested here: the adept in crime, whose cunning and adroitness made him for a time successful, finds delight in initiating the juvenile offender, or the tyro, in the arts of larceny and burglary. Time must be killed somehow; here is no employment, and for those who read, nothing to read.—"We amuse ourselves in the only way we can," said a prisoner, "'*cutting up*' whenever we've a chance," "and telling good stories of our adventures and escapes—oh, that is good fun." How far imprisonment benefits society when offenders are thrown together under such circumstances, or how far their morals are improved, is not so fitly the question, as what is the harm done to society? what the increase of knowledge in guilt and sin to the prisoner? Most county jails in the United States are not places of reform, not places where the offender pauses in his career of evil—they are *positively and certainly schools of vice:* they confirm the vicious in vicious propensities; they educate the criminal to more successful criminal enterprises. In short, we cause transgressors to be for a time held in restraint, only to enlarge them, by-and-by, more thoroughly trained—to enter upon a new career of crime. Our county jails, in effect, are the primary schools, and the normal schools for the state prisons. In the jail at Newark, I particularly remarked a child, who was charged with a larceny, listening with delight to several adult prisoners, his seniors in crime as well as years: he was committed in *November*, and was to have his trial in *January*. He *had* learned his daily task without urging, and will need, by-and-by, no prompter when he brings the lessons he gets here by theory, into practice. Who is blameworthy if this boy becomes an accomplished rogue? himself or the community? the whole, or the integral members of society?

In this jail are two madmen, so furious and troublesome, at times, that it is a labor of great difficulty to keep them in any degree of order. They appear almost incapable of self-care, and whether we consider the office of the warden, the prisoners who are waiting trial, or the insane themselves, we feel the positive injustice to all parties in the jail detention of these maniacs. They certainly are, at all times, unfit and unsafe to be at large, manifesting both property-destroying and homicidal propensities; they have already jeopardized the life of the warden.

The poor of Essex County, are sustained in their several townships, some in poor-houses, others "set off to the lowest bidder," or those who agree to take them for a given time, at the lowest rates. *Newark* has a poor-house, a short distance from the town. It is a small establishment, some parts of which were tolerably neat and comfortable, while other portions of the house, especially some of the lodging-rooms, were in a miserable and dirty state. Here, in November, were twenty-nine inmates—eleven men, eleven women, and seven children. At the time of my visit, there was but one person here very insane—this was a woman, who was kept in an out-house in the yard. The room measured about nine feet by twelve, and nine high; it was lighted by a window, and *could be* ventilated by opening this, and the door. Neither was the room clean, nor the occupant.

As the place cannot be safely warmed by a stove, I was told it would be necessary to remove the unfortunate maniac to the main building when the cold weather should render a fire absolutely wanted, to prevent suffering from frost. But in the main building, already fully occupied, I could see no apartment either safe or convenient for an insane person subject to high excitement, and having habits which would convert any place into a nuisance. As I examined the premises, the children were gathered listening, as other of the inmates, to the impure language of this miserably degraded creature; such were *their* early lessons in morals and manners.

Two insane patients had lately been removed from this alms-house to Bloomingdale Asylum, near New York, where three dollars per week are paid for their board and nursing, one being at the public charge, the other, a female, supported by her son. I heard of many cases of insanity in Essex county, but not all, I should judge, suitable subjects for hospital care; there were numbers in private families, whose friends have felt unwilling to send them out of the state, but would rejoice to pay all their necessary expenses in a well conducted hospital in their own part of the country.

There is near *Elizabethtown*, a poor-house, which has at present eighteen poor; one insane man, has been removed to Bloomingdale, recently, (January.) The children have no school—and the farm is too remote from any public school, to allow attendance. I understand the house is usually well ordered, and the farm well conducted. An insane female occasionally wanders through Elizabethtown, whose

singular appearance attracts idle and thoughtless boys to tease and irritate her.

In HUDSON COUNTY, is a well built jail, but at the time I was there, not entirely finished nor occupied. A few miles from Jersey City, is a small establishment for the poor, where I found a number of aged and infirm men and women—one epileptic, a female, who appeared to suffer much pain, and also a helpless blind man. The place was not altogether so clean or comfortable as it might have been; but the greatest objection is to be found in the situation of this poor-house, which is difficult of access, approachable only by a very circuitous, and at some seasons, almost impassable road.

Probably some enlarged and better plan will, at no distant time, be adopted in this county, for the sustenance and employment of such of the poor as are disabled or unfortunate.

In BERGEN COUNTY JAIL, at *Hackensack*, I found two prisoners—no insane. This jail has been much complained of. I saw it in tolerable order, but of the food and treatment of the prisoners I had no means of judging. On the first floor were four rooms of good size—the dungeons below are seldom used. I heard of several idiots and insane in the county, but did not see them. A case of moral insanity was related to me by an intelligent and able lawyer of Hackensack, who lamented there was no State Asylum, as the courts, for the public security, were often compelled to send irresponsible offenders to the penitentiary, who in fact were only fit subjects for an insane hospital. The man above referred to was totally incapable of applying his faculties to procure the means of self-support, was also of feeble health, and when through moral perversity, committing petty depredations, had not sense enough to apply them for his own advantage, nor any interest in promoting the bad or mischievous purposes of others. He is at present in the penitentiary at Trenton, for the third time.

There is no poor-house in *Bergen county*. The poor are placed in those families who agree to receive them at the lowest prices. "Sometimes they fare tolerably well," said a citizen, "oftener, I am afraid, their condition is of the hardest." The infirm and sick (the very class who most claim care and kindness) suffer most under such a system.

The JAIL AT PATERSON, *Passaic county*, is well built of stone, and might be made to serve some good ends, both to prisoners and society, if a fit moral influence and employment for sentenced prisoners, and separation for all, were introduced and firmly enforced. The prison was tolerably neat, contains twenty cells of reasonable size, and a strong room or dungeon. The separate system, the only hopeful reformatory system, especially in a jail, as distinguished from a state prison, might here be very advantageously adopted.

The system for the support of the poor in this county, is not worse than in many other counties, but seems to be a little worse carried out, as far as I could reach the facts. There is a poor-house—poor in every sense—in Paterson; but most of the towns in the county, place their poor where they will be taken care of the *cheapest and best, for the public purse.* The object and end of this social charity seems to be very often overlooked. The establishment where I found the paupers of Paterson congregated, is something more than a mile from town, and is the most ill-ordered place I have seen in the state of New Jersey; in fact I have seen nothing that could, with any show of justice, be adduced to compare with it. The town, I was given to understand, once owned the farm; but it had been sold to an individual, who rents it to an Irishman, and who, on his part, takes the poor of the town to board—the adults for a dollar a week each, the children, I think, at a reduced price. The house is old and dilapidated; perhaps it has received a coat of white-wash since it was first built, but this is conjectural. Two or three small apartments were more decent than the others, but the occupied rooms were positively loathsome. The inmates uttered no complaints—perhaps they were satisfied. Several were insane and idiotic—none violent at present; for such, if there should be any, *chains had been provided by the town*, but I saw no room or cell where they could be placed. The master was civil and good-natured. I have no doubt he is kind, and *as far as he knows how*, fulfils his obligations. If the citizens of Paterson are satisfied to support such a place, at such cost, governed by an incompetent agent, the individual employed is not blameworthy. But I know that all the citizens are not satisfied. Some of the most intelligent are earnest for a better ordering of these affairs; money enough, and more than enough is appropriated, but it is not judiciously appropriated. "Our poor-house," writes a correspondent in Passaic county, whose respectability and professional ability entitle him to influence, "our poor-house is wretched, and our poor are wretchedly managed, at a cost of over *three thousand dollars annually* to our town." "The condition of the insane poor among us, and

in New Jersey at large, has been a disgrace to a people claiming even the name of Christian." I believe if attention is effectually roused to inquire into this subject, the startling facts which would be revealed on all sides, would quicken to immediate and zealous action all who may now entertain doubts of the greatness of these miseries, and the grossness of these abuses.

Morris County Jail, at *Morristown*, seemed to be well ordered, and was in general clean; there were several prisoners in November, but at present no insane. One some time since was removed, and is, I am informed, cared for, not readily and willingly by his kindred, who would, I assert it upon authority, have preferred his incarceration in the State Penitentiary to the trouble of taking care of him, and the expense superadded!

The Morris County Poor-house, is in *Hanover township*, several miles from Morristown, and in November numbered *one hundred and ten* inmates: it was generally clean and decently furnished, and so far as I had the opportunity of learning, was well conducted by the superintendents in all its general arrangements. A separate building for the sick and infirm is much needed. There was here no school for the children, but religious exercises sometimes. Here were several imbeciles, five insane, and one of the latter class who had lately absconded, it was supposed, might be returned. Sometimes there are cases of violently excited maniacs here. For such I found two cells in a cellar, constructed of plank and boards. These dreary places were seven and a half feet high, by eight square; dark, damp, and unfurnished, unwarmed and unventilated—one would not hesitate, but refuse to shut up here a worthless dog even; and so felt the master of the house and physician, who prefer *the alternative of chaining* the patients with *clogs* and *fetters*, to the responsibility and inhumanity of putting them into these savage dens. A small aperture cut at the end of one of these cells, some time ago occasioned the involuntary death of the crazy tenant, who thrusting his head through in his eagerness to escape, could not withdraw it, and hanging there died. A female maniac died in the adjoining cell, since which I believe they have been disused. "This," said the keeper, "is not the place for crazy people; we have no means of properly controlling the outrageous, or of taking fit care of those who are more quiet." The physician, who was present, expressed in strong terms, his conviction of

the need of a State Hospital; his practice revealed cases claiming urgently such care as these institutions only can furnish.

The Jail in Sussex county is described to me as "an old, inconvenient building, uninclosed, and insecure; and affording so few accommodations ordinarily to the prisoners, that but for extraordinary care on the part of the jailor, their health would suffer, especially in the inclement seasons of the year." No order or separation of any of the prisoners is secured.

The County Poor-house is said to be well managed, but cases of much suffering are detailed both before and since the establishment of this institution. Sometimes a greater care is taken to procure a competent farmer, than consideration for securing the services of a well-judging and humane "care-taker" of the paupers. If any neglect be admitted, we think, it should not be of the feeble, the sick, the aged, and the insane. Kindness should surround those who are cast into that large class of whom it is declared in the Scriptures, that they "shall be always with us," and whom we are commanded to feed, and to clothe, and to administer diligently to all their necessities.

Warren county, as Sussex, I did not reach. I am informed there is a decently kept jail, and a county poor-house, which is considered by those who have visited it, to be under good direction. The number of insane reported in the county at large, was fifty-eight, five years since.

Somerset County Jail was in tolerable order; the beds were in bunks, and not as is frequent, cast upon the floor; there were several prisoners, but at present no insane.

There is no county poor-house, and in general the poor are distributed in private families; several of the townships, however, own poor-farms. I visited that near *Somerville*, where I found nineteen inmates, several insane and idiotic, but none at present violent. An insane female had been committed to the care of a neighboring farmer, to assist his wife in the household labor. There are several insane in neighboring towns. In some respects this house was comfortable, the lodging-rooms were better than usual. It might be well if more attention were given to some domestic arrangements. The master appeared interested to perform his duty, so far as it was made plain, and kindly disposed towards those of whom he had the charge.

The Poor-house in *Franklin township*, is clean and respectably ordered: here, in November, were twenty-four inmates; in winter

the average is from thirty-five to forty; often half of these are children, such as are of suitable age are sent to the district schools.—Religious teaching is given about once a month. No insane at present, but a female, for whom "*strong chains had been sent,*" and a room prepared, had been expected: she was very noisy, and violent in speech and act, but her family decided to try and keep her at home awhile longer,—"though it was almost more than they knew how to do or bear." "We have no fit place for crazy folks," concluded the mistress of the house.

MERCER COUNTY JAIL, visited several times, I have always found in general good order, and but few prisoners; perhaps its good order is chiefly ascribable to the latter fact, as there are no arrangements for rendering it more subservient to good morals, than other county prisons in the state or the Union.

MERCER has no county poor-house; the poor, as in Somerset and other counties, are variously provided for. *Trenton* has a poor-house, a few miles from the city. This is a remarkably neat and comfortable establishment, and had in November, fifteen inmates, chiefly aged and infirm persons. A good farm is attached, of ninety-one acres, and is profitably cultivated; such of the inmates as are able, assist in the out-door work and domestic labour. Here is an insane female of middle age, said to be incurable, and not long since returned, after three months' residence in the Pennsylvania Hospital, in Blockley. She is a stout, athletic woman, was neatly dressed, and altogether clean and quiet when I saw her. She had been assisting at the wash-house, and appeared so well that one would hardly remark any thing peculiar in her manners. The mistress of the house informed me that she was liable to terrible paroxysms, and that when excited the lives of the family were in peril. But a short time previous she had suddenly rushed upon herself, seized her by the throat, and endeavored to strangle her. Providentially some persons nigh, were able to afford succour, and with difficulty she was removed. She was dangerous whenever her wishes were in the slightest degree opposed.

The house is small, and inconveniently constructed for separating or classifying the inmates. The crazy woman, above named, is lodged in an apartment on the second floor, entered by passing through the old men's sleeping room. In a bed next to hers, separated by a slight partition-screen, is a helpless paralytic woman, and her husband,

who is quite feeble. In the same room a third bed is occupied, *I think*, by an infirm old man. So here are these poor invalids at the mercy of this often furious and noisy mad-woman, who rends off her garments, and utters imprecations and obscene language that appal all within hearing. "It is the only room we have to put her in," said the mistress; "we do not know what may happen among us any day; she may commit a murder, or burn the house; in short, we are in her power; but we do as well as we can; we are afraid to make her angry, and let her have her own will pretty much."

The cases of insanity in private families, some of which are blessed with affluence, and others borne down by the depressing influences of poverty and misfortune conjoined, are numerous. Many painful details have reached me, which I have not felt at liberty to record with other cases represented in this memorial, since I have no right to give precision to my facts, by designating names and locations. Almost daily some new history reaches me, and there must be a far greater number of which I know nothing

The following cases have lately been related on authority:

A farmer in the northern part of the state has an insane son, who most of the time is chained up like a ferocious dog, and occasionally, in his least excited state, is released, or breaks away, roaming abroad, to the terror of the whole neighborhood. Sometimes he rends off his apparel, utters the most alarming imprecations; now threatening to take his own life; now denouncing a terrible fate to others. His sufferings at times are most dreadful: he moans, he weeps, he fills the air with groans of anguish; and one would believe that life itself must yield under such miseries. In the moving language of Scripture he might say: "friends and acquaintance are put far away, and mine own familiar friend hath forsaken me."

I always remark that, however insane a man may be, the humiliation of being loaded with chains, and of wearing manacles and fetters, is deeply felt. How should it be otherwise. A man does not of course altogether lose his perceptive faculties, his memory, his discriminating powers, because his brain is diseased—the mind oftenest is able to express itself through some of the faculties which are least impaired, or held in check by disease, and so the malady is ever aggravated by *severity, unkindness, blows, and the use of chains.* Said a poor maniac, whose fetters and manacles I caused to be

removed, and whose aching, bruised limbs I chafed and bathed, "Ah, now I am treated like a human creature. God is good—He sends you to set me free; I will pray for you forever!"

Another, whom I was so fortunate as to have removed to a situation of greater comfort, and to supply some of the common necessaries of common life, said, raising his trembling arms reverently, "God's spirit bids this message to you, saying, it is his work you are doing; lo, it shall prosper in your hands!"

Another who had been removed from a situation of extreme degradation, and who was rapidly recovering under judicious hospital treatment, when I last took leave of her, having in answer to her inquiry, replied "I was going" to New Jersey and Pennsylvania to seek out the afflicted, raised herself and said, in tones not to be forgotten: "God himself finds your work." It was not many months since she had been taken from the wretched cell of a poor-house. One female, whose scarred limbs bore marks of the cankering iron, worn for many weary years, said: "I could curse those who chain me like a brute beast; and I do too; but sometimes the *soft voice* says, 'Pray for thine enemy,' and this it *sings* often while the sun shines on the poor mind; but darkness comes, and then the thoughts are evil continually, and the soul is black!"

In the western part of New Jersey is a young man, long insane, closely confined in a poor, cold, comfortless room or shed, near his father's house. There chained, half clothed, without fire or bed, or any soothing influence, he raves, blasphemes, and shrieks till his strength yields under the consuming frenzy; the *irons* have *worn into the flesh to the very bone;* sore and bleeding, the lacerated limbs are inflamed and swollen. Now, in his anguish he shouts, he implores for some merciful hand to terminate at once his life and his sufferings; then wrought to furious rage, he threatens destruction to all who approach. How merciful would be the kind influence of hospital care to this miserable young man.

Not distant from the capital of New Jersey, is a wretched female, whose insanity now disqualifies her from gaining, by honest industry, a respectable and comfortable subsistence. She is exceedingly troublesome, and to be rid of inconvenience, the family with whom she was placed, *kept her in the smoke house!* When released, after many months confinement there, her condition was loathsome to the last

degree; and she seemed, said my informant, a respectable citizen, not to have been furnished either with a change of raiment, or the means of ablution during many months. She was ravenously hungry, and devoured with avidity the food she begged from door to door. "What will become of the poor wretch finally, we cannot tell," continued my informant; "she is a dangerous inmate, and few are willing to have her lodge beneath their roof. She may be frozen some of these cold nights, or she may be given up to a more terrible destiny." Ye whose tears start at the narration of fictitious woes, have ye no availing sympathies for real miseries like these; for griefs which words fail to represent: for abject degradation which imagination is dull to conceive.

Not twenty miles from Trenton is another female, whose condition is little less revolting and shocking. She has relatives, and a shelter; but a shelter which conceals, not lessens misery. Filthy, neglected, cold and cheerless, life wears on; each day renews the troubles of that which has past. There she lies in wretchedness and want, festering amidst the damp, decaying straw, which conceals the damp, decaying floor. Here approaches no humanizing influence, no restoring care. There is no hospital in New Jersey.

Some of my readers will recollect, in one of the interior counties, to have seen about thirty paces removed from the highway, a small rude hovel, constructed of stone, having upon one end, lateral with the road, a narrow opening. If the place is examined it will be found to contain a heap of straw, and in this lair is a dismal looking creature, chained, and filthy, and desolate—it is a crazy man!

A young man, connected respectably, became insane; the case, if timely treated, offered all hope of cure. He was suffered to ramble for a long period over the neighborhood, alarming and incommoding every family. At length he assaulted his sister, and this was deemed an intimation of such dangerous propensities, that he was committed to jail, charged with assault; he was long detained there, "and was," to use the language of the jailor, "a nuisance to the family, and often so disturbed the proceedings of the court, when in session in the hall above, that it was determined he should have his discharge." At this late period, the board of freeholders decided to send him to one of the hospitals in Pennsylvania. After a year, he not recovering, "the cost was counted," and thought too great to justify a longer trial, and he was recalled to his own home. Here he is now, except he is "wandering"

as sometimes, and is regarded, very rightly, as a person dangerous to the community, and disposed to mischief, when thwarted in his wishes. He threatens both life and property, and often extorts, through the fears of those he importunes, what would be denied to his necessities or his fancies.

In a not distant county, not long since, a young girl froze to death in the cold, wretched garret of her father's house; where abandoned to every neglect, except starvation, she for three years lingered on through sufferings which we can find no language to describe. *Found dead* one severe cold morning, and frozen stiff, amidst heaps of filthy straw, at one end of the remote garret; people contented themselves with saying, " 't was strange she lived so long!"

Another case, somewhat similar, in another of your counties, occurred about the same time; a wife and mother, became insane; she was shut up for safety, instead of being removed to a hospital—and she too froze to death!

Two others, tortured by agonies which were not alleviated as they might have been, shortened their most wretched existence by suicide.

Citizens of New Jersey, have you human feelings, and can you delay this work which is solicited for the benefit of those who are, in the providence of God, *cast on your care?* who are emphatically your wards, the wards of the state; for whose condition hereafter you are certainly accountable—inasmuch as you are largely able to provide such a refuge for the unfriended, and asylum for the diseased, as their forlorn condition requires. "As ye mete to others so shall ye receive." "I will have *mercy* and not sacrifice, saith Jehovah." And is it not now as of old, upon the *merciful* that the benign benediction of the Saviour rests, declaring to us, as to the early disciples, "*blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!*"

I might record volumes, in place of a few pages of briefly told individual histories; but to what purpose is it to multiply these most painful, and too often revolting narratives, which exhibit variations only of like sufferings and humiliations, from which the shuddering spectator turns away, and of which he long and vainly desires forgetfulness?

Of the insane in the State Penitentiary, I have ascertained satisfactorily, that the largest part *have been committed in that condition.* I have myself seen and traced the history of some of those who have been sent from the counties of Gloucester, Salem, Burlington, Monmouth, Mercer, Essex, and Bergen. These all had propensities which ranked them with the most dangerous class of patients, and altogether unfit to be at large. Some were homicidal, others disposed to destroy buildings by fire, others again coveted property belonging to others, which when possessed, was no longer desirable, and applied in no way to their personal use.

Hannah, a coloured girl, was convicted in Passaic county, of burning a barn, in November term, 1844, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. She appears to be idiotic, or at least, has not common sense.

Hezekiah Churchman was put into the Blockley Alms-house, as a pauper, and by some means escaped, and came to the county of Burlington, where he was convicted in August, 1843, of burglary, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment; he appears quite silly, but perfectly harmless.

Richard Walton, from Burlington county, convicted of an atrocious assault and battery, at the August term, 1844, and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. Walton was in the poor-house of the county, at the time the crime was committed. He appears to be an idiot.

John Taylor, from Morris county, was convicted of burglary on the 14th of July, 1840, and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. He has not done any kind of work since his commitment, and for the last two years, has not spoken.

Joseph Ryerson, a negro from Bergen county, was convicted the third time for horse stealing. He is idiotic, and was sentenced on the 25th of January, 1844, for the term of ten years.

John W. Taylor, was convicted of an atrocious assault and battery in Monmouth county jail, where he had been sent as a madman, too dangerous to be allowed liberty, having already committed arson and murder. On the 27th of July, 1839, he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. He has not been employed at any business since his sentence; is quite troublesome at times, and very frequently annoys the other prisoners in the hall, where his cell is, and disturbs religious worship on Sunday, by his shouts and violent movements.

The inconsistencies of the jurisprudence of insanity are beginning to clear away. We have too long followed the absurdities of the English law, which, equally unphilosophical and contradictory, has, while professing to extend its protection to the insane, at the same time condemned them to jails and penitentiaries, to transportation or the

gallows. Strange to say, the French are here again in advance of us. How humane and clear this simple principle of their code: "*Il n'y a ni crime ni delit lorsque le prevenu etait en etat de demence au temps de l'action.*" Neither is there crime nor offence when the accused, at the time of the act, was in a state of insanity. In the penal code of Louisiana, compiled by the Hon. Edward Livingston, we find a similar clearness and precision. In the criminal code of New York the same distinctness is preserved: "No act done by a person in a state of insanity can be punished as an offence, and *no insane person can be tried and sentenced to any punishment*, or punished for any crime or offence committed in that state." Why should not these sound principles be adopted into all our statute books? Why should any enlightened state retain this remnant of a barbarous age?

Successive acts of parliament are doing something better for the United Kingdoms.

The provincial parliament of Canada has accepted memorials, giving the subject full and fair discussion, and, as a measure towards abolishing this harsh feature of their criminal jurisprudence, has made liberal appropriations for the erection and endowment of a Lunatic Hospital, which shall gather the unfortunate patients from the jails and provincial prisons, where I have seen them reduced to the most forlorn and abject conditions. Here, in the United States, we annually witness progress: one state after another is detecting the errors of their several penal codes, and reforming them upon a more humane plan. The custom of sending insane prisoners for a term of years to your State Penitentiary, has brought, and is still bringing, reproach upon a system wisely and humanely conceived, and which, if carried into practice with fidelity on the part of all the officers of the institution, is capable of producing benefits to society and individuals, beyond any plan for prison government ever yet adopted. But the discipline of your prison is perpetually interfered with through the presence of insane prisoners, whose wants and peculiarities cannot be ministered to by officers whose principal duties require quite an opposite order of qualifications. The extreme injustice and cruelty of this practice to the insane themselves, will hardly bear comment, but demands redress.

The establishment of hospitals for the insane has, within the last century, become so general among all civilized and christianized nations, that the neglect of this duty seems to involve aggravated culpability, and a just appreciation of the claims of humanity, which can find neither justification nor apology. In past ages, it was believed that insanity was a *disease of the mind*, of the mind peculiarly, and distinct from the physical condition. Most of the ancient nations received the idea, that insanity was produced by supernatural agencies; that it was a just judgment from Heaven, directly visited upon the individual, or his parents and family: in short, that it was a judicial infliction from the Supreme Being—hence tortures, chains, and incarceration in gloomy dungeons; and hence derision and degradation, loathing and contumely. And so men argued, 'shall those who receive no mercy from the Just One, not also be cast out; and shall we cherish those abandoned ones whom the Almighty has forsaken?' This terrible error gradually gave place to more humane views, and in the middle ages we recognize the first slow advances in the cause of these poor sufferers. St. Vincent de Paul, that pious, self-sacrificing Apostle, became "*the providence* of God," to soften the hearts of European nations towards the oppressed maniac, and the neglected idiot. With an unquenchable zeal, he traversed vast regions, sustained by a holy charity, teaching men, that to be humane, was to be allied to Deity. He rescued thousands from terrible tortures, and kindled sympathies for the miserable, which, transmitted with increase, from generation to generation, to our own times, have wrought the salvation of thousands and tens of thousands. The monks, to whom for a long period, in Italy and other Catholic countries, the insane were consigned, both for medical and spiritual treatment, through much error, finally attained to a more rational treatment of this fearful malady. Lashes, at one period daily inflicted to subdue paroxysms, were in some places superseded by less severe discipline. But it remained for France to exhibit the first effectual systematic efforts in behalf of the insane. It was in France, first, that thousands of maniacs were brought under control by the influence of *firmness* and *kindness;* and manacles and fetters, and the blood-imbrued lash, were banished from hospitals and asylums, where they so long had been the rule of government.

It is to Pinel, the great and good Pinel, a physician attending at the hospital of the Bicetre, two miles south of Paris, that we owe this first great triumph of humanity and skill, over ferocity and ignorance.—For the history of this glorious achievement, I briefly translate and

abridge a passage from a memoir, read by the son of Pinel before the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences.

"Near the close of the year 1792, M. Pinel, having repeatedly importuned the government to issue a decree permitting him to unchain the maniacs at the Bicetre, went in person to solicit what had been refused to his written representations. With courage and resolution he urged the removal of this cruel abuse. At length, M. Couthon, member of the commune, yielded to the importunate arguments of Pinel, and consented to meet him at the hospital, to witness these first experiments, as well as to assure himself that this was not a stratagem to give liberty to political offenders. Couthon proceeded, himself, to question the patients, but received only abuse and execrations, accompanied by terrible cries and the clanking of chains. Retreating from the damp and filthy cells, he exclaimed to Pinel, 'Do as you will; but you will be sacrificed to this false sentiment of mercy.' Pinel delayed no longer: he selected fifty, who he believed might be released from their chains without danger to others. The fetters were removed, first, from twelve, using the precaution of having prepared strong jackets, closing behind, with long sleeves, which could be used if necessary.

"The experiments commenced with an English captain, whose history was unknown: *he had been in chains forty years!* As he was thought to be one of the most dangerous, having killed, at one time, an attendant with a blow from his manacles, the keepers approached him with caution; but first Pinel entered his cell unattended. 'Ah, well captain, I will cause your chains to be taken off; you shall have liberty to walk in the court, if you will promise to behave like a gentleman, and offer no assault to those you will meet.' 'I would promise,' said the maniac; 'but you deride me, you are amusing yourself at my expense; you all fear me, once free.' 'I have six men,' replied Pinel, 'ready to obey my orders: believe me, therefore, I will set you free from this duresse, if you will put on this jacket.' The captain assented; the chains were removed, and the jacket laced;—the keepers withdrew, without closing the door. He raised himself, but fell: this effort was repeated again and again; the use of his limbs, so long constrained, nearly failed: at length, trembling, and with tottering steps, he emerged from his dark dungeon. *His first look was at the sky!* 'Ah,' cried he, 'how beautiful!' The remainder of the day he was

constantly moving to and fro, uttering continually exclamations of pleasure;—he heeded no one: *the flowers, the trees, above all the sky,* engrossed him. At night he voluntarily returned to his cell, which had been cleansed, and furnished with a better bed: his sleep was tranquil and profound. For the two remaining years which he spent in the hospital, he had no recurrence of violent paroxysms, and often rendered good service to the keepers, in conducting the affairs of the establishment.

"The patient released next after the captain, was Chevinge, a soldier of the French Guards, who had been chained ten years, and had been peculiarly difficult of control. Pinel, entering his cell, announced, that if he would obey his injunctions he should be chained no longer. He promised, and following every movement of his liberator, executed his directions with alacrity and address. Never, in the history of the human mind, was exhibited a more sudden and complete revolution; he executed every order with exactness; and this patient whose best years had been sacrificed in a gloomy cell, in chains and misery, soon showed himself capable of being one of the most useful persons about the establishment. He repeatedly during the horrors of the revolution saved the life of his benefactor. On one occasion, he encountered a band of '*sans culottes*' who were bearing Pinel to 'the Lanterne,' owing to his having been an elector in 1789. With bold and determined purpose he rescued his beloved master, aud caused that life to be spared which had been so great a blessing to the insane in France.

"In the third cell were three Prussian soldiers, who had been for many years in chains, *but how or for what they had been committed none knew;* they were not dangerous, and seemed capable of enjoying the indulgence of living together. They were terrified at the preparations for their release, fearing new severities awaited them. Sunk into dementia, they were indifferent to the freedom offered.

"An aged priest came next; he fancied himself to be the Messiah. Taunted once with the exclamation, that if in truth he was Christ, he could break his chains, he answered with solemnity, "*Frustra tentas Dominum tuum!*" Religious exaltation had characterized his life. On foot he had made pilgrimages to Rome and Cologne; he had made a voyage to the western world to convert savage tribes. This ruling idea passed into mania, and returning to France, he declared

that he was Christ, the Saviour. He was arrested on the charge of blasphemy, and taken before the archbishop of Paris, by whose decree he was consigned to the Bicetre, as either a blasphemer or a madman. Loaded with heavy chains, he for twelve years bore patiently sarcasm and cruel sufferings. Pinel had the happiness to witness *his recovery in less than a year*, and to discharge him from the hospital quite cured.

"In the short period of a few days, Pinel released from their chains more than fifty maniacs, men of various ranks and conditions, merchants, lawyers, priests, soldiers, labourers—thus rendering the furious tractable, and creating peace and contentment, to a wonderful degree, where long the most hideous scenes of tumult and disorder had reigned."

But the efforts of Pinel for the relief of the insane were not limited to the Bicetre; at La Salpetriere, a ward bears his name, continually reminding the visitor of what France and the insane owe to this great philanthropist.

The improved method of treating the insane, soon extended to England. Reforms were projected, investigations instituted, and the work advanced, if not rapidly, surely. The Retreat at York, distinguished for its humane influences, was founded by the Society of Friends, who, rich in good works, have always been prompt to sustain humane institutions, and advance enterprises for ameliorating the sufferings which beset humanity. The Hanwell Asylum obtained a celebrity, under Sir William C. Ellis, which has been advanced and sustained by Dr. Connolly.

In Germany, the principles and discipline of Pinel, and his coadjutor, Esquirol, have been established by Heinroth, who has recently died, leaving an example of humanity and fidelity which his pupils and successors hasten to imitate. The asylum at Seigburg, on the Rhine, under Jacobi, whose law and practice was "kindness and firmness," ranks among the best in the European world. The asylums for the insane in Italy have attained a high reputation, contrasted with those of former years.

The rapid diffusion of correct principles and improved modes of treating the insane in the United States, within the last twenty years, is too well known to render any historical detail of our asylums necessary here. New hospitals are annually founded, and old establishments remodelled, and made to keep pace with the rapid improvements of the age. They are superintended by skilful physicians of intelligent minds, and most of them distinguished in their profession, who spend the strength of their best years in advancing the cause of humanity. They "spend and are spent" in the noble effort to heal or mitigate those diseases which derange the healthful functions of the brain, and thus disturb the reasoning faculties and perceptions. The very onerous duties of the superintending physician of a hospital for the insane, and, indeed, of all official persons connected with these institutions, can be appreciated only by those who are very familiar with the routine of their daily duties. We may, with a just pride, rejoice that we have hospitals which will bear a close, and very favorable comparison with any in the old world, and these directed by men whose abilities give distinction to the institutions over which they preside.

I have confidence in hospital care for the insane, and in no other care, which, under the most favorable circumstances even, can be brought to surround the patient. Insanity is a malady which requires treatment appropriate to its peculiar and varied forms; the most skilful physicians in general practice, are among the first to recommend their patients to hospital treatment, and however painful it may be to friends to yield up the sufferer to the care of strangers, natural tenderness and sensibilities never should stand in the way of ultimate benefit to the patient. And if this care is needed for the rich, for those whose homes abound in every luxury which wealth can purchase, and refined habits covet, how much more is it needed for those who are brought low by poverty, and are destitute of friends? for those who find refuge under this calamitous disease only in jails and poor-houses, or perchance, in the cells of a State Penitentiary?

But suppose the jail to afford comfortable apartments, decently furnished, and to be directed by an intelligent and humane keeper—advantages not frequently brought together; what then? is not a jail built to detain *criminals*, bad persons, who willingly and wilfully transgressing the civil and social laws, are for these offences, for a time imprisoned? where is the propriety, where the justice, of bringing under the same condemnation, conscious offenders, and persons *not* guilty of crime, *but labouring under disease?* There is as much justice in conveying to our prisons a man lingering in a consumption, or pining under a consuming fever, as in taking there one who has lesion of the brain, or organic malconstruction. It is more than time

this unchristian abuse should cease. In this respect, New York offers an example it would be honourable for this and other states to adopt: insane persons and idiots are not to be found in the jails of that state.

The law there, prohibits the incarceration of the insane in the jails, but does not reach the unfortunate madmen in the penitentiaries at Auburn and Sing-Sing. In Massachusetts, a bill has passed making provision for the insane in the state prison; but it abandons them to the gracious hospitalities and tender mercies of the county jails. Many are dangerous to society when at large, others are troublesome or "in the way," and may be found herded with the thief and the felon. Nor is this the only injustice—the keepers of jails in Massachusetts, and many other of the states, have shown me how much the sufferings of these afflicted creatures, are enhanced by the perverse dispositions of the prisoners, whose vicious amusement is often found in teasing and tormenting them. In one county jail it was a favorite pastime of the prisoners, to place strips of board upon rollers, and compel the insane and the idiots to jump upon them, when the rollers would be put in motion, and the subjects of this inhuman sport, were thrown upon the stone floor, often with so much violence, as to produce contusions, and in all cases injuries, either moral or physical.

The disposition to annoy and distress insane and imbecile persons, is not confined to our jails; it is exhibited in the poor-houses, and often witnessed, sometimes accompanied by fatal consequences, on the streets and highways.

If prisons are unfit for the insane, under ordinary circumstances, poor-houses are certainly not less so. Overseers of the poor, the superintendents of the poor-houses, and the poor themselves, are all perplexed and disturbed by the difficulties, the inconvenience, and the impropriety of such a residence for the insane.

Poor-houses, which have for their object the comfort of the aged, the helpless, and the invalid poor, are often so complex in their arrangements and objects, that the purpose of their establishment is lost sight of. Seldom planned with a view to the proper separation and classification of the inmates, order and morality are with difficulty maintained. When to the care of providing for a large and miscellaneous family, is joined the charge of a farm, on the part of the master, and the most various and burthensome duties on that of the mistress of the house, it is not surprising that the difficult task of managing the insane

and the idiots, should soonest be neglected, and soonest produce troubles which few have the patience and skill to sustain. Beside, it should be remembered, that while many are capable of judiciously directing an extensive poor-house establishment, very few have either the tact or experience requisite for rightly managing the insane. While in all the northern states, and some of the middle and southern, that is to say, in all the states I have yet visited, I have found almost every form and variety of misery, produced by what many would term abuse, and outrage, and the grossest neglects, I can say, with sincerity, that most of the sufferings and neglects to which I have found the insane exposed, have been not (so much) the result of hard-hearted brutality, as of ignorance, and want of qualification for discharging those duties, and absolute perplexity as to the mode of rendering the objects of their cares, either tranquil or comfortable. Many have truly believed, that an insane man or woman was no better than a mere brute, and less easy to take care of; they have not supposed them susceptible of emotions of pain or pleasure, capable of being controlled through kind influences, or of being restored through any cares they could bestow. It is very frequent, I have found it so, especially in the county-houses of this state, and many in Pennsylvania, that almost the only objections which could be advanced against them, under the present general system, were to be found in the truly deplorable condition of the insane and idiotic inmates. We repeat of poor-houses what we have asserted of prisons—the insane *cannot* be suitably cared for in any such establishments.

Perhaps one cause for the unwillingness felt by some, to promote the establishment of hospitals for the insane, is a doubt of the curability of the malady, or of the superior advantage of hospital treatment over private practice. Such doubts are fast passing from the public mind. Thirty years since, in our country, they might have had plausibility, sustained by want of an experience of benefits resulting from judicious management. A new era has dawned on this department of medical science, and we daily witness the most gratifying results, in the large number of patients restored to their friends, confirmed in bodily and mental health. The twenty-third annual report of the M'Lean Asylum, at Sommerville, near Charlestown, Massachusetts, by Dr. Bell, shows that "the records of the asylum justify the declaration, that *all cases certainly recent*, that is, whose origin does not directly or obscurely run back more than a year, *recover under a fair*

trial. This is the general law, the *occasional* instances to the contrary are the *exceptions.*" In this opinion Dr. Ray, of the Maine State Hospital, concurs.

The directors of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum remark, in their third report, "that the importance of remedial means in the *first* stages of insanity, cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public mind."

Dr. Chandler, superintendent of the New Hampshire Asylum, says, in the report for 1843, that "it is *well established* that the earlier patients are placed under curative treatment, in hospitals, *the more speedy and sure is the recovery.*"

Dr. Brigham, superintendent of the New York State Asylum, writes as follows, in his first report of that institution: "Few things relating to the management and treatment of the insane, are so *well established* as the necessity of their *early* treatment, and their removal from home, in order to effect recovery. There are exceptions, no doubt. By examining the records of well conducted lunatic asylums, it appears that more than eight out of ten of the recent cases recover, *while not more than one in six* of the old cases are cured."

Dr. Rockwell, of the Vermont State Asylum, says, in his report for 1841: "It will be seen that a far greater proportion of recent cases recover, than of those which are of long standing. It is very desirable that the insane should be placed under curative treatment in the early stages of the disease."

In Dr. Awl's fifth annual report, I find the following remarks: "We exceedingly rejoice that it is now a settled policy with the citizens of Ohio, to make abundant provision for the reception of *every* insane patient, whether male or female, rich or poor, curable or incurable. *Public safety, equity,* and *economy,* alike require that this should be so."

"Fearful as is the disease of insanity, the experience of this and other institutions of the United States, have clearly shown, that, with seasonable aid, it is by no means an incurable disease. That under *proper medical and moral treatment, a large proportion do perfectly recover.* And of those who are absolutely incurable, a vast number can always be greatly improved, and made comfortable and useful. *In our judgment it is entirely* wrong to consider a certain class of incurables as harmless, and proper to be discharged from the institution, because it 'does not *seem* dangerous to the peace of the community

that they should go at large.' This cannot certainly be known, either in or out of the asylum: neither can a bond afford any proper security to the public, for the peaceable and inoffensive are easily excited; and it is possible for the most imbecile lunatic to take life, or fire a city. It is also certain that they must all receive attention, and have a being somewhere in the land; and a majority of them at the public expense. We therefore unhesitatingly conclude, that the only safe and correct course, either for the insane themselves, or for their friends and society, is to provide ample accommodations for them, where there will be opportunity for every one to experience comfort and relief."

Dr. Brigham, speaking of the benefit of labor for the insane, especially in the open air, adds, that "incurable cases, instead of being immured in jails, and in town and county houses, without employment, where they are continually losing mind, and becoming worse, should be placed in good asylums, and have employment on the farm or in shops. In this way they would in general be rendered much happier, and some would probably recover." "A broad distinction should be made between the *sane* and the *insane* poor, as regards providing for their comfort. The former may have in a good county poor-house most essential comforts, *provided the insane are not kept in it;* but the insane themselves, unless they have *especial* care in reference to their disordered minds, have little or none."

Quoting again from the report of the physician of the asylum at Columbus, showing the benefits of hospital treatment, we read: "It is now five years since this great enterprise of humanity was opened to the unfortunate and afflicted in the state. During this period *four hundred and seventy-three* insane persons have been committed to the care of the institution. Two hundred and three have recovered the right use of their reason, and returned to their friends; eighteen were discharged, improved in various degrees of mental and physical health; and a large proportion of the remainder have been reclaimed from wretchedness and suffering, from filth and nakedness, from violence, which caused apprehension and danger, and from anguish and melancholy, which could only be exhibited in silence and in tears."

The propriety of providing for *all* those who suffer under the various forms of mental disease, or, more accurately speaking, of physical disease affecting and disturbing the natural and healthful functions of the brain, is found in the daily experience of society, and confirmed by the opinion of medical men.

Dr. Woodward, in the eleventh report of the Massachusetts State Hospital, remarks, that it is not always safe that even the demented should be at large, neither idiots; it is often necessary to confine both. Idiots are excluded from some of the institutions, but our experience shows that they are often violent, mischievous, and dangerous. There are no institutions in this country designed particularly for them, so that, if confined at all, it is proper that it should be in hospitals for the insane." Another observer of the condition of the insane, and other classes of patients suffering under mental disease, writes: "We look upon the epileptics with compassion. Many of them exhibit the best traits of human nature during their lucid intervals, but at other times they are perfectly uncontrollable, disregarding alike both friends and foes; and we know of no class more dangerous to go at large."

Dr. Earle, in the report of the Bloomingdale Asylum for 1844, says:

"It appears to be very satisfactorily proved, that of cases in which there is no eccentricity or constitutional weakness of intellect, and where the proper remedial measures are adopted in the early stages of the disorder, no less than *eighty* of every *one hundred* are cured.—There are but few acute diseases from which so large a per centage of the persons attacked are restored.

"One of the chief obstacles to a more general recovery of the patients admitted into public institutions, and one of the principal causes of the great accumulation of deranged people in the community, is the neglect of removing them to an asylum as soon as possible after the commencement of the disease.

"A belief that they can be treated more effectually among their friends, when all experience goes to prove that they are more easily managed, and far more likely to recover, under the care of strangers; erroneous ideas in relation to public institutions; the sanguine hope, cherished from day to day, but cherished only to be daily disappointed, that the afflicted person will soon again regain the use of reason, frequently combine, with other considerations, to retard the admission of the patient, until the period most favorable to recovery is past. Thus, the mistaken kindness of relatives has undoubtedly been the cause of rendering the disease of hundreds of maniacs permanent.

"After the first three months of the existence of intellectual derangement, the probabilities of a cure begin rapidly to diminish; and at the

expiration of a year, it is believed they are not half so great as at first. If continued beyond that time, the diminution progresses, so that of such as have been deranged more than two years, the number that recover is comparatively very small; supposed, by some physicians, to be but about one in thirty. Yet hope is left, and cures are sometimes effected of those whose disorder has existed five, ten, and even fifteen years. It would seem that every consideration of humanity and of duty requires a greater practical attention to these important truths."

"We advocate the doctrine, that a man being insane, all ordinary considerations should yield to the one important measure of securing his recovery, and that this course should be steadily persisted in until he is cured, or it be proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, that his disease is too firmly seated ever to be eradicated by the usual methods of treatment."

Dr. Ray, in the report of the Maine State Asylum for 1844, refers to the beneficial influence of well directed employment for the insane, as follows:

"Of all the remedies for 'razing out the written troubles of the brain,' none can compare with labor, wherein I include all useful employment. No other moral means is adapted to so large a proportion of the insane, and applicable to so many of the various forms of the disease. The excited and the depressed, the gay and the melancholic, the wild and the calm, the curable and the incurable, may be furnished with some form of labor adapted to their particular case, and calculated to produce a beneficial effect upon their bodily or mental condition. Indeed, the great feature which characterizes the management of modern hospitals for the insane, is the extensive use of labor as a means of moral treatment. And therefore it is that these institutions, instead of being as they once were, merely strong houses for the safe keeping of persons whose enlargement would endanger the welfare of society, abounding with instruments of restraint and coercion, and presenting a melancholy scene of idleness, indolence and depravity, have now become places of refuge for the unfortunate, where a spirit of industry is fostered, and a healthful mental activity maintained by various forms of useful employment. * * *

"Incurables who are able and willing to work, are much more contented and enjoy better health, when employed. Even some of the most demented will be found capable of doing something, and though

it may not be very profitable, yet it keeps them out of mischief, and thus contributes to the quiet of the house. In the course of the summer, a party of this class of patients, with just mind enough for the purpose and no more, carried into the cellar and shed, and piled up all our wood, amounting to some three hundred cords.

"There is a limit, however, to the use of labor as a moral means. There are always a few patients to whom it has appeared to be decicedly injurious, by increasing, in some way or other, the mental excitement. This effect is apt to be produced in recent cases, when the patient has been allowed to work too soon after the paroxysm, or began by working too long at a time. Labor will naturally produce increased activity of the circulation, and if there is the least disposition to determination of blood to the head, increase of mental excitement is liable to be the result. I have so often observed this fact, that I have deemed it necessary to be exceedingly cautious how we made use of this means with such as were just recovering from violent excitement, beginning with light in-door exercise, and thence trying, as the next step, hard work in the open air, protected from the sun, half an hour or less at a time, and gradually extending the period."

"During the last spring," writes Dr. Earle, at Bloomingdale, "two farmers, each of whom possessed a good farm, were admitted into the asylum, one about a week after the other. They were laboring under the most abject form of melancholy, and had both attempted suicide. In less than a month, their condition being already somewhat improved, they expressed a willingness, and one of them a strong desire, to work out of doors. Being furnished with implements they daily went out together, unaccompanied by any other person, and worked upon the farm with as much apparent interest as if it belonged to themselves. Under this course they continued rapidly to improve, and both were discharged recovered, one at the end of six weeks, and the other three months from the time of their respective admissions.

"Another man was brought to the asylum early in the spring, laboring under a high degree of active mania. His appetite was poor, and his frame emaciated. He was careless of his personal appearance, restless, turbulent, and almost incessantly talking, in an incoherent manner, upon the delusions attending his disease. When out of doors, he was constantly wandering to and fro, and talking to himself, or digging the earth with his hands, without end or object, and generally having his mouth filled with grass. For some months there was but little change in his condition. At length, having become somewhat less bewildered, his attendant succeeded in inducing him to assist in making beds. Shortly afterwards he was employed with the painters and glaziers upon the green-house, and then went to the carpenters' shop, where he worked regularly for several weeks. Meanwhile his bodily health improved, his mind gradually returned to its former integrity, and he was discharged cured of his mental disorder, and weighing more than at any previous period of his life.

"These cases are fair examples of the utility of a combination of medical and moral treatment, for in all of them, medicine was regularly administered until within a comparatively short period before their departure from the institution. They are presented, also, as cogent arguments in favor of giving to manual labor that pre-eminence which has already been assigned to it." * * * *

"The grounds immediately adjacent to the buildings are handsomely laid out and planted with flowers, shrubs, and the choicest fruit and ornamental trees.

"The farm contains about fifty acres, a large portion of which is under high cultivation, and very productive. A substantial and commodious stone building, erected a few years since, serves the several purposes of barn, stable and carriage-house. A spring-house and ice-house are on the premises, and a spacious and handsome green-house in the garden. The following is a schedule of the productions of the farm and garden the past year:

Hay	40 tons.
Oats, cut in the milk	4 "
Milk	4700 gallons.
Butter	728 lbs.
Pork	2706 "
Potatoes	500 bushels.
Corn	75 "
Sugar beet	250 "
Blood beet	125 "
Mangel wurtzel	50 "
Turnips	325 "
Parsnips	100 "
Carrots	30 "
Onions	50 "
Cabbages	3000 heads.
Leeks	4000 "
Celery	2600 "
Salsify	1500 "

"Besides these, there was a full supply, for the whole establishment, of peas, beans, squashes, tomatoes, radishes, cucumbers, asparagus, spinach, lettuce, egg-plant and pie-plant, together with a good supply of watermelons and muskmelons.

FRUITS.

Apples, 90 barrels for winter use, besides a supply in the summer and fall; the whole estimated at	500	bushels.
Pears - - - - estimated	60	"
Peaches - - - - -	18	"
Cherries - - - estimated	100	"
Grapes - - - - -	800	pounds.
Currants - - - -	an abundant supply.	
Strawberries and raspberries -	a limited supply."	

It is said that the establishment of hospitals involves great expense; that it is much cheaper to maintain the insane elsewhere: is it also computed at what actual cost these are supported in the State Penitentiary, in county jails, in poor-houses, and in families? what sums are consumed by their uncontrolled habits of destructiveness, what are lost by their crimes when under frenzied impulses they fire buildings, take human life, and make wreck of all social and domestic peace and happiness? what sums are uselessly expended in conducting the trials of insane criminals? what the cost of supporting the large class of incurables, who, if timely treated, would have been restored to society and usefulness, to health and enjoyment? It may be interesting and useful to examine several tables, copied from a report of the State Hospital in Massachusetts, showing the relative expense of old and recent cases, for a series of years, and also some extracts from several reports of other hospitals. For these, see *Appendix.*

These tables determine conclusively that, on the ground of a discreet economy alone, it is wise to establish a State Hospital in New Jersey. But I will not dishonor you by urging this suit on the money-saving principle. I will not unman and unchristianize you by urging other incentives to prompt and liberal action, than those which humanity presents. I am sure it is not a parsimonious spirit which has delayed this work here. I perceive the liberal appropriation of money to sustain the poor-houses, and to fill the many channels of public and private charity. Evidences of a kindly benevolence reach

me continually, in provision for the poor and needy, and in care of the distressed: the insane and idiots alone have been too long insufficiently provided for. I speak advisedly in saying, that were a system carefully projected, having for its single object the perpetuity of insanity, by treatment ensuring the incurability of the patient, one more infallible could not be devised than that which consigns to the State Penitentiary, to jails, and alms-houses, the maniac and the demented; the idiot and the epileptic.

In the document which records the proceedings of the House of Assembly, March, 1839, I find the following eloquent and impressive resolutions called up by Mr. Cattell, "relative to lunatics and a lunatic asylum."

"*Resolved*, 1st. That the confinement of insane persons in jails with criminals, is subversive of all distinction between calamity and guilt, and punishes the misfortune which it is the duty of society to relieve.

"2d. That as experience has shown that recent insanity, in most cases, is readily cured, it is highly expedient that the state should provide a suitable institution for the comfort and relief of the insane poor, and remove them from prisons and poor-houses.

"3d. That an asylum should be erected at the expense of the state, at some proper point, upon such plan as may be best adapted for the purpose of such an institution, *as soon as the finances of the state will warrant a sufficient appropriation.*"

"Which was read and agreed to."

"*Ordered*, That the clerk inform Council, that the House of Assembly have adopted said resolutions, and request their concurrence."

"In Council, *March 12th*, 1839.

"Council have agreed to the concurrent resolution from the House of Assembly, in relation to lunatics in jails, &c."

"Without amendment."

Gentlemen, it is believed that the time has arrived for *action* upon the above resolutions. "*The finances of the state will warrant* a sufficient appropriation" for the establishment of a State Hospital for the Insane and Idiots of New Jersey.

Permit me, in conclusion, to urge that the delay to provide suitable asylums for the insane, produces miseries to individuals, and evils to

society, inappreciable in their utmost influence, except by those who have given time to the examination of the subject, and who have witnessed the appalling degradation of these wretched sufferers in the poor-houses, and jails, and penitentiaries of our land.

Shall New Jersey be last of "the Thirteen Sisters" to respond to the claims of humanity, and to acknowledge the demands of justice?

Respectfully submitted,

D. L. DIX.

TRENTON, *January* 23*d*, 1845

APPENDIX.

TABLE *showing the comparative expense of supporting old and recent cases of insanity, from which we learn the economy of placing patients in institutions in the early periods of disease; from the report of the Massachusetts State Hospital, for* 1843.

No. of old cases.	Present age.	Time insane, in years.	Total expense, at $100 a year, before entering the hospital, & $132 a year since; last year $120.	Number of recent cases discharged.	Present age.	Time insane, in weeks.	Cost of support, at $2.30 per week.
2	69	28	$3,212 00	1,622	30	7	$16 10
7	48	17	2,004 00	1,624	34	20	46 00
8	60	21	2,504 00	1,625	51	32	73 60
12	47	25	2,894 00	1,635	23	28	64 40
18	71	34	3,794 00	1,642	42	40	92 00
19	59	18	2,204 00	1,643	55	14	32 20
21	39	16	1,993 00	1,645	63	36	82 80
27	47	16	1,994 00	1,649	22	40	92 00
44	56	26	2,982 00	1,650	36	28	64 40
45	60	25	2,835 00	1,658	36	14	32 20
102	53	25	2,833 00	1,660	21	16	36 80
133	44	13	1,431 00	1,661	19	27	62 10
176	55	20	2,486 00	1,672	40	11	25 70
209	39	16	1,964 00	1,676	23	23	52 90
223	50	20	2,364 00	1,688	23	11	25 70
260	47	16	2,112 00	1,690	23	27	62 10
278	49	10	1,424 00	1,691	37	20	46 00
319	53	10	1,247 00	1,699	30	28	64 40
347	58	14	1,644 00	1,705	24	17	39 10
367	40	12	1,444 00	1,706	55	10	23 00
400	43	14	1,644 00	1,709	17	10	23 00
425	48	13	2,112 00	1,715	19	40	92 00
431	36	13	1,412 00	1,716	35	48	110 40
435	55	15	1,712 00	1,728	52	55	126 50
488	37	17	1,912 00	1,737	30	33	75 90
		454	$54,157 00			635	$1,461 30

From Dr. Awl's reports of the Ohio Institution, we extract the following tables:

In the report of 1840, the number of years that the twenty-five old cases had been insane, was 413; the whole expense of their support during that time, $47,590; the average, $1,903 60. The time that the twenty-five recent cases had been confined, was 556 weeks; the expense, $1,400; the average $56.

In 1841, whole cost of twenty-five old cases,	$49,248 00
Average,	1,969 00
Whole cost of twenty-five recent cases,	1,330 50
Average,	52 22
In 1842, whole expense of twenty-five old cases,	$50,611 00
Average,	2,020 00
Whole expense of twenty-five recent cases,	1,130 00
Average,	45 20
In this institution, in 1843, twenty old cases had cost,	$44,782 00
Average cost of old cases,	2,239 10
Whole expense of twenty recent cases, till recovered,	1,308 30
Average cost of recent cases,	65 41
In the Massachusetts State Lunatic Asylum, in 1843, twenty-five old cases had cost,	$54,157 00
Average expense of old cases,	2,166 20
Whole expense of twenty-five recent cases, till recovered,	1,461 30
Average expense of recent cases,	58 45
In the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, in 1844, twenty-five old cases had cost,	$35,464 00
Average expense of old cases,	1,418 56
Whole expense of twenty-five recent cases,	1,608 00
Average expense of recent cases,	64 32
In the Maine Lunatic Hospital, in 1842, twelve old cases had cost,	$25,300 00
Average expense of old cases,	2,108 33
Whole expense of twelve recent cases,	426 00
Average expense of recent cases,	35 50
In the Hospital at Staunton, Va., twenty old cases had cost,	$41,633 00
Average expense of old cases,	2,081 65
Whole expense of twenty recent cases,	1,265 00
Average expense of recent cases,	63 25

The results of this table are striking, and show conclusively the importance of early admission to the insane hospitals. Other institutions have instituted the same inquiry with similar results.