

re-printed in four volumes, among which is the 28th report, *Trials of Police*. They are all extremely interesting and I think you will be desirous that they should have a place in your library.

"The first edition of the *Police of London* may be considered as only an imperfect sketch, in the 6th edition of this work that you will find these interesting topics discussed, to which your attention is at present so laudably directed.

"The last report of your Inspectors is extremely interesting, and you press upon the Legislature with great propriety, the evils arising from the excessive multiplication of spinshops and public houses—Nothing tends so much to the corruption of morals or to promote habits of idleness ultimately generating crimes. Twelve hundred of these receptacles of vice in so small a city as New-York, is to be considered as an evil of the greatest magnitude.

"In the metropolis of the British Empire which contains twelve times the number of inhabitants, the Magistrates do not grant licences to more than about 4000, although taking in the towns and villages in the vicinity, we have upwards of 5000 in the whole. I have been at great pains in forming and enforcing Rules and Orders for the proper regulation of Publicans in different districts of the metropolis when I have acted as a Magistrate, a copy of which I will send you. The indiscriminate mixture of young and old offenders in the same prison, I observe is mentioned with great propriety in your last report.—I have always considered this practice (which also prevails here) as one of the greatest nurseries of crimes, and I am glad to find you have brought it under the review of your Legislature. The remedy you propose [solitary confinement] appears to me to be the wisest and most effectual that can be devised.

"Your proposition to authorize the Police Magistrates to try in a summary way all persons committing minor offences, such as petty assaults, drunkenness, and acts of vagrancy, will prove a great relief to Jurors, and will tend much to the diminution of crimes. In this country the Legislature finds it necessary every session to extend the summary jurisdiction of Magistrates, and experience has shewn (as these Magistrates are responsible) that instead of abridging it extends the liberty of the innocent part of the community, and I can safely say had it not been for these summary jurisdictions, it would have been impossible in any degree to have kept the vices and crimes of the people within any moderate bounds. The present state of society and morals in what is called the civilized world, render a species of energy necessary which can only be attained by summary proceedings.—The great inlets to vice, idleness and crimes are all regulated

public houses, gaming, horse-racing, cock-fighting, profane swearing and a contempt of religious duties on Sunday, to which may be added every species of dissipation which has a tendency to congregate multitudes of people in the same spot.

"In a new country like America, where the general prosperity of the nation depends, in so eminent a degree, on the morals of the people the Legislature cannot promote the true welfare of the state in a greater degree, than by authorizing Magistrates to correct these evils, by inflicting mild punishments in a summary way, and by commuting in various instances that will occur, the punishment of imprisonment for pecuniary penalties, to be applied to the expences of the police. Female prostitution, particularly in the cities of America, also requires appropriate laws which will apply to both sexes, and these should be administered in a summary way by the Magistrates, by imprisonment or mild pecuniary fines. In like manner, Brothels ought not be prosecuted by the tedious and circuitous process of indictment and trial by Jury. The expence of such prosecution in this country, tends much to the increase of the evils of prostitution, while through the medium of the chicane of the law, many notorious delinquents escape justice.

"I could not have perceived until I perused your accurate reports, that such a number of Larcenies could have been committed in the city of New-York. It is impossible that depredations to such an extent should be committed, unless there were many receivers of stolen goods, such as purchasers of old metals, old apparel, ship stores, rags, and hand stuff, and these classes of dealers require the watchful eye of the Legislature, and much advantage would be derived from restraining them from dealing unless under the authority of a licence, with power to the Magistrates to withhold it on the succeeding year, in case of any information of improper conduct, and to forfeit in case of conviction. It is by these precautions and mild summary punishments that the kalanders of delinquency are to be diminished in every country; and wise Legislatures will look to prevention as a primitive object, that there may be occasion as seldom as possible to resort to punishment.

As temperance operates powerfully in preventing diseases in the human body, so will preventives tend to diminish the evils in the body politic. In America where old prejudices do not exist, and where the laws are in their progress only to maturity, this preventive system can be much easier accomplished than in Europe. And if the legislature is true to itself, it will see the vast importance of establishing in the first instance, every safeguard to the innocent part of the community, by shutting up, as far as circumstances will admit,