

City in the 12 months ending 31st Decr. last, 170 were females, 60 were juvenile offenders under 20 years of age, 70 were old offenders, whose recommitments vary from a second to a seventh time, 235 of the number were committed under the designation of idle and disorderly, a class of prisoners more than half of whom seek committal as a resource from starvation or the inclemency of the climate. The Committee invite attention to these facts, assured that very little reflection is necessary to convince any one of the great moral contamination constantly going on from such an intermixture of prisoners, and they entertain the strongest hopes that another Session of the Legislature will not be suffered to pass without provision for the erection of a Penitentiary, and a consequent separation of those under sentence, from those committed for trial and security. If other reasons than those of religious and moral obligation were wanting, they are afforded in considerations of public economy. It is shewn by other papers laid before the Legislature, that the expence of the present prison and its establishment is £1769 16 0½ per annum, while the apparent results of those employed at hard labour, is a loss of £56 14s 8d, in the 12 months ending 31st Decr. last. A striking contrast is exhibited in different Prisons and Penitentiaries of the United States, where a well digested system of employment and separation of prisoners has been substituted for idleness and unrestrained intercourse. In many of those not only the expence of the whole Prison establishment is defrayed, but an actual revenue derived to the State, and the prisoner having completed the term of his sentence, is discharged with habits of industry and means of gaining a livelihood, of which he was not before possessed. Many individual cases are recorded of a reformation of life and conduct in those who have completed the term of their sentence in the Penitentiaries of Auburn, Sing Sing, Connecticut, and others similarly conducted.

Another most important object of public improvement