

to guide them in their work, that the present commission was ordained, and the undersigned designated to compose it. By the terms of our appointment, there was no restriction to the field of our inquiries, other than the territorial limits of the United States. There was, indeed, a practical limitation, resulting as well from considerations of time and expense, as from a prudent discretion. No state beyond the Mississippi, except Missouri, was visited, and none of those lately in rebellion. But while the commissioners did not exhaust their full powers within the United States, they overstepped the letter of their authority by extending their inquiries to the prison system and some of the prisons of the neighboring province of Canada.

The states actually visited by the commissioners were: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Of these eighteen states, two, Delaware and West Virginia, have no state prisons, but confine their criminals, convicted of state prison offences, the former in the jail at New Castle, and the latter in that of the city of Wheeling. Of the remaining sixteen, two, Pennsylvania and Indiana, have each two state prisons; the rest each one. Five of the above states, Delaware, Indiana, New Jersey, Vermont, and West Virginia, had no reformatories at the time of our visit; but Vermont has since established one, New Jersey is about to do likewise, and Delaware is making efforts in the same direction. Of the other thirteen states visited, all have at least one reform school, Ohio has two, Pennsylvania three, and Massachusetts three. We inspected, more or less thoroughly, all the state prisons in the states visited, almost all the correctional institutions, and as many of the common jails, municipal prisons, workhouses, and houses of correction, as our time would permit. Of course, it was not possible to make an exhaustive personal examination of so large a number of prisons. Years, instead of months, would have been required for such a labor. Therefore, to supplement our personal observations, we prepared five distinct series of interrogatories on as many different branches of the general inquiry with which we were charged, viz: I. State Prisons. II. County Jails. III. Houses of Correction. IV. Juvenile Reformatories. V. The Administration of Criminal Justice. These interrogatories were drawn up with care,