

PENITENTIARY—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*The annual report of the Inspectors of the Penitentiary.*

MARCH 3, 1851.

Ordered to be printed.

*To the Speaker of the House of Representatives:*

I have the honor herewith to transmit to the House of Representatives the report of the Inspectors of the Penitentiary of the United States, in this District, for the year ending December 31, 1850.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, February 15, 1851.

WASHINGTON, February 3, 1851.

SIR: In pursuance of law, the Inspectors of the Penitentiary of the United States respectfully submit herewith the twenty-second annual report of the affairs of that institution, (being for the year ending December 31, 1850,) to be transmitted to the Congress of the United States.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. T. TOWERS,

*Secretary to Board of Inspectors.*

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

INSPECTORS' ROOM, PENITENTIARY D. C.,

January 27, 1851.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:*

The Board of Inspectors of the Penitentiary for the District of Columbia, in compliance with law, respectfully submit the twenty-second annual report of the state and condition of the penitentiary. The accompanying documents from the Warden, the clerk, the physician, and the chaplain, are intended to form part of this report.

The report of the Warden presents a general statement of the transactions of the several departments of the penitentiary. This officer alone directs the actual administration of the prison, because he alone is answerable for it; and the inspectors bear cheerful testimony to the zeal and efficiency which have been manifested by him in the discharge of this duty. Having received his appointment a few months since, he at once commenced, and has since perfected, a system for the management of the internal affairs of the prison, which, it is believed, will not only prove advantageous to the institution in a pecuniary point of view by increasing its available means, but has been productive of the greatest degree of harmony among his subordinate officers, and between them and the convicts, while at the same time the discipline of the prison has been strictly though kindly maintained. The convicts seem as contented as it is possible for men to be in their situations, and generally perform such duties as are assigned them with alacrity. Although they are informed, upon their entrance into the prison, that they are privileged to make their complaints, either against the Warden or officer having charge of them, to the inspectors, (and they have frequent opportunities afforded them of doing so,) they have rarely any to make, and then of the most frivolous character.

Under existing circumstances, it is confidently anticipated that the ensuing year will exhibit the minimum cost at which this prison can be maintained.

It will be seen, by reference to the several statements embraced in the report of the clerk, that the financial affairs of the institution are about in the same condition as at the end of the preceding year—the excess of the ordinary expenditures over the income from the labor of the convicts being \$9,045 52, while in the former year it was \$8,858 97. It is stated, however, in the report of the Warden, that in the annual inventory he has *reduced* the price of much of the manufactured stock on hand, to what he esteems a low marketable value, which will at once account for this apparent increase. The total excess of expenditure over income from the labor of the convicts has been considerably reduced within the last two years, as will be seen by the following statement:

In 1847 it was	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$10,727 87
In 1848 it was	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,128 88
In 1849 it was	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,459 84
In 1850 it was	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,631 84

It should be remarked, however, in justice to those then having charge of the institution, that in 1848 a loss of \$2,345 76 was incurred by having this amount held back by the Secretary of the Navy for a failure to comply with a contract entered into for furnishing the navy with shoes. The excess of expenditure over income in 1848 was, therefore, really \$11,783 12. In 1849 the excess was about \$500 more than stated above, owing, as we are informed by the clerk, to the presentation of several bills against the institution, contracted in that year after his report had been made to the inspectors, of which he had no knowledge when his books were closed and his report submitted. So, it will be perceived that the ordinary expenses of the institution are gradually reaching the lowest point at which they can be brought, consistently with those feelings of humanity and regard for the interests of the convict, as well as of society, which led

to the introduction of this system of imprisonment. That the expenses of this institution will always, and under almost any circumstances, be considerably more than its income from the labor of the convicts, will doubtless be the case, as it has proved to be with similar institutions in locations having far greater facilities for making their labor productive than are enjoyed here. Indeed, there are very few penitentiaries that support themselves, \*and these are in locations peculiarly favorable, and the labor of the convicts employed, in a great degree, upon work for the States in which they are situated. But, after all, it will be extremely difficult to devise any system of imprisonment for a violation of law which would cost less, independent of all those other considerations which have recommended this so strongly to public favor as to secure its introduction into almost every State in the Union.

"The progress of mankind," it has been remarked,† "from physical force to the substitution of moral power in the art and science of government in general, is but very slow; but in none of its branches has this progress, which alone affords the standard by which we can judge of the civil development of a society, been more retarded than in the organization and discipline of prisons—probably for the simple reason that those for whom the prisons are established are at the mercy of society, and therefore no mutual effort at amelioration, or struggle of different parties, can take place. At length the beginning has been made, and it is a matter of pride to every American that the new penitentiary system has been first established and successfully practised in his country. That community which first conceived the idea of abandoning the principle of mere physical force, even in respect to prisons, and of treating their inmates as redeemable beings, who are subject to the same principles of action with the rest of mankind, though impelled by vitiated appetites and perverted desires—that community which, after a variety of unsuccessful trials, would nevertheless not give up the principle, but persevered in this novel experiment, until success has crowned its perseverance—must occupy an elevated place in the scale of political or social civilization. The American penitentiary system must be regarded as a new victory of mind over matter, the great and constant task of man. Though of more vital interest to the civilized world, it exhibits the same progress of society which is indicated by the abolition of the *laths* in the Prussian army, and of corporal punishment for most offences in the army of Great Britain."

"The penitentiary system," remarks the same writer in another place, "has not escaped the common fate of all questions of vital interest to society. Many of its opponents, as well as its advocates, have run into extremes. The former, judging by vague impressions derived from superficial knowledge both of the character of convicts and the penitentiary system, assert not unfrequently, with a kind of levity, that criminals ought to suffer severely for their crimes, and should not be treated with tenderness: the latter, carried away by a pious zeal, often believe that an

\* In the Maryland Penitentiary, (Baltimore,) in 1849, the excess of expenditures over income from the labor of convicts was \$12,947 91; in 1850 it was \$7,054 46. Average sales about \$50,000 per annum. One of the directors, in the last annual report, says: "I am convinced, from close observation, that the Maryland Penitentiary, from the nature of its productive resources, must always be a tax upon the State treasury." The number of convicts was 229.

† Francis Leiber, in the introduction to his translation of De Beaumont and De Tocqueville's "Penitentiary System in the United States."

individual who has from early childhood received bad impressions, imbibed vicious principles, and has allowed himself to be governed during his whole life by unchecked desires and unbridled appetites—who has, in fact, contracted bad habits deeply rooted in his whole character, may be influenced by the same religious means which affect honest persons, and suddenly become a contrite sinner, and soon after change into a saint. It ought always to be borne in mind that a convict is neither a brute nor a saint; and to treat him as either, is equally injurious to himself and to society.

“Though opposition to the penitentiary system has greatly abated and entirely ceased to take an active part in many States of our Union, there are nevertheless many individuals who believe that too much pains are taken with convicts; and, as I have heard it myself not unfrequently expressed, say that ‘they ought to be punished.’ Were they to inquire but slightly into the matter, they would soon find that as long as a convict remains unchanged in mind, a penitentiary, with its constant labor and strict order, its silence, its solitude during night, is a punishment to him whose element has been disorder and idleness, (as is the case with most criminals,) a hundred times greater than a prison, the inmates of which, though loaded with chains and oppressed with filth and unhealthy diet, yet can freely communicate with each other. It is a fact that criminals fear penitentiaries much more than prisons on the old plan; yet they know that they live, physically, much better in the former, and are aware of the torturing misery of the latter. But what they are afraid of is, the order, obedience, and silence imposed upon them: they shun, consciously or instinctively, that moral character which pervades the whole system, so odious to criminal people: they shun, by a vague presentiment perhaps, the being corrected and reformed in spite of themselves, and the contemplation of their unhappy life spent and lost in evil deeds. It is this, the same instinct which causes so often the wicked to fear moral society; the same feeling which makes a criminal so afraid of his own lucid intervals, and leads him on to new perverted activity, to quiet for the moment his unhappy soul.

“Were those opponents but to inquire into prisons, the statistics of crimes, and the history of criminals, they soon would find that charity, our own interest, and justice, equally require their most active support of the penitentiary system. Charity requires it, because, though crime necessarily must be punished, yet the history of by far the greatest majority of criminals shows the afflicting fact that they were led to crime by the bad example of their parents, loose education, hard masters, or a gradual progress in vice, for which society often offers but too many temptations. Interest requires it, because the old prisons were an enormous burden to society, whilst the penitentiaries cost but little. Justice requires it, because society has a right to punish, but not to brutalize; to deprive of liberty, but not to expose to filth and corruption. And if it is obstinately insisted upon that government, as such, has no obligation to correct the morals of convicts, it is, at all events, its sacred duty not to lead them to certain ruin; and society takes upon itself an awful responsibility by exposing a criminal to such moral contagion, that, according to the necessary course of things, he cannot escape its effects. Besides, is it not the *interest* of society to try all means at its disposal to reclaim a criminal?”

A remarkable feature presented in statement No. 5, of the clerk, is the rapid increase in the number of the convicts. Eighteen months since, the number was 36; at the end of the year 1849 it was 46; at the end of the year 1850 it was 57; and at this time (less than one month of the year having expired) it is *sixty-eight*, an increase of nearly a hundred per cent. in a year and a half. Many of the recent convictions have been for aggravated offences, and the sentences for long periods of time, some of them reaching to six, eight, and ten years. The following are the terms of servitude of the convicts:

For 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
For 1½ year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
For 2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
For 2½ years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
For 3 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
For 3½ years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
For 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
For 5½ years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
For 6 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
For 8 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
For 8½ years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
For 9 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
For 10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
For 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

The nature of the crimes for which they were convicted is as follows:

Larceny	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
Assault and battery with intent to kill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Stealing money from U. S. mail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Burglary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Burglary and larceny	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Counterfeiting U. S. coin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Arson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Forgery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Perjury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Passing counterfeit money	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Receiving stolen money	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Receiving stolen goods	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Manslaughter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Assault and battery with intent to commit a rape	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

About one-half of the number are free blacks, many of whom have probably been attracted to this city from the neighboring States by the milder character of the laws in respect to this species of population; while a large proportion of the whites are from distant parts of the Union, and no inconsiderable number from foreign countries.

Notwithstanding this large increase in the number of convicts—or, indeed, of any probable number for years—the expenses of the institution, except for provision and clothing, do not increase, and the labor of the convicts will more than supply the difference; so that the aggregate cost of maintaining it, per annum, is expected to decrease with this augmentation of convicts, under proper management.

The able and attentive physician of the institution presents the usual favorable report as to the health of the prison.

The report of the chaplain is in the highest degree flattering. This department is esteemed by the inspectors as probably the most important, in its tendencies and results, coming within their observation. A principal object of the penitentiary system is the reformation of the convict, while, at the same time, he is punished for his offences by a withdrawal for a time from the society whose laws he has outraged.

Great interest is manifested by this officer in the moral and mental improvement of those committed to his care; and it is hoped and believed that his ministrations have resulted in much good. Your attention is respectfully invited to his report.

The recommendations of the various officers of the institution, so far as they come within the province of the Board of Inspectors, will meet with becoming deliberation.

Respectfully submitted:

THOS. DONOHO.  
JNO. T. TOWERS.  
WM. H. EDES.

OFFICE OF THE PENITENTIARY, DISTRICT COLUMBIA,

January 1, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: Having received the appointment of Warden of this institution, I entered upon the discharge of the duties of the office on the 1st day of July last—just six months from the commencement of the year, the operations of which I am about to submit for your consideration, agreeably to usage. This duty I shall perform as briefly as possible.

It will be seen by the clerk's statement (No. 5) that the number of convicts confined in the penitentiary on the 31st December, 1849, was 46; and the number received in all the year 1850, 27—making a total of 73. The number discharged during the same period, by the expiration of their respective terms of service, was 15; and there was one death, (that of a German, who contracted disease in Mexico)—making a total of 16. The number, therefore, remaining in the penitentiary on the 31st December, 1850, was 57—being an increase of 11 for the year, or upwards of twenty per cent. The increase for the previous year was about ten per cent. These convictions, with a single exception, (that of a convict from the State of Virginia,) took place in the criminal court of this District, and indicate a fearful increase of crime in our community.\* The number of recommitments during the year was 5.

The convicts have been apportioned to labor as follows: Shoe making, 35; tailoring, shoe binding, washing, mending, &c., (all the females,) 12; broom-making, 1; picking oakum, 1; blacksmithing, 1; carpentry, 3; cooking and baking, 2; laborers, 2.

*The shoe factory.*—Although thirty five of the convicts are returned as being employed in the shoe factory, it must not be understood that this number are *shoe-makers*; for probably nine-tenths of the convicts received here are without trades of any kind, and go into the shops totally unacquainted with the business for which their capacities seem best adapted,

\*Since this report was written, there have been 13 additional convicts received.

even where they have the capacity to learn anything, which is not always the case; so that we have not only to *learn* them to work at something, but to suffer a loss of material, as well as time, in teaching them. Moreover, occasional requisitions are made upon this shop for hands to keep the extensive buildings and grounds in good and cleanly condition.

This being the most extensive branch of mechanical labor—and, indeed, the *only* one when I came here—conducted in this institution, it deserves, and has received, much of my own personal attention. As the labor upon the manufactured article bears so small a proportion to the cost of the raw material, and the quality of the latter varies so much, great care should be exercised in its proper selection. The quantity purchased for consumption during the last year appears by the statement (No. 3) of the clerk to have been much greater than that of the preceding year, without yielding a corresponding profit. Under these circumstances, I deem it but justice to myself to say, without imputing blame to any one, that I have had little agency in these purchases, the stock on hand when I came here having been nearly sufficient to last the residue of the year.

The profits of the shoe factory for the year have been \$1,364. I would here take occasion to remark, however, that, in taking the yearly inventory, I have disregarded precedents, and reduced much of the stock of manufactured articles of all kinds on hand, to the best of my judgment, to a fair marketable valuation—preferring, as I do, at least an approximation to the *real* earnings of the institution to what I might *wish* to make them appear. This reduction in the value of the stock on hand in the shoe-store is the cause of a small apparent falling off in the profits of this branch of industry, as compared with those of the last year. It had also been found necessary, early in the year, I am informed, to supply the shoe factory with a new stock of boot trees and shoe-lasts, at considerable cost, for which purpose the superintendent was despatched to Philadelphia last spring—the whole expense of which has been charged against the profits of the factory.

The following statement of the number of pairs of boots and shoes manufactured monthly for the last year, with the net sales from the shoe-store, is compiled from the books of the institution:

Months.					Number of pairs made.	Value of boots and shoes sold.
January	-	-	-	-	238	\$255 73
February	-	-	-	-	327	83 10
March	-	-	-	-	288	368 14
April	-	-	-	-	486	224 06
May	-	-	-	-	515	668 95
June	-	-	-	-	381	469 03
July	-	-	-	-	374	386 73
August	-	-	-	-	610	430 50
September	-	-	-	-	515	438 89
October	-	-	-	-	563	581 27
November	-	-	-	-	391	513 04
December	-	-	-	-	365	571 32

*Carpenters' shop.*—The profits arising from this department have been much larger, in proportion to the force employed, than in the shoe factory, as will be seen by statement No. 2 of the clerk—there having been but one hand employed that could be fully relied upon, (the other being subjected to frequent attacks of epilepsy,) until recently, when the force was somewhat increased. I contemplate increasing this branch of labor, as far as I have good reason for believing that it can be made remunerating.

*Broom-making.*—The operations of this department, which it appears had been conducted upon a small scale in the first part of the year, had entirely ceased on the first of July. It does not appear to have yielded a profit. Notwithstanding, I have made arrangements to recommence broom-making, and shall prosecute it if it can be made profitable.

*Oakum.*—No junk for making oakum has been purchased the past year, and the quantity on hand at the commencement of the year has been worked up. The stock of oakum on hand is small, and will yield little more than half of the price it was estimated to be worth a year ago.

*Female department.*—I have been much perplexed to devise some way by which the female convicts can be kept at labor, and that labor made productive. There are now twelve of them. They have made all the clothing for the convicts, done the mending, washing, and ironing, and, besides, have bound all the shoes manufactured in the penitentiary. This, however, does not employ more than a moiety of their time, and they have had little else to do. I shall, however, continue my exertions to procure employment for them. Should I succeed in doing so, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of securing the services of a suitable female to superintend this department, in the capacity of matron.

During the past year, a considerable item of expense has occurred in furnishing a room for the reception of visitors; repairing the inspectors' room; altering the furnaces in the kitchen, so as to adapt them to the use of coal, instead of wood; and in various small repairs within the prison wall. As these improvements were directed by the Board of Inspectors, it is deemed unnecessary to notice them more in detail. All within the walls, with the exception of the steps to the workshops, is now in good order, and but little will be required to keep it so. Not so, however, with a portion of the public property without the walls. The attention of the board has been repeatedly called, as well by my predecessors as by myself, to the dilapidated condition of the wharf, the sea wall, and the flooring on the prison wall. If the repairs necessary to preserve them are delayed for another winter, I have no doubt that the aggregate expense will be much more than if done at once. A small appropriation, judiciously expended, will place them all in a safe and durable condition.

I would also recommend for your consideration the propriety of warming the prison and workshops by heated air furnaces; and lighting the cells, during the winter months, until 8 o'clock at night, that the convicts may have the additional time thus afforded to read and improve their minds.

For a statement of the financial affairs of the institution I respectfully refer you to the report of the clerk, which is so lucid as to require no remark or explanation from me.

The general health of the convicts has been very good, as will be seen by reference to the report of the physician, whose kind and punctual at-

tention to the sick, and professional skill, cannot be too highly commended.

I take great pleasure in informing you that there has been a marked improvement in the conduct and deportment of the convicts during the time I have been here; which has, in my opinion, resulted in a great degree from the unremitting attention paid to their moral and religious instruction by the chaplain. The Sunday school, I am happy to say, is zealously conducted by this officer, assisted frequently by pious friends. All the convicts not on the sick list are required to attend punctually both to divine worship and in the Sunday school.

I cannot close this report without bearing testimony to the assiduity and fidelity which the different subordinate officers have brought to the discharge of their responsible and arduous duties, and commending the harmony and good feeling which exist in their social and business intercourse—elements so necessary to the safe and proper management of an institution like this, in keeping up the strict discipline which its laws require, and at the same time commanding the respect and ready obedience of its inmates.

Respectfully submitted:

JOS. B. ELLIS, *Warden.*

To the BOARD OF INSPECTORS.

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OFFICE OF THE PENITENTIARY, DISTRICT COLUMBIA,  
*January 6, 1851.*

GENTLEMEN: I submit, herewith, the annual statements exhibiting the financial condition and operations of this institution for the year ending December 31, 1850; also, a journal of convicts, showing the number in confinement at the commencement of the year, the number received and discharged during the year, and the number remaining in confinement at the end of the year, their age, sex, employment, &c.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILL. TOWERS,

*Clerk, Penitentiary D. C.*

To the BOARD OF INSPECTORS

*of the Penitentiary for the District of Columbia.*

*Penitentiary for the District of Columbia in account current with the penitentiary for the District of Columbia.*

Dr.		Cr.	
To balance in the hands of the Warden and unpaid, December 31, 1849 .....	\$765 73	By amount paid for clothing for prisoners.....	\$11 81
To balance in United States treasury and undrawn, December 31, 1849.....	2,000 00	Do.....for tools and materials for carpenter's and blacksmith's shops.....	30 45
To amount of appropriation, by act of Congress approved September, 1850, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1851.....	7,800 00	Do.....for tools and materials for broom factory.....	17 84
To amount received on outstanding accounts, and for articles manufactured and sold at the penitentiary, during the year 1850 .....	5,362 02	Do.....for tools and materials for shoe factory.....	817 98
		Do.....for rations.....	645 98
		Do.....for incidental expenses, including books, stationery, postage, &c.....	144 71
		Do.....discharged convicts .....	95 88
		Do.....for improvements and repairs.....	373 05
		Do.....for repairs to old carryall, difference in exchange for a new one, horse-feed and shoeing, &c.....	252 39
		Do.....for hospital expenses, medicines, &c.....	28 25
		Do.....for fuel and lights.....	149 37
		Do.....for officers' salaries.....	7,452 30
		Do.....on outstanding accounts, prior to January 1, 1850 .....	2,903 09
		By balance due the treasury, in Warden's hands.....	204 65
		By balance in United States treasury and undrawn, December 31, 1850.....	2,800 00
	<u>15,927 75</u>		<u>15,927 75</u>
To balance in United States treasury and undrawn, December 31, 1850.....	\$2,800 00		
To balance in the hands of the Warden, and unpaid.....	204 65		
	<u>3,004 65</u>		

## No. 2.

*Statement showing the income from the labor of convicts employed in the different workshops for the year 1850.**Shoe factory.*

By amount received and charged on the books of the penitentiary for boots and shoes sold during the year.....	\$5,428 75
By amount of stock and materials on hand December 31, 1850, viz:	
Boots and shoes, complete.....	\$2,598 74
Unfinished work.....	259 90
Raw materials .....	263 39
	<hr/>
	3,122 03
	<hr/>
	8,550 78
To amount of stock and materials on hand December 31, 1849.....	\$2,356 55
To amount paid for raw materials, tools, and shoes returned during the year .....	1,204 06
To amount owing for leather, tools, &c., to be paid.....	3,625 67
	<hr/>
	7,186 28
	<hr/>
Balance in favor of shoe factory.....	1,364 50

*Carpenter's and blacksmith's shops.*

By amount received and charged for sales and work done.....	\$275 10
By amount of stock and materials on hand December 31, 1850, viz:	
Manufactured articles .....	\$192 50
Unfinished work.....	54 15
Raw material.....	39 83
	<hr/>
	286 48
	<hr/>
	561 58
To amount of stock and materials on hand December 31, 1849.....	\$197 75
To amount paid for raw materials, tools, &c.....	32 45
To amount owing for raw materials, tools, &c., to be paid.....	212 34
	<hr/>
	442 54
	<hr/>
Balance in favor of carpenter's and blacksmith's shops.....	119 04

*Oakum.*

By amount received and charged for oakum.....	\$30 00
By amount of oakum on hand December 31, 1850.....	58 30
	<hr/>
	68 30
	<hr/>
To amount of oakum and junk on hand December 31, 1849.....	63 24
	<hr/>
Balance in favor of oakum.....	5 06

*Broom factory.*

To amount of stock and materials on hand December 31, 1849.....	\$217 89
To amount paid for materials, tools, &c.....	17 84
To amount owing for tools, materials, &c., to be paid .....	33 59
	<hr/>
	269 32
By amount received and charged for sale of brooms.. ..	\$185 41
By stock and materials on hand.....	75 49
	<hr/>
	260 90
	<hr/>
Balance against broom factory.....	8 42

*Female department.*

By amount of cash received for sewing and washing.....	\$27 11
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## No. 3.

*Statement showing the amount of clothing issued to, and rations and hospital stores consumed by, the prisoners during the year 1850.*

*Clothing.*

To amount of clothing on hand December 31, 1849.....		\$218 65
To amount paid for clothing this year.....		11 81
To amount owing for clothing, to be paid.....		246 69
To shoe factory, for shoes furnished prisoners.....		142 05
		<hr/> 619 20
By amount of clothing on hand December 31, 1850.....	\$236 26	
By goods sold, 50 cents; furnished discharged convicts, \$9 55.....	10 05	
		<hr/> 246 31
Amount issued to prisoners (though not consumed).....		<hr/> 372 89

*Provisions.*

To amount of rations on hand December 31, 1849.....		\$62 64
To amount paid for rations this year.....		645 98
To amount owing for rations, to be paid.....		849 62
		<hr/> 1,558 24
By amount of sour flour sold.....	\$10 75	
By amount of rations on hand December 31, 1850.....	33 56	
		<hr/> 44 31
Amount consumed.....		<hr/> 1,513 93

*Dispensary and hospital.*

To amount of medicines and hospital stores on hand December 31, 1849.....		\$128 21
To amount paid for medicines this year.....		28 25
To amount owing for medicines, to be paid.....		32 61
		<hr/> 189 07
By amount of hospital stores and medicines on hand December 31, 1850.....		130 71
		<hr/> 58 36

## No. 4.

*Statement showing the income from the labor of convicts and the ordinary expenditures for the support of the penitentiary for the year ending December 31, 1850.*

Dr.		Cr.	
To amount of rations consumed by the prisoners.....	\$1,513 93	By shoe factory, for.....	\$1,364 50
Do....of clothing and shoes issued to prisoners.....	372 91	carpenter's and blacksmith's shops, for.....	119 04
Do....of fuel and lights consumed in prison, guard-room, &c.....	560 27	oakum, for.....	5 06
Do....paid and owing for repairs to carryall, horse- feed, &c.....	214 89	female department, for.....	27 11
Do....paid and owing for incidental expenses, books, stationery, postage, &c.....	249 45		1,515 71
Do....of medicines, &c., consumed.....	58 36	To balance—excess of expenditure over income.....	9,045 52
Do....paid officers their salaries.....	7,452 30		
Do....paid discharged convicts for outfit and clothing....	130 70		
Do....of loss incurred on broom-making.....	8 42		
	10,561 23		10,561 23

*Journal of convicts in the penitentiary for the District of Columbia in all where convicted, number of times convicted, crime,*

No.	Names.	When received.	Sex and color.	Where born.	Age
1	J. B.....	April 2, 1844	Black man.....	Maryland.....	32
2	A. M.....	June 4, 1844	Mulatto man....	Virginia.....	46
3	J. T., <i>alias</i> W. T.....	Mar. 22, 1845	Black man.....	Maryland.....	28
4	J. W., <i>alias</i> J. W. W.....	Mar. 24, 1845	White man.....	Virginia.....	65
5	J. B.....	Dec. 12, 1845	.....do.....	North Carolina....	31
6	W. D., <i>alias</i> W. C. B., <i>alias</i> W. J. B.....	Dec. 27, 1845	.....do.....	Virginia.....	37
7	J. C.....	Jan. 7, 1846	Black man.....	Maryland.....	42
8	J. W. S., <i>alias</i> W. S.....	Jan. 16, 1846	White man.....	.....do.....	40
9	A. P. B.....	Mar. 12, 1847	.....do.....	Virginia.....	26
10	J. L.....	Mar. 15, 1847	.....do.....	France.....	39
11	D. W. D.....	Mar. 22, 1847	Mulatto man....	Virginia.....	38
12	I. P.....	April 27, 1847	White man.....	.....do.....	42
13	W. D.....	June 25, 1847	Mulatto man....	.....do.....	24
14	W. T.....	Mar. 15, 1848	Black man.....	Dist. of Columbia..	29
15	I. B.....	Mar. 23, 1848	Black woman....	Virginia.....	19
16	W. P., <i>alias</i> W. J.....	June 24, 1848	Mulatto boy....	Dist. of Columbia..	18
17	W. F.....	July 15, 1848	Black man.....	Maryland.....	34
18	W. J.....	Dec. 9, 1848	.....do.....	Dist. of Columbia..	23
19	J. O., <i>alias</i> J. McK.....	Dec. 28, 1848	White man.....	Maryland.....	26
20	R. B.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Dist. of Columbia..	21
21	F. D.....	Mar. 10, 1849	Mulatto man....	Virginia.....	22
22	E. L.....	Mar. 12, 1849	Black woman....	Maryland.....	21
23	J. D.....	April 16, 1849	White man.....	Germany.....	52
24	J. D. F.....	May 30, 1849	.....do.....	Virginia.....	22
25	J. S., <i>alias</i> T. H.....	June 13, 1849	.....do.....	Pennsylvania....	43
26	J. S., <i>alias</i> J. P. S.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Maryland.....	26
27	M. D.....	June 23, 1849	Black woman....	Dist. of Columbia..	22
28	J. W., <i>alias</i> J. S.....	July 11, 1849	White man.....	Switzerland.....	27
29	R. B.....	July 12, 1849	Black man.....	Dist. of Columbia..	34
30	T. A. S.....	Oct. 16, 1849	White man.....	Virginia.....	27
31	A. C. H.....	Dec. 5, 1849	White woman....	Maryland.....	41
32	A. T., <i>alias</i> A. B.....	Dec. 7, 1849	Black man.....	Dist. of Columbia..	26
33	G. H.....	Dec. 14, 1849	Black boy.....	.....do.....	15
34	L. O.....	.....do.....	Black woman....	.....do.....	28
35	C. A.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	31
36	S. H.....	.....do.....	Black man.....	Virginia.....	71
37	E. S.....	.....do.....	Mulatto woman..	Maryland.....	17
38	F. W., <i>alias</i> F. G.....	.....do.....	Mulatto boy....	Dist. of Columbia..	14
39	J. S.....	Dec. 17, 1849	White man.....	Frankfort-on-the- Rhine.....	26
40	M. B.....	Dec. 21, 1849	Black woman....	Dist. of Columbia..	25
41	E. B.....	Dec. 24, 1849	.....do.....	Maryland.....	24
42	S. J.....	Dec. 26, 1849	.....do.....	.....do.....	29
43	C. B.....	.....do.....	Black man.....	.....do.....	25
44	J. W.....	Dec. 27, 1849	.....do.....	Dist. of Columbia..	22
45	A. S.....	.....do.....	Mulatto man....	Maryland.....	52
46	S. A.....	Dec. 28, 1849	.....do.....	Dist. of Columbia..	26
47	W. A.....	Jan. 2, 1850	.....do.....	Maryland.....	43
48	G. H., <i>alias</i> J. S. W.....	Jan. 7, 1850	White man.....	England.....	33
49	T. J., <i>alias</i> W. C.....	Jan. 11, 1850	Mulatto man....	Virginia.....	34

## No. 5.

*the year 1850, with the time of reception, sex and color, where born, age, term of sentence, employment, and discharge.*

Where convicted.	No. of times convicted.	Crime.	Term of sentence.	Employment.	Discharge.
			Years.		
Washington ....	1	Larceny .....	6	Shoe-making....	April 2, 1850.
Alexandria.....	1	Burglary .....	14	Carpentry .....	
Washington ....	2	Larceny .....	5	Broom-making..	March 22, 1850.
Alexandria.....	4	do .....	4	Carpentry .....	
Washington ....	1	Burglary .....	5½	Picking oakum..	
do .....	1	Burglary and larceny....	8½	Shoe-making ....	
do .....	1	Manslaughter .....	6	do .....	
do .....	2	Forgery and larceny....	4	do .....	January 16, 1850.
do .....	1	Burglary .....	3	do .....	March 12, 1850.
do .....	2	Larceny .....	6	do .....	
do .....	1	Receiving stolen goods..	9	do .....	
Clarksburg, Va..	1	Counterfeiting U. S. coin..	6	do .....	
Washington ....	2	Burglary and larceny....	4	do .....	
do .....	1	Assault and battery, with intent to kill.....	4	Cooking .....	
do .....	1	Larceny .....	2	[See note.]	March 23, 1850.
do .....	1	do .....	2	Shoe-making ....	June 24, 1850.
do .....	1	do .....	1½	Carpentry .....	January 15, 1850.
do .....	1	do .....	1½	Shoe-making....	June 9, 1850.
do .....	1	do .....	2	do .....	Dec 28, 1850.
do .....	1	do .....	2	do .....	do
do .....	1	do .....	1	do .....	March 10, 1850.
do .....	2	do .....	1½	do .....	June 12, 1850.
do .....	1	Perjury .....	4	Sick in hospital..	Died Feb. 19, '50.
Staunton, Va....	1	Stealing money and letters from U. S. mail.....	4	Shoe-making....	
Washington ....	1	Larceny .....	3	Carpentry .....	
do .....	1	Passing counterfeit money	3½	do .....	
do .....	1	Larceny .....	1	do .....	June 23, 1850.
do .....	1	Perjury .....	4	Shoe-making....	
do .....	2	Larceny .....	1½	Laborer .....	
Staunton, Va....	1	Stealing money and letters from U. S. mail.....	2	Shoe-making....	
Washington ....	1	Larceny .....	1	do .....	Dec. 5, 1850.
do .....	3	do .....	2	Shoe-making....	
do .....	1	do .....	2	do .....	
do .....	1	Receiving stolen money ..	1½	do .....	
do .....	2	Larceny .....	1½	do .....	
do .....	1	do .....	1	Picking oakum..	Dec. 14, 1850.
do .....	1	do .....	2	do .....	
do .....	1	do .....	2	Shoe-making....	
do .....	1	do .....	1½	Baking .....	
do .....	1	do .....	2	do .....	
do .....	1	do .....	1½	do .....	
do .....	1	do .....	2	do .....	
do .....	3	do .....	3	Shoe-making....	
do .....	1	Burglary .....	4	do .....	
do .....	2	Larceny .....	3	do .....	
do .....	1	Assault and battery, with intent to kill .....	2	do .....	
do .....	1	Larceny .....	1	do .....	
do .....	1	do .....	2½	do .....	
do .....	4	do .....	4	do .....	

No.	Names.	When received.	Sex and color.	Where born.	Age.
50	J. S.....	Mar. 16, 1850	White man.....	Ireland.....	31
51	M. B.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	24
52	J. B., <i>alias</i> J. F.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	51
53	G. E.....	Mar. 18, 1850	Black man.....	Virginia.....	28
54	J. McM.....	Mar. 22, 1850	White man.....	Ireland.....	39
55	S. L.....	Mar. 25, 1850	Mulatto woman..	Pennsylvania.....	19
56	C. M.....	Mar. 29, 1850	White man.....	Ireland.....	37
57	W. P.....	May 5, 1850	White boy.....	Virginia.....	17
58	M. McP., <i>alias</i> M. E.....	June 29, 1850	Black woman...	Maryland.....	22
59	W. N.....	July 6, 1850	White man.....	Dist. of Columbia..	31
60	J. B.....	.....do.....	Mulatto boy.....	Virginia.....	14
61	E. B.....	.....do.....	Black woman...	Maryland.....	19
62	F. N.....	July 18, 1850	White man.....	Hanover, Europe..	31
63	T. C.....	July 19, 1850	.....do.....	Virginia.....	35
64	C. A. B.....	July 23, 1850	Black woman...	Dist. of Columbia..	23
65	A. S.....	July 29, 1850	White boy.....	Virginia.....	18
66	T. H.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Dist. of Columbia..	18
67	C. D.....	.....do.....	Black woman...	.....do.....	22
68	I. C.....	Dec. 12, 1850	Black boy.....	.....do.....	18
69	B. S.....	Dec. 16, 1850	Black man.....	Virginia.....	25
70	T. H.....	Dec. 28, 1850	White man.....	Dist. of Columbia..	25
71	H. J.....	.....do.....	Mulatto woman..	Virginia.....	29
72	H. Y.....	Dec. 31, 1850	White man.....	Dist. of Columbia..	41
73	C. D.....	.....do.....	Black man.....	.....do.....	22

Continued.

Where convicted.	No. of times convicted.	Crime.	Term of sentence.	Employment.	Discharge.
			Years.		
Washington.....	1	Larceny.....	1	Shoe-making....	
.....do.....	1	.....do.....	1	.....do.....	
.....do.....	1	.....do.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Laborer.....	
.....do.....	1	.....do.....	3	Shoe-making....	
.....do.....	1	Counterfeiting U. S. coin.	4	.....do.....	
.....do.....	1	Larceny.....	1		
.....do.....	1	.....do.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shoe-making....	
Wythe C. H., Va.	1	Stealing letters and money from U. S. mail.....	10	.....do.....	
Washington.....	1	Larceny.....	1		
.....do.....	2	.....do.....	2	Shoe-making....	
.....do.....	1	Arson.....	1	.....do.....	
.....do.....	2	Larceny.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
.....do.....	1	.....do.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shoe-making....	
.....do.....	2	.....do.....	2	.....do.....	
.....do.....	2	.....do.....	1		
.....do.....	1	.....do.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shoe-making....	
.....do.....	1	Arson.....	2	.....do.....	
.....do.....	1	Forgery.....	2		
.....do.....	1	Larceny.....	2	Blacksmithing...	
.....do.....	1	Assault and attempt to commit a rape.....	3	Shoe-making....	
.....do.....	1	Assault and battery, with intent to kill.....	6	.....do.....	
.....do.....	1	.....do.....do.....do..	2		
.....do.....	1	Larceny.....	3	Shoe-making....	
.....do.....	1	.....do.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....do.....	

NOTE.—The female convicts have been employed in making, mending, and washing the clothing of the convicts, binding the shoes manufactured in the prison, and such other labor, suited to their capacity and condition, as could be procured for them.

## No. 5—Continued.

## RECAPITULATION.

Number of prisoners confined in the penitentiary January 1, 1850.....	46	
Number of prisoners received during the year 1850.....	27	
	<u>—</u>	
Total in all the year.....	73	
Discharged by expiration of sentence.....	15	
Pardoned.....	1	
Death.....	<u>—</u>	16
		<u>—</u>
Remaining in the penitentiary December 31, 1850.....	57	
	<u>—</u>	
Of whom there are—		
White males.....		25
White females.....		20
Colored males.....		20
Colored females.....		12
		<u>—</u>
Total.....	57	<u>—</u>
		<u>—</u>
Who are apportioned to labor as follows:		
Shoe-making.....		35
Carpentry.....		3
Blacksmithing.....		1
Tailoring, shoe-binding, washing, mending, &c.....		12
Baking and cooking.....		2
Broom-making.....		1
Picking oakum.....		1
Laborers.....		2
		<u>—</u>
Total.....	57	<u>—</u>
		<u>—</u>

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY, DISTRICT COLUMBIA,  
*Hospital Department, January 1, 1851.*

GENTLEMEN: I am able to make, this year, the usual favorable report as to the health of this prison. We have had, during the past year, some cases of intermittent bilious fever, but all easily relieved. Other affections, such as might have occurred in the same number of persons under ordinary circumstances, have demanded attention; but they have been mostly ephemeral in character, and yielded readily to prompt treatment. The prisoner Mortimer still continues subject to periodical attacks of epilepsy. There is in this man a depression of the inner table of the frontal bone of the skull impinging upon the cerebral mass below. The outer table and the intermediate cancellous structure having been destroyed, there is fair reason to believe that his disease may be caused, or at least the predisposition excited, by this state of the parts; and I call your attention to it in order to receive your advice as to the propriety of an operation for his relief.

We have had, during the past year, three births in the prison: two of the children (all black) were mature, and one at seven months. These women came into the prison in a pregnant condition; the children all died in a short time after birth, never appearing to thrive.

We have a case, in the prisoner Madden, of "insane impulse." The first evidence of his disordered condition was manifested by an attack upon a fellow-prisoner, whose life he nearly destroyed by striking him on the head with a piece of iron broken from his bedstead. At another time he attacked the officers, and lately made an assault upon another fellow-prisoner. The man appears to be amiable, and obedient, and perfectly correct in his deportment generally—willing to labor, and never complaining. He has been kept at labor as steadily as possible, as a curative means, as well as to make his time as profitable as possible. As the institution is unprovided with means properly adapted to such cases, it was thought best, as a safeguard, to confine him. This was effected by limiting him to the hospital room. As this confinement was not appropriate to the relief of his diseased condition, he was released when he seemed to have recovered from the propensity to do mischief, and returned to take his meals with the other prisoners. On one of these occasions, lately, he made his third attack upon a prisoner, since which he has been confined to a cell. We have had but one death in the prison the past year—the German *Dockhart*, who served as a soldier during the Mexican war. He died on the 9th February last, of diarrhœa contracted in Mexico. The perfect cleanliness of the prison buildings and yards, the personal neatness of the inmates, the regularity of their meals of most wholesome food, in proper quantity, and of their hours of rest and proportioned labor, contribute mainly to the healthfulness of this prison; and it gives me very great pleasure to testify to the indefatigable industry and correct judgment of the Warden and his officers in effecting these desirable objects.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. YOUNG, M. D.,  
*Physician of the Penitentiary.*

To the INSPECTORS  
of the United States Penitentiary, D. C.

WASHINGTON, *January 1, 1851.*

GENTLEMEN: It affords me unspeakable pleasure that the period for the presentation of the chaplain's annual report finds me surrounded by circumstances so auspicious, as regards the moral and spiritual condition and prospects of my charge—quite a general religious interest at this time prevailing among the prisoners, several, after having given signs of sincere repentance, professing to have obtained pardon at the hands of a merciful God, and others apparently endeavoring to accomplish a genuine reformation of character.

The general conduct of the prisoners during my ministrations, excepting for the first few weeks, (previous to the administration of the present Warden,) which period was characterized by some degree of disorder and insubordination, has been remarkable for its propriety, frequently exciting the admiration and surprise of visitors. They have paid the most respectful attention to the instructions given, and manifested much personal interest in the doctrines taught. The blessed Sabbath, with its privileges, appears to be appreciated by them. They always seem to enter upon its duties with delight. I have endeavored to lay the foundation of their lasting reform by impressing upon them the fact of their accountability to God, and the necessity of recognising, first, their duty to Him, before their hearts can be right towards their fellow-man. And I rejoice in the hope that some, who have hitherto been lost to themselves and their race, will yet become useful members of society.

The Sunday school is in a prosperous condition, and has been a very efficient agent in promoting the moral advancement of the prisoners. Most of them can read. Some have learned to read in the Sunday school. A few youths, in whose instruction I have felt a deep interest, have learned to love their books, and begin to appreciate the advantage of doing right. From my own observation, I fully concur with my predecessor in the opinion, "that most of the crime that is committed is done by those whose moral and religious education has been entirely neglected."

The number of prisoners having been considerably increased at the last session of the criminal court, an additional number of bibles and other moral and religious books will be needed—especially as many of the old volumes of the library are too much worn to be serviceable. I would, therefore, urgently, but respectfully, recommend that a considerable addition to the library be made. It would also be of great utility to have a bookcase made and placed in the Chapel, so as to be conveniently accessible by the chaplain when the prisoners are assembled in Sunday school.

It gives me much pleasure to state that the present Warden and his subordinate officers have heartily co-operated with me in the discharge of my duties. Great facility has been afforded me therein by his assiduous attention. And I deem it but just to remark, that, "in executing the duties of his office he never loses sight of the reformation of his prisoners." Indeed, so well regulated is this prison, and so good is its general discipline, that I consider it an efficient school of moral reform.

Very respectfully, yours,

AUSTIN GRAY,

*Chaplain.*

To the BOARD OF INSPECTORS

*of the United States Penitentiary, D. C.*