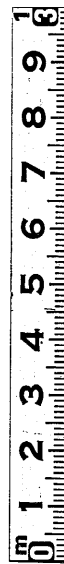


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P A P E R S

PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

BY

RELATING TO

His Majesty's Prison in Cold Bath Fields.

Ordered to be printed 18th December 1800.

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L I S T.

Copy of Commission of Inquiry - - - - page 3.
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COLD BATH FIELDS PRISON.

Copy Commission of Enquiry.

GEORGE the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth: To Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir *George Paul* and Sir *Christopher Willoughby* Barons, *John Spranger* Esquire one of the Masters of Our High Court of Chancery, *William Moreton Pitt*, *William Baker*, *Robert John Buxton*, *Charles Shaw Lefevre*, and *John Berkeley Burland* Esquires, Greeting: WHEREAS the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeffes, and Commissioners of Shires and Boroughs, in Our Parliament of Great Britain assembled, have presented an humble Address to Us, requesting that We would be graciously pleased to give Directions that an Enquiry be made into the State and Management of our Prison, called "The House of Correction for the County of Middlesex, situated in Cold Bath Fields;" NOW KNOW YE that We, considering the Premises, and earnestly desiring that such an Enquiry should be made as speedily as possible, and reposing great Trust and Confidence in your Fidelity, Judgment, and Ability, have authorized and appointed, and by these Presents do authorize and appoint you the said Sir *George Paul* Baronet, Sir *Christopher Willoughby* Baronet, *John Spranger*, *William Moreton Pitt*, *William Baker*, *Robert John Buxton*, *Charles Shaw Lefevre*, and *John Berkeley Burland* Esquires, and any Three or more of you, to make a diligent, particular, and strict Enquiry, by all lawful Ways and Means whatsoever, into the Matter represented in the above-mentioned Address of our Faithful Commons; and upon due Examination of the Premises, to propose, and reduce into Writing under your Hands and Seals, or the Hands and Seals of any Three or more of you, by what lawful Ways and Means any Abuses or Mismanagement in the Premises may be reformed, and what Remedies may properly be applied thereto, and what Regulations or Provisions may be necessary or proper for the better Management of the said Prison and of the Persons confined therein, and for the Prevention of Abuses therein in future; and furthermore, for the Purposes aforesaid We do by these Presents give and grant to you Our said Commissioners, or any Three or more of you, full Power and Authority to
 cause

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cause all and singular the Gaolers, Keepers, and other Officers and Attendants of and belonging to or in anywise employed in or about the said Prison respectively, to bring and produce upon Oath before you or any Three or more of you, all and singular the Records, Regulations, Documents, Books, and Papers or other Writings, belonging to or appertaining to the Conduct, Management, or Treatment of the said Prison and Prisoners confined therein, which shall be in the Custody of them or any of them respectively: And to the end that Our Royal Will and Pleasure in the Premises may be executed with the greater Regularity and Dispatch, We further by these Presents will and command, and do hereby give full Power and Authority to you, or any Three or more of you, to nominate and appoint such Person of Ability, Care, and Diligence, as you shall think fit, to be and act as your Clerk for the Purpose of aiding you in the Execution of these Presents; and We further will and command and by these Presents ordain, that you or any Three or more of you shall certify under your Hands and Seals, and to Our Lord High Treasurer or to the Commissioners of Our Treasury for the Time being, what shall be a fit and suitable Recompense for such Clerk's Pains and Service hereby required to be by him performed, which Recompense it is Our Will and Pleasure shall be paid to him accordingly: And Our further Will and Pleasure is, that you or any Three or more of you shall, on or before the First Day of November in the present Year, Report unto Us, under your Hands and Seals respectively, your Proceedings had by virtue of these Presents, together with such other Matters, if any, as may be deserving of Our Royal Consideration concerning the Premises, and what further Measures, if any, you shall think fit to propose thereon: In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourself at Westminster the Second Day of September in the Fortieth Year of Our Reign.

T O R K E.

By Writ of Privy Seal.

Crown Office,
15th December 1800.

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REPORT from the COMMISSIONERS, appointed by Commission under the Great Seal to enquire into the State and Management of HIS MAJESTY'S Prison in Cold Bath Fields, Clerkenwell.—Dated the 1st Day of November 1800.

To the KING'S Most Excellent MAJESTY.

May it please Your MAJESTY,

IN obedience to Your Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal, bearing Date the Second Day of September in the Fortieth Year of Your Majesty's Reign, Whereby, after stating, "that the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses, and Commissioners of Shires and Boroughs, in Your Majesty's Parliament of Great Britain assembled, had presented an humble Address to Your Majesty, requesting that Your Majesty would be graciously pleased to give Directions, that an Enquiry should be made into the State and Management of Your Majesty's Prison, called The House of Correction for the County of Middlesex, situated in Cold Bath Fields," Your Majesty was pleased to authorize and appoint us Sir George Paul and Sir Christopher Willoughby, Barons, John Spranger, Esquire, one of the Masters of Your Majesty's High Court of Chancery, William Moreton Pitt, William Baker, Robert John Buxton, Charles Shaw Lefevre, and John Berkeley Burland, Esquires, and any Three or more of us, to be Commissioners to make diligent, particular, and strict Enquiry, by all lawful Ways and Means whatsoever, into the Matter represented in the above-mentioned Address of Your Majesty's faithful Commons, and upon due Examination of the Premises, to propose and reduce into Writing, under our Hands and Seals, or the Hands and Seals of any Three or more of us, by what lawful Ways and Means any Abuses or Mismanagement may be reformed, and what Remedies may be properly applied thereto, and what Regulations or Provisions may be necessary or proper for the better Management of the said Prison, and of the Persons confined therein, and for the Prevention of Abuses therein in future." And furthermore, for the

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Purposes

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6 COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Purposes aforesaid, Your Majesty was pleased, by the said Presents, "to give and grant to us Your Majesty's said Commissioners, or any "Three or more of us, full Power and Authority, to cause all and "singular the Gaolers, Keepers, and other Officers and Attendants of "and belonging to or in anywise employed in or about the said Prison, "respectively, to bring and produce upon Oath before us, or any Three "or more of us, all and singular the Records, Regulations, Documents, "Books, and Papers, or other Writings, belonging to or appertaining "to the Conduct, Management, or Treatment of the said Prison and "Prisoners confined therein, which should be in the Custody of them, or "any of them respectively." And it was further declared to be Your Majesty's Royal Will and Pleasure, "that we or any Three or more of "us should, on or before the First of November in the present Year, "report unto Your Majesty, under our Hands and Seals, our Proceed- "ings had by virtue of the said Presents, together with such other "Matter (if any) as might be deserving Your Majesty's Royal Con- "sideration, concerning the Premises, and what further Measures " (if any) we might think fit to propose thereon."

We beg leave humbly to represent to Your Majesty,

That, in consequence of a Notice of Your Majesty's Pleasure, dated the Eleventh Day of September last, and directed to us, respectively, by his Grace the Duke of Portland, one of Your Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, we met, on the Twenty-second Day of the same Month, at the Session House for the County of Middlesex, and having opened and read Your Majesty's Commission;—in obedience thereto, we called before us "the Governor and other Officers and Attendants, belonging to or "employed in or about Your Majesty's Prison in Cold Bath Fields, and "directed them respectively to bring and produce, upon Oath, before "us, all the Records, Regulations, Documents, Books, and Papers or "other Writings, appertaining to the Conduct and Management of the "said Prison, or to the Treatment of the Prisoners confined therein.

Appendix, No. 1. And the Books and Papers mentioned in the Appendix, were accordingly laid before us.

Having been informed that the Superintendance of the Prison, under our Enquiry, was vested in a permanent Committee of Magistrates, who were then sitting on this Duty: We, by Letter, communicated to them the Purport and Extent of Your Majesty's Commission, and our Will to receive from them such Information, regarding the State and Management of the Prison under their Inspection, "as they might think "deserving Your Majesty's Consideration."

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In answer to this our Application, the Committee directed their Clerk, Mr. Daniel Hinley, to lay before us the Books containing the Whole of their Proceedings, from the 27th Day of January 1796 to the present Time. Appendix, No. 2.

Being further informed that the Court of Quarter Sessions for the County of Middlesex was also sitting, We addressed a Letter to William Mainwaring, Esquire, the Chairman of the said Court, informing him, that we were then assembled under a Commission from Your Majesty, directing us to "enquire into the State and Management of the Prison in Cold "Bath Fields," and requesting that he would direct a Copy of the Act of Parliament for building the said Prison, together with such Statutes as regard the constructing, regulating, and managing Houses of Correction and other Prisons, to be laid before us; and that we should be happy to receive from him, or any other Magistrate of the County, such further Communications relating to the Subject of our Enquiry, "as he, or any of them, "might think deserving Your Majesty's Consideration."

By Order of the Court, the Clerk of the Peace laid before us the Books and Papers mentioned in the Appendix. Appendix, No. 3.

We commenced our Enquiry by reading an Act passed in the 26th Year of Your Majesty's Reign, "for enabling the Justices of Peace for "the County of Middlesex to raise Money for building a House of Cor- "rection within the said County," by which it appears that, "in conse- "quence of the former House of Correction for the said County being in- "secure and incapable of answering the general Purposes of a House of "Correction," Powers were therein given to the Magistrates of the said County, "to raise a Sum of Money for purchasing Ground and erecting "thereon a proper and commodious House of Correction, with all ne- "cessary Conveniences, and for fitting up and furnishing the same."

26 G. 3. c. 55.

We proceeded to examine the several Statutes now in force, which direct the Mode of constructing, regulating, and managing Houses of Correction and other Prisons, particularly the Acts of the 22d and 24th Years of Your Majesty's Reign, "for amending and rendering more effectual the "Laws in being relative to Houses of Correction;"—Also an Act passed in the 19th Year of Your Majesty's Reign, "to explain and amend the "Laws relating to Transportation, Imprisonment, and other Punishment "of certain Offenders," renewed from Time to Time, and now in force, by virtue of certain Acts passed in the 39th Year of Your Majesty's Reign;—Likewise an Act passed in the 31st Year of Your Majesty's Reign, "for the better regulating Gaols and other Places of Confine- "ment;"—an Abstract of which Acts will be found in the Appendix.

22 G. 5. c. 64.

24 G. 3. c. 55.

19 G. 3. c. 74.

31 G. 3. c. 46.

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Appendix No. 4. With a View to ascertain how far the several Powers and Directions of these Laws had been complied with, in constructing, finishing, and regulating Your Majesty's Prison in Cold Bath Fields, and in controuling the Management thereof, we proceeded to read,

No. 5. The Original Rules, Orders, and Regulations for the Management of the said Prison;—Also the Orders of Court which had been made on this Behalf since opening the same, with the several Reports of the visiting and other Magistrates, and of the Committee of Inspection, on which such Orders appear to have been founded; together with the Journals of the visiting and other Justices of the Peace; and the Minutes of the several Committees appointed to superintend the Management of the said Prison.

No. 8. To enable us to judge how far these Orders and Regulations had been attended to, we perused the Journals of the Governor, Surgeon, and Chaplain, together with all such Books as regard the keeping, sustaining, employing, clothing, and instructing the Prisoners;—We also examined “the Governor and other Officers and Attendants belonging to, or employed in the said Prison,” as well regarding the Contents of the Books peculiarly under their Care, as of all other Matters and Things within their Knowledge.

No. 9. We have also to state to Your Majesty, that William Mainwaring, Esquire, Chairman of the Quarter Sessions for the County of Middlesex, the Reverend Dr. Samuel Glasse, William Bleamire, and John Nares, Esquires, were pleased severally to attend our Sitzings, and to communicate to us such Information as had fallen peculiarly within their Observation.

Having thus availed ourselves of all the recorded as well as oral Information presented to us or within our Power to obtain, concerning the State and Management of the said Prison, we adjourned our Sitzings to the Prison itself, and passed Five several Days in viewing the General Plan of the Building, the Arrangement of its Parts, and the Accommodation thereby provided for the Prisoners of the several Descriptions confined therein. We examined the Quantity and Quality of the Provisions allowed, and informed ourselves of the actual State and Condition of all the Prisoners in Confinement.

19 G. 3. c. 74. s. 24. 26. It appears that this Prison was originally designed for the sole Purpose of a House of Correction; but that in consequence of “a Certificate not having been made to the Justices of Your Majesty's Court of King's Bench, that National Penitentiary Houses were built,” it became also liable to be used as a Penitentiary House for the County of Middlesex, under

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ON COLD BATH FIELDS PRISON. 9

under the Act of the 19th Year, and to be regulated as such, by an Act passed in the 31st Year of Your Majesty's Reign, and that it is so used, although not so regulated. 31 G. 3. c. 46.

PLAN AND ARRANGEMENT.

The Building, with few Deviations from Uniformity, is laid out and divided into separate and distinct Cells or single Apartments, as well on the Ground Floor as on the Upper Stories: each Cell being Eight Feet Three Inches long, and Six Feet Three Inches wide, contains Fifty-one Feet Six Inches of superficial Space, and being Eight Feet high to the Spring of the Arch, and Two Feet Six in its Rise, the cubical Contents are about Four Hundred and Seventy-six Feet. The Doors are of Wood, opening outwards, from the Cells to the Galleries, on the Upper Floors; but inwards, from the Yards to the Cells, on the Ground Floor; to each Cell there are Two Apertures or Windows for Light and Ventilation, each Two Feet Six Inches wide by Two Feet high, One over the Door, the other at the Height of Seven Feet from the Floor, in the opposite Direction; these Apertures are closed by Wooden Shutters, acting at the Will of the Person confined; but so improper an Use has lately been made of this Power, that in not less than Seventy of the Cells the Prisoners have torn down the Shutters, and thereby exposed themselves and Successors to sleep without Protection from the outward Air.

The Cells on the Ground Floor are built on Arches, and are raised Three Steps from the Level of the Yards; those of the Upper Floors rest on the Arches of those below; and as the Use of combustible Matter is by this Means excluded, they are all Fire Proof. The whole Number of single Cells is Two Hundred and Eighteen, but as Sixteen of these have no other Light than from the Apertures over the Doors which open into the Galleries, they are not used but for the occasional Confinement of refractory Prisoners; there remain therefore only Two Hundred and Two Cells, fitted for the Lodging of Prisoners. In addition to these, in each of Six Yards, there are Two Apartments containing the Space of Two single Cells, and intended for lodging Two Prisoners: Supposing therefore (as is the Intention by the present Arrangement) that none of these Cells shall be distinctly set apart for Day Rooms, but that every Prisoner shall work in the Cell in which he shall Sleep at Night, there is Accommodation of this Kind for Two Hundred and Twenty-six Prisoners.

Some larger Apartments are formed by throwing together the Space of several Cells.

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In the Arcades, on the Ground Floor, there are Two Rooms, each Twenty-two Feet long by Twenty Feet wide; Four others, each Twenty Feet long by Thirteen wide; One other, Twenty Feet long by Seven Feet wide. One of the largest of these Rooms is used as a Wash-house and Laundry; Two others, of smaller Dimensions (having no Fire Places) are applied to the Purpose of Store Rooms. Of the remaining Four Rooms (provided with Fire Places) the smallest is used as a Ward for Five old and infirm Felons; the Three others, now unoccupied, are in the Winter Months occasionally used as Day Rooms. We are informed, that to Fires made in these Rooms, in Frosty Weather, the Prisoners in the adjoining Yards have free Access, whilst those confined in such Divisions of the Prison, as are not provided with Fire Places, are removed to them during certain Hours in the Day.

On the First Floor there is One Room Twenty-two Feet long by Twenty Feet wide, with a Fire Place, now unoccupied, but used in Winter as a Spinning Room for Female Felon Convicts; and Three other Rooms about Twenty Feet long by Thirteen wide, with the adjoining Cells, or Lodging Rooms, opening into them; One of these Rooms is used as a Foul Ward; One other as a Day Room for Female disorderly and vagrant Prisoners; the Third, now unoccupied, is in Frosty Weather used as those on the Ground Floor for warming the Prisoners of an adjoining Yard.

On the Third or Upper Story, there are Two Rooms Twenty-four Feet long by Twenty wide, provided with Fire Places and boarded Floors; in each of these there are Six Windows glazed, with Casements opening in opposite Directions; these are used as Infirmarys for Male and Female Prisoners. There are Two other Rooms on the Third Story, very airy and commodious, each Twenty-seven Feet square; to these there are Six Windows glazed, with Casements opening in an opposite Direction, and in each a Fire Place. These Rooms we understand to have been designed for Work Rooms; One of them is now occupied by Six State Prisoners; the other being inconvenient of Access, is made no Use of at present.

There are, moreover, Two Rooms, One on the Second, and One on the Third Story, each Fourteen Feet square, with a single Cell opening into it, and a Fire Place. In One of these, there are now confined Four Seamen, for Treasonable Practices; the other is at present vacant.

Communicating with the center Gallery, there is a Building of Three Stories; on each Story Two Rooms, each Room Thirteen Feet Six Inches long by about Eight Feet wide and Eleven Feet high, all provided with Fire Places, and those on the Two Upper Stories with boarded Floors. Two

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ON COLD BATH FIELDS PRISON. 11

Two of these Rooms are occupied by the Keeper's Assistants; One is used as a Store Room; Three of them are usually let out (at the Discretion of the Governor) to such Prisoners as are willing and able to pay Ten Shillings and Sixpence per Week for their Hire; One of them is occupied by a State Prisoner, and no Rent is received for it; One is vacant, and One only is paid for by a convicted Prisoner.

There are Two other Apartments on the Ground Floor, detached from the principal Building, each of these consists of a spacious Room, paved and provided with a Fire Place, and within it a neat Bed Room, with a boarded Floor. One of these is at present occupied by a Prisoner, convicted of a Misdemeanour, paying for it a Room Rent as above-mentioned; the other is inhabited by the Cook to the Prison.

At the Entrance of the Prison is a Committee Room, and over it are Two Lodging Rooms; they are now occupied by Two Servants belonging to the Prison; but we observe that these, as well as the Committee Room itself, have been used by Prisoners as Apartments of superior Accommodation, and the usual Room Rent paid for them.

There is a neat and airy Chapel in the Centre of the Building, sufficiently spacious to contain the whole Number of Prisoners which can be properly accommodated in the Cells.

There are Eight large Yards to which the Prisoners of the different Classes have Access, and in which, indeed, we find that at present they pass the entire Day together, sheltered from the Weather by Admission into the Cells, which open into the Yards, and by the Pent Houses, which extend the Length of the same. There are also Eight other airing Grounds, to which the lesser criminal Offenders have either a free or an occasional Access.

In Addition to the original Plan of the Building, several commodious Shops have been erected, suited to the several Trades and Manufactures, in which the Prisoners were heretofore employed, particularly for Carpenters, Taylors, Turners, Shoemakers, and Sawyers, with an extensive covered Stage for drying Oakum.

The Keeper's House is a distinct Building, and is also an Addition to the original Plan.

Water is brought into all the Yards by Pipes, for the Use of the Prisoners, either to drink or to wash themselves, for which latter Purpose Towels are also provided.

On the Whole, it appears that this Prison has been built and fitted up on a Plan suited to the peculiar System of Imprisonment recommended by

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by Mr. Howard, and with general Regard and Conformity to the Provisions of the Act of the Nineteenth Year of Your Majesty's Reign; but we observe no Provision has been made "for warming the Rooms or Cells in damp or cold Weather," as directed by that Act.—As a House of Correction also, we observe that proper "separate Apartments are not provided for Persons committed on Charges of Felony, or convicted of any Theft or Larceny, so as to prevent Communication between them and other Prisoners," as directed by an Act passed in the Twenty-second Year of Your Majesty's Reign.

The Rules, Orders, and Regulations, made for the Management of the Prison, "do not contradict the specific Rules laid down by the last mentioned Act." They are made also with some "Regard to the Discipline, Provisions, and Directions contained in the Act of the Nineteenth Year of Your Majesty's Reign." But we do not perceive that "they have been submitted to the Judges of Assize," as directed by the Act of the Thirty-first Year of Your Majesty's Reign, regarding such Rules as affect Prisoners in solitary Confinement.

Copies of these Rules and Orders are not hung up in any Part of the Prison to which the Prisoners have Access, of course they "are not conspicuous" to them; the Copy which is hung up near the Gateway contains no other than the Rules originally made, which, as well by Reason of the various Orders which have since taken place, as by Deviations not sanctioned by any Order, do not convey precise Ideas of the actual Discipline of the Prison.

MAGISTRATES INSPECTION.

We observe that, at the First opening of this Prison, namely, at the September Quarter Sessions in 1794, the Court proceeded, as the Laws direct, to appoint Two Justices as Visitors thereof; and that from Time to Time they renewed such Appointment until the November Sessions in the Year 1795.

The Journals kept by the Magistrates who accepted this Duty are before us, and are Evidence of the Zeal and Attention with which they performed it.

From the Date of the last mentioned Sessions, it does not appear that any regular Appointment of Visiting Justices has been made: But we nevertheless observe, that individual Magistrates have frequently availed themselves of their Right, and performed the Duty of Visiting without being so appointed.

19 G. 3. c. 74. f. 33.
22 G. 3. c. 64. f. 1.

22 G. 3. c. 64. f. 4.

31 G. 3. c. 46. f. 2.

22 G. 3. c. 64. f. 4.

Appendix No. 6.

31 G. 3. c. 46. f. 5.

Appendix No. 10.

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ON COLD BATH FIELDS PRISON. 13

By an Order of Court made at the January Sessions 1796, we find that a Committee was nominated "to inspect the General Concerns of the Prisons belonging to the County of Middlesex;" Eighteen Magistrates were named on this Committee, which was also left open to all other Magistrates who might think fit to attend it; it was an Instruction to them, from the Court, to enquire from Time to Time "how far the Rules and Orders made for the Government of this Prison were observed and kept."

The Committee of Inspection began their Duty on the 4th Day of February 1796, and continued, without any Variation in the Objects of their Attention, until the End of the Year 1798. They held their Meetings in the Committee Room of the House of Correction, and were regular in Attendance, Once immediately before, and Once subsequent to each of the General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the County.

Previous to the October Sessions 1798, the great Expence of this Prison to the County, attracted the Attention of the Magistrates, and a Committee of Accounts, consisting of Eight Magistrates, was appointed: by their Instructions, they were directed to regulate the Economy of this Prison, and "particularly to enquire into the Receipt and Expenditure of Butchers Meat," the Cost of which, it appears, had in the Year preceding amounted to the Sum of £.996.

At the following Sessions, the Two Committees were united under the Title of "A Committee to enquire into the Receipt and Expenditure of Butchers Meat and other Articles provided for the Prisoners; and also to inspect the General Concerns of the Prisons belonging to the County of Middlesex."

This united Committee began their Sitzings on the 2d January 1799, at the Sessions House; but after Two Meetings they adjourned to the House of Correction, at which Place they have continued, until the present Time, to meet according to the Engagement of the Original Committee, the Friday previous to, and the Friday following, each General or Quarter Sessions.

Reports of the Observations made by these Committees have been regularly presented to the Magistrates in Sessions, who have considered them on (what is termed) their County Day, and Orders of Court have been made according to the Result.

COMMISSIONERS VIEW AND INSPECTION.

As many Persons are Daily committed to this Prison for further Examination, many for Seven Days, as Vagrants, and others as Idle and Disorderly,

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Appendix No. 6.

No. 6.

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COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Disorderly, wanting Sureties to appear at the ensuing Quarter Sessions, the Numbers are perpetually fluctuating.

The Average Number of Prisoners confined in the House for the last Two Years appears to have been Two Hundred and Fifty; on the 20th of May in the present Year the Numbers amounted to Three Hundred and Twenty.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRISONERS.

The Day on which we commenced our Inspection was that of the Close of the Sessions; many of the Vagrants, Felons for Trial, and Disorderly, wanting Sureties, were of course discharged; the Number was therefore probably at the lowest; by the List delivered to us, it did not exceed Two Hundred and Two.

Appendix, No. 14.

These Two Hundred and Two Prisoners we found classed or associated in the following Manner; viz. in the 1st Yard and Gallery adjoining; Ten Male Felon Convicts; One Misdemeanour (a Smuggler) Three D^o (Violent Assaults): Total Fourteen.

In the 2d Yard and Galleries; Eighteen Male Felon Convicts; One Convict for a violent Assault; One Convict, a reputed Thief: Total Twenty. Six of these were in Irons, and confined in Cells opening to the Yard in which their Fellow Prisoners were at large; Five others of this Class were confined, in Society with each other, in an adjoining Gallery, into which the Cells opened wherein they were separately lodged at Night: The last mentioned were not in Irons. These Eleven Persons had been principal Actors in a Riot and Attempt to break Prison on the 14th of August last, and were in a State of Punishment and extraordinary Restriction on that Account.

No. 8.

By the Minutes it appears that the Governor had immediately informed a Magistrate of his having put these Prisoners in Confinement, and that at the First Meeting of the Committee of Inspection after the Event, namely, on the 12th September, he had made a Report of the Circumstances attending the Riot, and had given in a List of the Prisoners whom he had thought it necessary to put in Irons, or otherwise confined, in consequence; but it does not appear that he has since received any Instructions respecting them.

In the 3d Yard and Gallery; Twenty-nine Male Felon Convicts; Three Misdemeanours Convict; Two Convict, reputed Thieves: Total Thirty-four Persons;—of whom, Six were confined in Irons for the like Reason, and under similar Circumstances with those in the 2d Yard.

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ON COLD BATH FIELDS PRISON. 15

In the 4th Yard and Gallery; One Convict Felon; Eight convicted Misdemeanours; Two Evidence on Prosecutions for Felony; One Lottery Rogue and Vagabond; One detained under the Alien Act, placed in this Division at his own Request: Total Thirteen Persons.

In the 5th Yard and Gallery; Nineteen Misdemeanours Convict; Two for Want of Sureties on Charges of Bastardy; Two for Re-examination: Total Twenty-three Persons.

In the North West Yard; Five Felon Convicts:—It was stated to us that these being very old Men, were liable to ill Usage, if confined in Society with the younger Convicts; they were lodged in a Room in the Arcades, provided with a Fire Place, and containing the Space of Four Cells: This Room appeared to be not duly ventilated.

Appendix, No. 8.

In a Nest of Cells over the North West Arcade, there were Six Lads in idle Solitude, under Sentence of a Month's Imprisonment, as "Idle Apprentices." We are informed it has been the established Practice, as well in the former as in the present House of Correction, to keep Prisoners of this Description strictly without Intercourse with Friends, with other Prisoners, or with each other, except during the short Time their Cells are opened in the Morning for the Purpose of their washing themselves, and receiving their Food.

In a Cell in one of the Galleries we found a single Prisoner, a Convict for an Assault with Intent to rob. This Man had been a Ringleader in the late Riot, and had, on a former Occasion, escaped from the Prison. He had been confined alone without Change of Room, and in Irons, since the 14th Day of August last, under the like Circumstances as those before-mentioned.

In a Yard, termed the Infirmary Yard; One Mutineer, One convicted of an Assault, One Insane Person, Six Felon Convicts, and One on a Charge of Bastardy; Total Ten Persons: of these, Two, namely, One Felon Convict, and One Mutineer (who has been a Surgeon's Mate) are on the Infirmary List as Nurses to the Sick.

In a Yard called the Vagrant Yard; Two Debtors for the Term of Twenty Days each, under the Powers of an Act "for Recovery of Small Debts within the Tower Hamlets;" And Two Vagrants for Seven Days, preparatory to their being passed to their respective Parishes: Total Four.

In the Rooms provided for superior Accommodation, we found Two Prisoners convicted of Misdemeanours; One by the Court of King's Bench, for keeping a Gaming House; the other by the Quarter Sessions, for obtaining Money under false Pretences.

These

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These Persons belong, by the Nature of their Offences, to the Class of the 4th and 5th Yards; but by the Payment of Ten Shillings and Six Pence each per Week for Room Rent, they exempt themselves from the Inconveniences attending the Situation of more destitute Persons confined under similar Sentences; they are boarded by the Prison Cook, and, by Permission of the Surgeon, may purchase Liquors forbidden by the General Regulations.

In a Third Room of better Accommodation, was confined a single Prisoner, on Suspicion of High Treason. This Man receives the Daily Prison Allowance of Bread, and Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence per Week from Government, and is also boarded by the Cook.

In the 6th Yard and Gallery, we found Nineteen Seamen, Convicts, under respite of Sentence of Death, for Mutiny on Board Your Majesty's Ships of War. We observed no peculiar Circumstance in the Situation of these Persons, distinct from that of other Convicts in the Prison, except that their regular Allowance of Food exceeded in Quantity that of any other Class of convicted Prisoners.

In One of the Rooms, Twenty-seven Feet square (as mentioned above) were confined Six Prisoners on Suspicion of High Treason: these Persons have each an Allowance of Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence per Week, and a Pound of Bread per Day; Five of them receive the Money, and provide for themselves, the Sixth pays it to the Cook of the Prison, and is boarded by him; they all sleep in the common Bedding of the Prison, as none of them have hitherto availed themselves of the Privilege of procuring or being supplied with better Bedding.

In a Room in the North East Wing were Four Seamen held under Suspicion of Treasonable Practices; these receive from Government the same Allowance as the last mentioned Prisoners; they agree with the Cook to find them a Dinner, only at One Shilling per Head per Day.

In a Cell on the Third Story of the North East Wing, with occasional Access to the Yards below, is a Frenchman charged with Treasonable Practices; he also receives the Government Allowance of Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence per Week, and a Pound of Bread Daily; the Money, until the Time we first saw him, had been received by the Cook, who had supplied him with all his Sustainance, but he was not satisfied with the Provision served to him; on our explaining to him his Right to receive his Allowance in Money, and provide for himself, he determined to do so. We have since found him greatly embarrassed, by the Want of Access to a Fire to dress the Food he is enabled to purchase with his Money.

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In the First Yard and Gallery for Females, were confined Twenty-eight Convict Felons; Two of these were sick in the Infirmary, forming Part of this Division, and One is the appointed Nurse.

In the Second Yard and Gallery for Females, there were Four Prisoners sentenced for different Terms, on Conviction of Pawning the Property of others; One convicted of a Misdemeanour; One Debtor from the Tower Hamlets; Two convicted idle and disorderly Persons; One D^r detained for Want of Sureties; One Seven Days Vagrant; and One idle Apprentice: Total Eleven.

This latter Class of Prisoners (on account of their general Insufficiency of Clothing) possess the peculiar Privilege of having constant Access to a Day Room with Fire. But as there is no separate Apartment for the Sick, they are very improperly associated with the Healthful in this Room.

COMPLAINTS OF PRISONERS.

We are aware with what Caution and Reserve should be received the Testimony of Persons suffering under the Restraints of a Prison, against those whose Duty it is to impose them. On the present Occasion, however, in pursuit of the Object pointed out to us by Your Majesty's Commission, we thought it our Duty to give to every Prisoner an Opportunity of expressing his or her Complaints, without Constraint from the Presence of the Governor or other Officer of the Prison.

Much to the Credit of the Prisoners in general, we did not find them disposed to loose and unreasonable Complaints. Amongst the Convicts, particularly, we found Men ready to distinguish between Circumstances which necessarily follow a State of Imprisonment, intended to be their Punishment, and those which arise from Misrule and Neglect; the Points they felt as Grievances were few and specifically stated, so that it was not difficult to enquire into and satisfy ourselves of their Reality.

The Two prominent and general Complaints, and which indeed followed us through the Prison, were the Insufficiency of the Bread Allowance, and the Want of Warmth during the Day Time, in the Winter Season.

Some few Prisoners spoke of a further Want of Warmth, when sleeping under Prison Allowance of Bedding. This Complaint was far from being general; it may be justly founded, regarding old or diseased Persons; but in such Cases, we understand the Surgeon exercises a discretionary Power to order Relief.

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A Penitentiary Prisoner, in close Confinement, complained that he received no other Food than a Pound of Bread per Day from the County.

Appendix.
No. 6. & 7. On Enquiry, we learnt that he was of the Number of those who had relinquished his Allowance for the Privilege of being supplied by his Wife.

Another Prisoner pointed out to us a considerable Degree of Dampness in the Cell, in which he had been confined several Days for refractory Behaviour; on examining, we discovered, that from the peculiar Situation of the Cell, it was subject to the Consequences of the leaking of Water-Pipes, which were over it. It was therefore very unfit for the Use to which it had been applied in this Man's Case.

One of the Prisoners confined in Irons complained, that Once or Twice, during the late Summer, he had been served with tainted Meat; he admitted it was during the hot Weather.

This Complaint being repeated in One other Instance, we examined the Butcher and Cook regarding it.

No. 11. The Butcher stated, that he is obliged to kill Meat on a Friday, which he sends to the Prison on the Monday. On some very hot Days in the last Summer, it was possible a Part of it might not be so good as it ought to have been, nor could he have changed it for other Meat, which he could have answered for at that Time.

In the Instance of one other Complaint respecting Meat, made by an Attendant on the Sick, it appeared that a Piece of very ordinary Beef had been sent to the Infirmary, pending the Time of our Enquiry; it was observed by the Nurse, and being rejected by the Surgeon, had been returned to the Kitchen and exchanged.

A very healthy looking young Man, who was confined in Irons, complained of his Want of sufficient Food. We found in his Case an Instance of the bad Consequence attending the Permission to give up a certain Prison Allowance, to depend on an uncertain Supply from Friends; his Mother, who had undertaken to provide for him, brought him his Provisions but Twice a Week; he had eaten, or disposed of the Whole of her Supply for Three Days, on the Day on which it was delivered to him; he had necessarily nothing left to depend upon for the following Two Days; but the Prison Loaf.

Many Prisoners complained of an occasional Deficiency in Weight of the Bread. A Loaf which was submitted to us by a Prisoner, being weighed,

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weighed, proved to be deficient. On a further Investigation, we found that the Loaves, in the Baking, adhere to each other, and it happens that in separating they are often unequally divided.

On weighing Twenty-eight Loaves on the First Day of our Inspection, Seventeen were over, and Eleven under Weight, and the whole Delivery of Two Hundred and Fifteen Loaves weighed Two Hundred and Sixteen Pounds. On weighing the Bread, on a subsequent Day, the whole Delivery of Two Hundred and Twenty Loaves proved to be Two Hundred and Twenty-three Pounds and Three Quarters;—of Fifty Loaves, singly weighed, Forty-four were full Weight, Six only under Weight.

This Inequality should be avoided; a Prisoner estimates his Claims positively, and can never be led to consider the Injury done him by short Weight on One Day, as compensated by the Addition which may accidentally fall to his Share on another.—Besides (as the Prisoners observed) the Circumstance offers a Means of Partiality in the Power of a Turnkey. All Prisoners should have Access to Scales and Weights on Application. We observe that by the 32d Rule, it is required "that every Prisoner's Loaf shall be the exact Weight allowed and directed."

By the Mode of keeping the Bread Account, and paying the Baker, it appears to be contrary to his Interest to send his Bread deficient in Weight.

The Vagrants and Debtors complain generally of the Insufficiency of their established Prison Allowance, where they are not connected with Friends without, or when they have not any Benefaction from the accidental Attention of the Cook.

Several Prisoners complained to us of the bad Effects of long fasting. On Enquiry we found that the Twenty-four Hours are very unequally divided. The Two Portions of their Food are delivered to them within Five Hours after they rise, namely, their Bread at Eight o'Clock, and their Meat or Soup soon after Twelve. Not having Discretion to reserve any Part, they frequently fast Seventeen or Eighteen Hours. As the Lower Classes accustom themselves to eat frequently, in the Case of a long Term of Imprisonment, this Circumstance may be Injurious to Health; it may however be considerably relieved by fixing a later Hour for the Delivery of the Dinner Meal.

In the Apartment of State Prisoners, One of them, an American, who boarded with the Cook, expressed his entire Satisfaction on every Point.—But in reply to our Request to the remaining Five, that "they would state to us any Complaints they had to make," they represented, 1st. That

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That the Bread with which they were served had an improper Taste. 2d. That they were obliged to buy their Coals out of their Allowance, which, as they dressed their own Provision, they considered an Hardship. 3d. That they were not allowed to attend the Chapel with the other Prisoners.

Appendix, No. 11.

On calling the Baker before us, regarding the First of these Complaints he informed us, "that the Bread with which he supplied the Prison was the same as that which he made for all his other Customers." That "since the home-grown Wheat has been scarce, and the Foreign mixed with it, he could not ensure that his Bread should be always exempt from the Taste acquired, by the Wheat being heated on Ship Board. Nor did he believe any Bread at present made in the Metropolis could be ensured to be wholly exempt from it."

The Fact of the Second Complaint was admitted by the Governor, who says he has received no Orders from Government on the Subject, and that he has therefore acted according to what he has understood to be the Practice in other Prisons.

We understand that, in some Instances, Coals have been allowed by Government, but in that Case Bread has not been given in addition to the Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence.

Regarding the last of these Complaints, the Chaplain informed us that the Governor had ceased to cause this Class of his Prisoners to attend the Chapel, at his Suggestion, on account of their indecorous Behaviour when there, which had been observed both by himself and the Governor. —The Prisoners deny this Charge.

The Four Seamen confined for Treasonable Practices had no Complaint of any Kind to make.

The Class of Mutineers declared generally, "they had no reasonable Cause of Complaint. If Things go on as at present, they are well off." They supposed Government provides their Clothing which is in bad Condition; and some of them will be in want of Bedding before Winter.

Robert Holmes complained, that in the Year 1798 his Sister left Half-a-Guinea for him with Charles Aris the Porter, which he has never received.

We sent our Messenger to the Sister, desiring her to appear before us, to substantiate this Charge; in answer to our Message, she promised to attend us, but on the ensuing Day sent to excuse herself. —The Governor

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nor stated to us, that Mistakes of this Kind had frequently happened by different Prisoners bearing the same Name, or otherwise. A Rule had therefore been adopted, by which the Prisoners are taken to the Lodge to receive any Money brought to them by their Friends; on receiving it they write an Acknowledgment in a Book kept for the Purpose.

Jonathan Davies, on the Part of himself and Comrades, presented a Memorial and Petition, couched in very contrite Terms, confessing the Enormity of his own and their past Offences, and hoping they may be allowed an Opportunity to retrieve their Characters in the Judgment of their Country.

Amongst the Women, not a single Complaint was made against any Officer of the Prison; but they, as other Classes, generally represented that the present Allowance of Bread was insufficient.

The Division of Female Felon Convicts is more clean and better regulated than any other Part of the Prison; several of them were employed in Spinning, and all were well clothed;—there were not less than Six Infant Children (some of which were born in Prison, and are Eighteen Months old; they all looked healthy: The Daily Extra Allowance to a Mother for a Child is a Pound Loaf and a Pint of Milk.

We observed that the Prisoners in general were satisfied with the Quality of their Provisions: And we think the Complaints of Insufficiency in Quantity were in some Cases made on very reasonable Grounds.

We cannot conclude the Minutes of our Inspection without remarking, that although there are near One Hundred convicted Felons in this Prison, the Use of Irons, in ordinary Custody, is dispensed with, except in the Case of such suspected Felons as are brought from the Police Offices, and detained for further Examination; these being usually lodged in the Prison in Irons, are so kept until discharged or fully committed.

CLEANLINESS.

We should pronounce Judgment on the general Cleanliness of this Prison, under Circumstances too favourable to its Officers, were we to speak decisively on the mere Evidence of our own View. It was certainly impossible that we could render our Visits so unexpected as not to be in some Sort provided for: But we conceive we form a fair Conclusion by combining our own Observations with the Reports of those Magistrates whose Inspection has taken place at more unguarded Moments.

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On the Whole, we are not aware that there exists any general Ground of Complaint under this Head.

The Apartments on the Upper Stories we found perfectly clean. Those on the Ground Floor as well as could be reasonably expected under existing Circumstances, when all the Prisoners of the Galleries, being excluded in the Day Time from their own Cells, become the Guests of those who lodge below; we say the Guests, because without the Invitation or Permission of the latter to share with them the Use of their Cells, the former have no Protection from the Inclemency of the Weather but under the Covering of the open Penthouses, where there are no Benches provided for their Accommodation, and if they sit, it must be on the Ground.

Appendix,
No. 13.

No. 8. There seems to be a great Neglect of the Use of Baths. The washing and cleansing of Prisoners at Entrance is entirely laid aside, except in the Case of Penitentiary Prisoners. Nor is there a Bath fit for Use in the Prison, except a Tin portable one.

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On our Enquiry amongst the Prisoners of the different Classes concerning their Means of Sustenance, we found such a Difference in relative Situation between Prisoners apparently equal in Degree of Guilt, whilst the Rules in our Hands adopted no Distinction, that we thought it our Duty to trace the Practice to its Authority, and the Authority to the Principle* on which it could be justified.

* See P. 44.

Appendix,
No. 5. The Eighth Rule only treats on this Point, and directs that "the Prison Allowance shall be One Pound of Bread per Day, with the Addition of other wholesome Food in proportion to the Prisoners Labour, at the Discretion of the Visiting Justices; but no Malt Liquor, nor any Liquor, except Water, shall in any Cafe be allowed, except when Wine is prescribed by the Surgeon to the Sick."

No. 6. & 7. To the general and indefinite Terms of this Rule; to the various and, indeed, opposite Modifications of it by subsequent Orders of Court; and, above all, to the uncontrouled and seemingly unquestioned Operation of the Surgeon's Power to supersede both Rules and Orders, may not only be traced the Distinctions, but to such Distinctions may be attributed much of that Restlessness and Insubordination which has lately marked the Conduct of Prisoners confined in this House.

No. 10. It has been shewn to us, that by antient and long established Usage, the Allowance to Prisoners in the Prisons of this County, was no other than

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than One Pound of Bread per Day, the Prisoners at the same Time being permitted to receive what other Provisions they could procure from their Friends. In the Year 1776, Two Pence per Day were added to the Pound of Bread, in favour of the Convict Prisoners in the old House of Correction in Clerkenwell, in or near to which there was established a Shop for supplying the Prisoners with Bread and Cheefe and other Articles of Sustenance, by the Expenditure of the Money so allowed, and what other they could procure.

So stood the Allowance in the above-mentioned Prison when the Prisoners were removed from it into the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields.

As it was not intended that there should be any Shop within this Prison to supply their Wants, it would have been highly inconvenient, as well as destructive of the intended Discipline, to have placed the Prisoners in a Situation which would oblige them to send out to purchase every Article of their Sustenance beyond their Bread Allowance.

But, at the January Sessions 1795, we find an Order of Court, that "the usual Payment of Two Pence, which had been made to each of the Convicts in the House of Correction at Clerkenwell, should in future be discontinued, and that the same should from Time to Time be laid out in the Purchase of Meat and other Nourishment for the Use of the Prisoners, and be distributed amongst them under the Direction of the Visiting Justices and Governor of the said House of Correction."

The Visiting Justices appear to have given a liberal Construction to the Power vested in them by the foregoing Order; for we find that, from that Time, instead of Two Pence per Day in addition to the Pound of Bread allowed generally, the convicted, or (as it is termed) the Prisoners in Execution, were each of them Daily served with Three Quarters of a Pound of Meat in a Quart of Broth; and they had, moreover, every Morning a Quart of Leek Porridge.

In the September Sessions of the same Year, it was ordered, "that no Food of any Kind should be taken in, or supplied to any Convict Prisoner, other than the Prison Allowance, except by Special Request made by the Medical Person attending the Prison, or by Order of the Court; and that no Bread or other Food should be sold within the Prison."

This Order seems to have produced a considerable Sensation amongst the Prisoners; for a formal Petition and Request was immediately afterwards presented to the Visiting Justices, praying that their Friends might

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be permitted to bring them a small Portion of Provisions in addition to their Allowance.

At the September Sessions 1796, it appears, that "the Magistrates having taken into serious Consideration the heavy Demands on the County Rate, and great Expence of the new House of Correction, much augmented by the increased Allowance made to the Prisoners daily, of Butchers Meat, Gruel, and Soup, by which Allowance they were supported in a Mode of living superior to that which many poor industrious Housekeepers, who pay to the County Rate, were able to allow their Families;" it was ordered and directed, "that in future the Allowance of Butchers Meat to the Prisoners should be abridged, and that Three Days in the Week no Flesh Meat of any Kind should be allowed to be furnished to any of the Prisoners."

The Magistrates further determined, that the "Allowance of Leek Porridge and Water Gruel for Breakfast should be totally discontinued, except in the Case of sick and weak Prisoners under the Care and Direction of the Surgeon."

We observe that, on the 17th of October following, the Surgeon remonstrated against this Reduction, and gave it as his Opinion, that "the old Men and Women Convicts, for long Terms, would require more Food than was allowed them under this new Regulation."

At the September Sessions 1799, in consequence of a Representation from the Committee, "that the Meat allowed the Prisoners, by being over-boiled, had frequently been reduced to Four Ounces;" an Order was made, "that the Quantity of Meat furnished to each Prisoner should not be less than Six Ounces;" and that "the Broth in which the Meat was boiled one Day, should be kept and made into Soup the succeeding Day, with Two Ounces of Rice for each Prisoner, together with Leeks, Onions, and Carrots, the Produce of the Garden."

By an Order of the last January Sessions, "Prisoners in the House of Correction are permitted to receive plain Food, but not Liquors, from their Friends, to be delivered at the outer Gates of the Prison."

And it appears, that at present, Prisoners committed previous to Trial, are permitted to receive from their Friends such Provisions as are sent them between the Hours of Twelve and Two, on obtaining any Magistrate's Order for that Purpose.

But with regard to convicted Prisoners, the Permission to receive Food is directed to be limited to such only as declare their Intention to forego the Prison Allowance of Meat and Soup, and agree to subsist themselves, without other Expence to the County than the Pound of Bread.

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By Agreement with the Magistrates, the Baker engages to deliver the best Household Bread, baked in Loaves of a Pound each; the Order is given the preceding Night, for a Loaf for every Prisoner then in the Prison, the Loaves are brought in the following Noon, numbered and weighed, and the actual Weight of the Number (and that only, be it more or less) carried to Account.

The County pays the Affize Price, and deducts a Discount of Five per Cent. on Payment being made Quarterly.

The Butcher supplies the Quantity of Meat required, at Four-pence Halfpenny per Pound, delivering Beef of good Quality.

Appendix,
No. 11.

This Meat is boiled fresh, and, after boiling, a Ration of Six Ounces is weighed for each Prisoner by the Cook. The Broth of the Meat Day is made into a Soup, with Two Ounces of Rice, the following Day, together with such Vegetables as the Garden produces. The Quantity of each Ration of Soup, when delivered, is about Three Pints. These Allowances of Meat and Rice Soup, served alternately in Succession, Day after Day, together with the Pound of Bread, constitute the present regulated Dietry for Prisoners in Execution, not agreeing to maintain themselves.

To the Unconvicted the Allowance remains unchanged, as in the old House of Correction; namely, no other than One Pound of Bread per Day. We observe also, that the idle Apprentices (although a convicted Class) are limited to this Allowance.

The Mutineers are allowed an Half Pound of Bread in addition to the usual Pound: They also receive Six Ounces of Meat every Day, instead of every other Day, as in the Case of other convicted Prisoners; they have Once in Two Days Rice Soup, as other Prisoners, and they have every Day a warm Breakfast and a Pint of Porter, with Permission to purchase another Pint if they have Money. We suspect that this Indulgence does not always stop here.

This Deviation from regulated Allowance, is under the Direction of the Surgeon, who has stated to us, as his Reason for it, that the whole Class is disposed to Scurvy.

No. 8.

The Surgeon has freely exercised his discretionary Power of adding Meat, Bread, or Porter to the usual Allowance, where he judges that the Health of a Prisoner requires it, and this frequently without removing him from the Yards into the Infirmary.

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The Seven Male Prisoners working in Trades in their respective Shops, have each a Pint of Porter per Day; the Women employed in the Wash-House and Laundry have a Double Allowance of Bread, and a Pint of Porter per Day.

Appendix, No. 8 & 11. We also find, that Prisoners in several of the Yards have, under the like Sanction, occasionally Permission to purchase Porter.

HEALTH.

Regarding the Healthiness of this Prison, we have to remark, that such is the Dryness and Airiness of its Situation, and such its Means of Ventilation, that it cannot in itself be unhealthy: If Diseases originate within the Walls, their Causes must be sought for in Mismanagement and Neglect.

No. 15. The present Surgeon was appointed on the 16th April 1795, Seven Months after the Prison was opened; his Journal is regularly kept from that Time. On comparing it with the Register of Prisoners committed, we find the Annual Results to be as mentioned in the Appendix; and that in the whole Term of Five Years and Five Months, Thirty Persons have died out of the Sick List.

The Average Number of Prisoners confined, during the First Year and Eight Months of this Term, was One Hundred and Forty; The Number of Deaths being Seven, the Mortality during that Time was as Three in the Hundred in the Year.

The Average Number of Prisoners confined, during the last Three Years and Nine Months, has been Two Hundred and Thirty-seven; the Number of Deaths being Twenty-three, the Mortality will be as Two and something more than an Half in the Hundred in the Year.

Considering the Numbers who are admitted in an impoverished, diseased, and sometimes even in a dying State, this Result is not only a Proof of the Healthiness of the Situation, but in a high Degree creditable to the Medical Treatment of the House.

No. 8. As we observed on perusing the Surgeon's Journal, that the Typhus or Gaol Fever had not been known in the Prison until the Commencement of the Year 1799, but since that Time has been a prevailing Disorder, we have been particular in our Enquiry into the Causes of so critical a Change.

On examining the Surgeon on this Point, he stated, that those on whom this Disorder had first appeared, were chiefly affected with it, or disposed to it on their first Admission to the Prison; that some had this Fever upon them when brought in; others shewed Symptoms of it in a few

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a few Days after their Commitment; that those on whom it so appeared, were chiefly Convicts from Newgate, or of the Class of Vagrants, and disorderly Women; that when these Fevers principally prevailed in the Prison, the like Fevers were prevalent amongst the Poor in their own Habitations, and that he was inclined to think the Atmosphere at those Periods peculiarly unfavourable to Health, and conducive to such Fever.

More correctly to judge of the Truth of the alledged Causes, we directed to be laid before us a List of those Prisoners who had been seized with the Typhus Fever, the Date of their Commitment to this Prison, and that of their Admission into the Infirmary.

On examining this List, we find the Opinion of the Surgeon justified with regard to vagrant and disorderly Women. Since the Year 1799, there appears to have been no less than Eight of these unfortunate People brought to the Prison in a State of previous Infection with this Fever, and immediately placed in the Infirmary. But we do not think the Opinion equally proved in respect of Prisoners brought from Newgate.

Without seeking for remote Causes, we conceive that probable Sources of this Disease may be found in Circumstances at present attending this Prison.

Its crowded State cannot fail to be one of those Circumstances, without a proportionately increased Attention to Cleanliness and Ventilation.

The Want of more diffusive Means of communicating Warmth to the Prisoners, may be considered as another of such Circumstances; in Frosty Weather when Fires are allowed, the Rooms in which they are made, may not be sufficiently spacious for the healthful Respiration for all who crowd into them.

In cold damp Weather, when Fire is not allowed, if, as we before presumed, the Prisoners assemble in Numbers in the Cells in the Yards, and seek Warmth by closing the Apertures provided for Ventilation, a like dangerous Effect must be produced.

But turning our Eyes to the Situation of the miserable Women in the Class of "Idle and Disorderly," found in and committed from (perhaps) the worst State of their habitual Filth; when we see these Persons destined to pass the Time of their Imprisonment in the same Clothing in which they are apprehended; and when we see them crowding themselves together round the Fire, in the Room allotted to them, without possessing sufficient Discretion (even in the mild Season, in which we witnessed them) to open the Windows of their Apartments, it really seems not necessary to seek further for a primary Cause of Putridity.

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When once this or any other contagious Disorder has originated, although it appears, from every Information we could obtain, and every Observation we made, that nothing is wanting in regard to Attendance, Comfort, or Support, to those admitted into the Infirmary; yet if there be, as stated to us, but One Apartment appropriated to the Sick of each Sex, infectious Diseases once generated, cannot fail to be communicated to a dangerous Extent.

SOLITARY IMPRISONMENT.

19 G. 3. c. 74. s. 5. With regard to solitary "Imprisonment, accompanied by well regulated Labour and Religious Instruction," as directed by the Penitentiary Act aforementioned, we doubt if it ever has been really practised on any regular and temperate System, "as a Means (under Providence) not only of deterring others from the Commission of Crimes, but also of reforming the Individuals, and enuring them to Habits of Industry."

Appendix, No. 5. & 8. We have the Authority of the Governor himself to say, that notwithstanding the Directions of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Rules, no solitary Confinement has taken place for nearly these Two Years, and that there is no Distinction in the Mode of keeping the Prisoners, except in Cases of refractory Behaviour.

For the several Weeks during which our Eye has been attentively fixed on the Management of this Prison (with the Exception only of the Class of Apprentices, and the refractory Prisoners) we have observed the entire Numbers of every Yard or Division passing their Time in unrestrained Intercourse with each other.

REGULATED LABOUR.

Of the Male Prisoners we found employed, One Carpenter, One Taylor, One Smith, One Shoemaker, and Three Labourers in the Garden.

In the Division for Female Felons, the most handy and tractable were employed in washing for themselves and other Prisoners. The Laundry and its Accommodations for the Purpose are well arranged, and the Business of it had the Appearance of being perfectly well regulated and conducted.

Some other of the Convicts were spinning Flax, without any Restriction on their associating with each other.

RELIGIOUS

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RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

The Means and Opportunity of Religious Instruction, appear limited to Attendance on the public Performance of Divine Worship.

So far as we are justified by the Journal of the Chaplain, we may with him Report, that (with the few Exceptions in which the assembling in Chapel had been chosen as the Opportunity of revolt) the Behaviour of the Prisoners at Divine Service has been orderly and attentive.

Appendix, No. 8.

As to the Effect of this small Portion of "Moral and Religious Instruction," we could form our Judgment on no other Authority than that of the Instructor. This Gentleman has stated to us his Opinion, that many have left the Prison with Resolutions of Amendment, and now follow their lawful Occupations.

BEDDING.

The Bedding allowed by the County, as well as every other Part of the Accommodation, is uniformly the same for every Description of Prisoners. It consists of a Bedstead of Wood, Two Feet Seven Inches wide and Six Feet Three Inches long, in some Instances standing on Legs, in others fixed to the Wall.—The Bottoms of the Bedsteads, in their original State, are made of Board, but the Prisoners, very generally, have torn out the Board and filled up the Frame with a Rope-yarn Netting; the Materials for which were at Hand when employed in picking Oakum.

Upon the Bedstead is laid a Bag made of Scotch or Russia Duck, filled with Straw, which is replenished as often as it becomes broken, and unfit for its Use.

The covering is one Blanket, a Yard and an Half wide and Two Yards long, and a Woollen Rug, One Yard and a Quarter wide and Two Yards long.

Prisoners in general, who are disposed to bring with them their own Bedding, may have and use it, if they engage to keep it clean.

No. 8.

Persons to whom the Prison Bedding may be unpleasent or insufficient, at the Expence of One Shilling per Night, may obtain a Flock Mattress and a Second Blanket, a Pillow and Sheets; this Bedding is provided by the County, and the Hire of it is carried to the Credit of the County Account.

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The Bedding in the Infirmary is of a superior Quality, and consists of a Hair Mattress, Blanketing as required, and Sheets.

CLOTHING.

The convicted Prisoners, in general, are clothed at the County Expence. The Clothing is good, and consists, for Males, of a Blue Cloth Jacket and Trowsers, Yellow Stockings, Leather Shoes, and a Shirt; for Females, of a Blue Jacket and Petticoat, a Cap, Leather Shoes, Yellow Stockings, and a Shift. Clean Linen is allowed every Week at the County Cost, for every Person wearing County Clothing.

Appendix, No. 8.

To the Class of Vagrant, and disorderly Male or Female Prisoners, Clothing is not allowed; the Cloths in which they are brought to Prison, they continue to wear during their Stay, unless they have Friends who are enabled and inclined to bring them a Change.— Soap and warm Water is allowed to them Once a Week to wash their Persons or their Apparel.

In a Report of the Committee, we find the Annual Estimate for each Prisoner to be, Two Jackets, and Two Pairs of Trowsers of plain Blue Cloth, Three Pairs of Shoes, Two Pairs of Stockings, and Two Shirts.

But although Clothing is provided for all Prisoners convicted as well of Misdemeanours as of the greater Offences, so all Prisoners, Penitentiary as well as others, may avoid wearing the Prison Dress, by the Engagement of their Friends to provide them with good Cloths and clean Linen.

19 G. 3. c. 74. s. 35.

From the Circumstances attending this expensive Part of the Prison Establishment, it appears that the Intentions of the Legislature, in directing, for Penitentiary Prisoners an "uniform Apparel to humiliate the Wearer, and also to facilitate Discovery in case of Escape," are wholly mistaken or frustrated. We cannot but observe also in these Powers to dispense, a Motive to corrupt, and a Temptation to be corrupted.

OFFICERS.

We have further to state to Your Majesty, that the Management and Care of this House of Correction is vested in a Governor, who has a Salary of Three Hundred Pounds per Annum, with a commodious House, lately added to the original Plan for his Residence.

To assist him in his Office, he is allowed a Clerk at Thirty Shillings per Week, a Gate-keeper at Twenty-one Shillings, a Store keeper and Cook,

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Cook, and Eight other Assistants, at Fifteen Shillings per Week, also Three Watchmen at Twelve Shillings per Week; the Salaries of all Assistants are paid by the County on an understood Condition, that they shall not receive from the Prisoners, to their own Use, any Fee, Gratuity, or Emolument whatsoever; but that all Sums received under the Regulations or Orders of the Prison, shall be carried to the Public Account;

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The present Governor is Mr. Thomas Aris.

The Surgeon is paid One Hundred Pounds per Annum for his professional Service and Supply of Medicines.

Mr. Thomas Webb is the present Surgeon.

The Chaplain is "required to read Prayers, and preach at least Once on every Sunday, Christmas Day, and Good Friday; and also to read the Morning Service in the Chapel, on Wednesdays and Fridays; he is also required occasionally to deliver an Exhortation, attend the Sick, and perform such other good Offices amongst the Prisoners as may lead to their Reformation."

For these extensive and important Duties, the Law has fixed that the Salary shall be no more than Twenty Pounds per Annum: But to this small Stipend, the Magistrates have Annually added a Gratuity of Thirty Pounds;—the present Chaplain is the Reverend John Evans.

Since the Year 1796, no Taskmaster has been appointed. The Management of the Prisoners Labour has been left to the Care of the Governor.

FEES AND CHARGES.

We find the Table of Fees demandable of Prisoners committed to this Prison, now stands as regulated by the Court in the 15th Year of Your Majesty's Reign.

And that there is demanded for keeping and discharging every Prisoner committed by Warrant	5	d.
For turning the Key at every such Prisoner's Discharge	4	6
	1	0
	<hr/>	
	5	6
For a Copy of a Warrant of Commitment when demanded	1	4
For going with a Prisoner before a Justice	1	0
Prisoners brought in by Constables of the Night, and carried before a Magistrate	2	0
	<hr/>	
		In

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31 G. 5.
c. 46. f. 15.

In the Year 1796, it seems to have been in Contemplation of the Committee of Inspection to propose an Alteration, or perhaps a Disallowance of these Fees, under the Powers given to the Magistrates in Quarter Sessions, by the Act of the 31st Year of Your Majesty's Reign; but it probably appeared a Measure of too great Importance to the County Purse to diminish or disallow them, for we find no subsequent Order tending to any new Regulation on this Head.

These Fees are far from being peculiarly oppressive in this Prison; it should be observed, that as the Governor does not take them for his own Use, he is not urged by personal Interest to press the Demand. They are however, we believe, generally demanded where there appear to be Means of Payment; and where Prisoners discharged are entitled to any Sum of Money as the Share of their Earnings, the Five Shillings and Six Pence is usually deducted, and the Remainder only paid.

By the 25th Rule for the Management of this Prison, the Governor is directed to "demand and take from every Person committed for safe Custody and not in Execution, requesting to be lodged in a better Manner than other Prisoners, and able to pay for a Bed, the Sum of One Shilling per Night."

The Application of this Rule is now extended as well to Prisoners in Execution as others.

We learn from the Governor, that it had been a Custom, brought from the old Prison, to permit Prisoners to have the Use of Apartments more commodious than the ordinary Places of Confinement, on Payment of a Guinea per Week, with Coals included; and at the Beginning of this Year, the Charge for these Rooms was lowered to Ten Shillings and Six Pence per Week, but the Occupier to find his own Coals.

By perusing some Accounts of the Fees and Charges, we find that from the 1st of January 1798, to the 15th of April 1800, Four Hundred and Forty Pounds Twelve Shillings and Three Pence had been received by the Governor for Fees and Bed Rent; in which Sum there were included only One Hundred and Twelve Instances of Payment of Fees, but frequently Eight or Ten Beds were paid for in a Day.

It appears that from October 1798 to October 1799, the County received for Fees, from Two Hundred and Fifty-nine Prisoners, at Five Shillings and Six Pence each, the Sum of Seventy-one Pounds Four Shillings and Six Pence; and during the same Period, no more than Ninety-five Pounds Sixteen Shillings for Bed and Room Rent.

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JOURNALS AND ACCOUNTS.

The Journals and Accounts of the Prison have been very irregularly and incorrectly kept.

The Governors Journals, since the First Year of his Appointment, are not in his own Hand Writing; nor does it appear to us that he knows much of their Contents.

The Accounts of the Manufactory are few, and offer no clear Result of the Profits of the Trade at any Time carried on.

In the Prisoners Labour Book, there is no Entry of any Work done since the 25th July last. The general Employment of Male Prisoners has, for some Time past, been the picking of Oakum; that of the Female, the spinning of Flax.

We are informed the Prisoners used to work by Task; after this was delivered to them, they were locked into their Cells until it was executed, but were afterwards at liberty to be in Society with each other.

The Sum charged to account as the Value of each Prisoners Work is no more than Two Pence per Day. The Sum carried to the Prisoners Account is Two Pence per Week. We have been informed, that at the first opening of the Prison, when working at their respective Trades, many Prisoners were supposed to earn Two Shillings per Day.

By an Account of Monies paid to Prisoners on their Discharge, as well as by the Examination of the Keepers, it appears that some small Sum has generally been paid from the Fund of Earnings to every destitute Prisoner, on his or her Discharge.

As the Sum given seems rarely to accord with the Amount of the Twopences stated in the Labour Book, we presume the Governor has assumed a Degree of Discretion in the Disposition of these Payments. And this Conclusion is confirmed by a Report of the Committee of Inspection, on the 28th of March last, wherein we find that Mr. Aris was reproved, for having presumed "to exercise a discretionary Power in withholding a Portion of the Earnings of a Prisoner, as a Punishment for refractory and disorderly Behaviour, whilst in Prison."

OBSERVATIONS.

Having thus far proceeded in Execution of Your Majesty's Commands, to shew the original Design of the Prison under our View, the
Orders

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Orders and Regulations which have from Time to Time been made for its Management, and its actual State under those Orders and Regulations, we might hesitate at our competency to fulfil the remaining Part of Your Majesty's Commission, were we left to decide upon its Abuses and Mismanagement, by the mere Standard of our own Conceptions.

Fortunately we have only to compare what has fallen within our Observation, with the positive Provisions of the Statutes on the Subject of our Deliberation.

Appendix, No. 4.

The Legislature, during Your Majesty's Reign, has not only been in a peculiar Manner attentive to a Reform in the Government and Administration of Prisons, but has spoken in a Manner which may be termed precise, regarding their Construction and Economy.

22 G. 3. c. 64. f. 1.

A Purpose of Discrimination, "or classing of the several Persons who may be committed according to the Nature of their Crimes and Punishments," is the distinguishing Feature of the Laws on this Subject, which have of late been placed on the Statute Book. This Purpose has in a great Degree been overlooked in the Arrangement and Use of the Prison in question.

See Pages 8, &c.

By the Statute authorizing its Construction, we have seen, that it was designed as a House of Correction; and with the Exception of Two commodious Rooms designed for Work Rooms, One of which is now occupied by State Prisoners, and of Three other Rooms, which, instead of being subservient to the Purposes of Discrimination of Offences, are attainable by convicted as well as unconvicted Prisoners; we have also seen that it is fitted up, arranged, and regulated uniformly as a Prison of Punishment

In order to present to Your Majesty a just Report of the Effects of this Uniformity of Arrangement and Regulation, it will be necessary to consider it as it acts on different Descriptions of Prisoners submitted to its Consequences.

19 G. 3. c. 74. f. 33. 24 G. 3. c. 54. f. 4. 31 G. 3. c. 46. f. 11.

By several late Laws, it seems to have been the Intention of the Legislature, that Persons in general who are confined in Prison should, in the Night, be lodged singly. A Difference in Modes and Circumstances of fitting up and furnishing the Apartments for this Purpose may be made to produce very different Ideas on the Minds of the Persons who may inhabit them; and we venture to say therefore, that the Cells of which this Prison is so uniformly composed, might be so fitted up and furnished as to be suited to the Purpose of classing and confining the several convicted Persons who may be committed to it, "according to the Nature of their

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"their Crimes and Punishments," supposing the Numbers not to exceed what it ought to contain.

PENITENTIARY PRISONERS.

1st. In respect to the Six several Yards and Galleries, or Divisions, containing Penitentiary Prisoners, by which are meant those whose Crimes have rendered them obnoxious to the Punishments of Death or Transportation (including those under Sentence of Death for Mutiny on board Your Majesty's Ships of War) the Cells as now fitted up and furnished, (as Night Apartments) appear to us to answer every Purpose intended by the Legislature; on a Supposition that sufficient Bed Clothing be allowed (which must equally be presumed in any other Situation) we venture to say, that a Prisoner's Health is not likely to be injured in consequence of sleeping in them; if so, it will surely not be contended that they are improper for Persons who have consented to commute the heaviest Penalties of the Law for a Punishment arising purely out of the Mode of their Imprisonment.

19 G. 3. c. 74. f. 5. 24. 28.

But thinking, as we have expressed ourselves, of these Cells as Night Rooms, at any Season, we conceive there are considerable Objections to the Use of them as Day Apartments, whereby the Occupants, in severe Weather, are left without other Alternative than Darkness, or Exposure to outward Air. When, indeed, as in this Prison, it is intended that Work should be performed, it seems an Inconsistency to deny the Light but at the Expence of Cold, which may be so acute as to prevent the Ability to work.

Correctly to apply a Prison, built as this under our View, to its proper Use, we should perhaps say that no Prisoner ought to pass the Day in the same Cell in which he sleeps at Night; and we are confident in an Opinion, that Apartments (whether Cells or Rooms of larger Extent) in which Prisoners pass the Day either in Idleness or sedentary Employment, ought "to be dried and moderately warmed in damp or cold Weather."

MISDEMEANOURS.

Proceeding in our Observations to the 4th and 5th Yards and Galleries; we there found Prisoners detained as Witnesses on Behalf of Prosecutions for Felony; for Want of Sureties in Cases of Bastardy; and for Re-examination on Charges of Assault and Felony: Also no less than Twenty-nine other Persons classed by the Governor, collectively, under the general Term of Misdemeanours. Of the Twenty-nine so described, Eighteen only were sentenced to Fine and Imprisonment on Conviction in

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in the Courts of King's Bench and Quarter Sessions, for Assaults, Smuggling, marrying a Ward under Age, obtaining Money under false Pretences, and keeping Gaming Houses; the remaining Eleven had been convicted on summary Proceedings before Magistrates, for Offences against the Statutes, which specially direct the Punishment of Commitment to a House of Correction "to hard Labour," or otherwise.

As it has been principally from Prisoners convicted of Misdemeanours before the Courts that those Charges have originated, which have arraigned the Integrity of the Officers, and drawn a Censure on the Police of this Prison, we have rested our peculiar Attention on the Parts of it in which the Prisoners of this Description are confined; and from what we have there observed, we think we are called upon to express ourselves most fully and decidedly on this very defective Part of the Establishment.

The Manner of fitting up the Cells is not only uniformly the same throughout the Whole of these Yards and Galleries, but is also the same as throughout those occupied by the Felon Convicts. The Prisoners here confined, are pressed by the Severity of the established Discipline and Accommodation on the one Hand, whilst on the other they are offered complete Relief from every disagreeable Circumstance attending their Situation by Payment of a Room Rent.

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It has been stated to us that there are no more than Three Rooms at present destined to this Accommodation, there can therefore be no more than Three Persons relieved by their Use, whilst there will naturally be many more Candidates for such an Exemption; under such Circumstances it appears to us there cannot fail to arise a Competition in the Means of Bribery, which must end, if not in the Corruption, at least in the most dangerous Temptation, of him who has the Decision in his Power.

No. 7 & 12.

We apprehend that Prisoners in this Situation have but too well known how to suit their Proposals to the Wants of the Governor, and that in fact he has been sometimes tempted beyond what he has had Fortitude to resist.

Of the Eighteen Persons in this Division, under similar Sentences of the Law, we found Two, each of whom were admitted to pay the regulated Price of a private Apartment: They had also the Indulgence (which appears to us to be concomitant) of procuring for themselves such Liquors as they require.

One of these Persons occupied a commodious Sitting Room, and a neat Bed Room within it, and had a Fellow Prisoner to wait on him; the

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the other lived in a single Room, affording every necessary Comfort. Sixteen remained subject to the regulated Discipline and Accommodation of the Prison, (with perhaps some partial Indulgencies in regard to Food and Liquor, at the Discretion of the Surgeon); that is to say, they were, by Night, lodged in Cells void of all other Furniture than the common Prison Bed, and without other Means of keeping out the Air than by a Wooden Shutter; and, which is still more irksome, having no other Apartments than their Cells wherein to pass the Day.

We think these opposite Situations are both improper; that the one is an Excess of Punishment which ought to be alleviated, the other an Extreme of Indulgence which should be restrained; and that together they create a Distinction which ought not to exist between a penniless and friendless Man, and one who has Friends and Money at command, imprisoned under similar Sentences for similar Offences.

24 G. 3. c. 54. l. 4.

It has been the usual Practice to confine "Persons committed for or adjudged to be guilty of Misdemeanours," in the Sheriff's Prison: Directions for constructing the Places of Confinement for them, will be found only in the Statutes respecting Common Goals: The Competency of the Courts to commit such Offenders to this Prison, in lieu of a Common Gaol, cannot perhaps be questioned; we conceive, however, that whilst the Practice continues, such Accommodation should be provided, and such Regulations formed for them, as should distinguish their Punishment from that of Convicts, for the more atrocious Offences.

24 G. 3. c. 54. l. 4.

We think ourselves justified, by the expressed Intentions of the Law, in saying, that whosoever *Convicts* of this last mentioned Description may be confined, they should pass the Night alone, secured from Escape on their Keeper's Account, secured from Fire on their own. As the Cells in the Upper Floors of this Prison are constructed in Brick Work, stand on Arches, with Doors opening into an inward Gallery, they are sufficiently dry, airy, and warm, as Night Apartments, for any Prisoners not already Invalids, in which Case, by the Rules of the Prison, they would be removed to the Infirmary.

But we conceive it does not follow, that because Cells are and ought to be bare Walls in Penitentiary Houses, they must remain in that State in Prisons designed for a milder Application of Punishment by Imprisonment. We see no Reason why Cells, built as those under our present Consideration, may not, for this lesser criminal Description of Convicts, be fitted up with superior Circumstances of Accommodation and Comfort. The Aperture of the outward Window might be closed with swing Sashes, and if these were made of Iron, and glazed with what is termed the Bull's Eye Glass, they would be capable of resisting any Violence

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Violence that would probably be offered; and if not, Punishment or Penalty might justly follow an Act of Mischief; nor does there appear any reasonable Objection to the Addition of some Articles of Furniture, which would relieve the Mind from the Gloom which the entire Absence of accustomed Comforts presses upon it. From Night Cells so fitted, the Occupants should have Access to Day Rooms capable of being comfortably warmed; and, together with the ordinary Prison Allowance, they should undoubtedly have the Liberty of receiving from the Hands of their Friends all Articles of Sustenance and Clothing, of a Nature not inconsistent with the Laws or general Regulation of the Prison.

So provided and relieved from undue Severity in their ordinary Situation, as convicted Prisoners, we think the Power of procuring further Accommodation, by the Payment of Money, or otherwise, ought to be prohibited. The Object of a Bribe being removed, there could remain no Suspicion of ill Treatment as a Motive to induce it.

KING'S EVIDENCE.

Persons detained as Witnesses to be examined on Behalf of Prosecutions for Felony, whom we have mentioned as associated with the Convicts for Misdemeanours, have not the good Fortune to excite the Public Sympathy; yet for many Reasons it is improper they should be mixed with other Prisoners. These (as the last mentioned) are not included in the Description of Offenders to be provided for in Houses of Correction or Penitentiary Houses; but in the Act relating to the Construction of Gaols, it is expressly directed, that "a separate Place of Confinement shall be provided for them."

24 G. 3. c. 54. s. 4.

RE-EXAMINATION.

Commitment for Re-examination, is a Practice which has grown out of a necessary Attention to the Public Security; the Law scarcely acknowledges, and therefore has not specifically provided for it. During these first and dubious Moments of Suspicion, we think Prisoners are entitled to every humane and even liberal Attention, which is consistent with their safe Custody. In the Prison under our Examination, no particular Yard, Room, or even Division of Cells is appropriated to them; those in particular who are detained on Suspicion of Felony, are placed in the Cells of any Gallery in which there happens to be the most Room: they have no Access to Fire, are kept in Irons as sent by the committing Magistrate, have no other Bedding than the ordinary Prison Allowance, and are not always separately accommodated even with that. If they have Money, it is generally proposed to them to have the better Bedding, for the Use of which they pay a Shilling per Night. They have no other Allowance

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Allowance than a Pound of Bread per Day, and if they enter the Prison after the Hour of Delivery of Bread in the Morning, they have not this Portion until the ensuing Day. On their Discharge, they are called on to pay Five Shillings and Six Pence each for Fees. We notice this latter Claim, not as peculiar to this Prison; we believe these and other Demands, to the full as unreasonable, are usual in other Prisons of this Metropolis, and will doubtless be more rigidly insisted on where they make a Part of the Keeper's Revenue.

Should the above Observations be instrumental in leading Magistrates to an Application of the Law, which enables them "to alter, vary, or totally disallow of such Charges;" or, should they thereby be induced to enquire into and correct the severe Consequences which follow their Warrants of Commitment for further Examination, we think the Cause of Justice as well as of Humanity would thereby be promoted.

31 G. 3. c. 46. s. 15.

BRIDEWELL PRISONERS.

Regarding such of the Prisoners of these Yards as are, technically speaking, Bridwell Prisoners, and sentenced "to hard Labour in a House of Correction," our Observations on the penitentiary Classes will in general apply; but in respect to that Portion of them who are detained for Want of Sureties in Bastardy, Assaults, or other Cases, more warm and commodious Day Apartments should be provided, and the Cells allotted to them should be more comfortably furnished.

FEMALE VAGRANT, AND IDLE AND DISORDERLY.

The helpless State of the wretched Objects confined in the Second Women's Yard, many of whom, as we have observed, past the Term of their Imprisonment, without Change of the filthy Clothing in which they are committed, could not fail to excite our Observation; we feel with how much Caution we should censure an apparent Want of Attention towards a Class in which are, perhaps, included some of the most profligate and irreclaimable Members of the Community. We know that in this vast Metropolis, where many of this Description are perpetually offending against the Laws, Numbers must, of Necessity, be Daily committed to a House of Correction, which is the Place of Punishment for their Offences; but, referring to the List of those who are here associated and equally unprovided, we observe much Dissimilarity in the Causes of their respective Commitments; and if from thence we may infer a Distinction in former Habits, we may thence also hope there may be some Variety in the Prospect of their Reformation. It occurs to us, that in proportion as the Condition of the worst of this Class is forlorn and irreclaimable, the greater is

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22 G. 3. is the Expediency of attending to the Words of the Law, and "having
c. 64. f. 1. " regard to the classing of the several Persons confined."

We are aware how useless would be the Attempt to cleanse the Persons, cure the Diseases, or reform the Morals of that Portion of these Women, the Term of whose Imprisonment does not exceed a few Days; but this appears to us to be a Reason why such Persons should be wholly separated from those whose Habits argue less Profligacy, and whose Term of Imprisonment, under proper Regulation, might afford some Hope of Amendment. The Female Apprentice could not be in a State of Reformation in this Society, nor was it considerate with regard to her Mistresses, to whom she was to return, that she should be placed in a Situation to contract both the Vices and Diseases of such Companions.

It would probably prevent a principal Source of contagious Disease, if, as directed by the First Rule, all Prisoners whose Terms of Confinement amounted to or exceeded a Month, were properly washed on their Admission, and, at least, a Change of Linen allowed to those who could not procure it from their Friends: If duly employed, their Earnings would surely repay this trifling Expence; and being thus relieved, they should be withdrawn from the Society of those to whom the same Accommodation could not be extended, without deranging the Economy of the Prison, and subjecting the County to a considerable and useless Expence. By such Precautions, a prominent Evil of this Prison might be considerably moderated, if not wholly removed.

IDLE APPRENTICES.

Finally applying our Observations on the Arrangement and Discipline of this Prison, to the Class of idle Apprentices, we see no Order for the peculiar Mode of Keeping, adopted in their Case, expressed in the printed Rules, or implied by a Reference to the Regulations of other Prisons, "respecting the Nature, the Degree and Extent of solitary Confinement." Let the Authority or the Example be derived from what Quarter it may, we must express our decided Disapprobation of the idle and seemingly unnoticed State of Seclusion in which we found this Class of Prisoners; we see no Reason why, as Idleness is usually the alledged Cause of their Commitment, they should not be made to feel the Nature of their Offence in the Means of its Correction. In every Case where Reformation is proposed by solitary Confinement, it should be attended with some Sort of Employment.

It was remarked to us by the Chaplain, that he has rarely known an idle Apprentice return to the House of Correction; if, indeed, the Discipline

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Discipline applied to this Class has not produced the Effect of Prevention, it would be wholly without Motive or Justification.

EXCESS OF NUMBERS.

Having thus expressed our Sentiments concerning the Arrangement, Regulation, and Management of this Prison, as they affect Prisoners of the different Descriptions confined in it; in Justice to those Persons who are answerable for its internal Misrule, it becomes our Duty to state to Your Majesty our Opinion, that the most reasonable Causes of Complaint regarding it, are necessary Consequences, as well of the Excess of Numbers of Commitments beyond the proper Accommodation afforded by the Plan and Arrangement of the Building, as of the Variety of Circumstances under which these Numbers are thrown together.

The Legislature, in adopting the System of Separation by Classes, as well as individual Separation, in its late Directions for constructing Prisons, appears to have had in view, not only a general Attention to Health and the avoiding the Communication of vicious Principles from the greater to the lesser Offenders; but also thereby to remove the Necessity of an habitual Use of Irons, by dividing the Efforts, and preventing a Concert of Design amongst large Bodies of Prisoners.

The Space contained in each of the Cells of this Prison is certainly not greater than is necessary for healthful Respiration of the One Person intended to be lodged in it; to lodge Two Persons in this Space is to counteract the Principle and subvert the Intentions of the Law.

We conceive it was not the Design of those on whose Observations Parliament thought fit to adopt this Mode of Construction, either that Prisoners should be lodged on the Ground Floor, or that they should continue, during the Day, in the Apartments in which they sleep at Night; so considered, the Number of Prisoners which this Prison ought to contain, is exactly the Number which can be lodged in the Cells and Rooms on the Upper Floors. Supposing Emergency to arise, and that it becomes necessary to give up this correct Principle, the Cells on the Ground Floor may be applied to lodging of Prisoners; but when these are also filled, the ultimate Point is attained to which the Use of a Prison constructed as this under our View ought, on any Account, to be carried.

There are One Hundred and Fifty Cells on the Upper Stories: Supposing the Whole of these to be fitted up for Use (which in Fact they are not) and that Twenty-four Persons be lodged in the Infirmarys, and in the rented and other Rooms; One Hundred and Seventy-four Persons may,

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may, in that Case, be properly accommodated; adding, on Emergencies, Fifty-two single and Twelve double Cells on the Ground Floor, the due and proper Means of lodging may be increased by the Number of Seventy-six, and the Total so lodged will be Two Hundred and Fifty Persons.

It appears that within the present Year, Three Hundred and Twenty Prisoners have at one and the same Time been confined in this Prison, and that the Average through the Year has been Two Hundred and Sixty-five: It must then have happened, that One Hundred and Forty Persons have been so confined as to sleep and live Two in a Space, provided and adapted to One Person; and that, on an Average, Thirty Persons have so slept and lived: As there are no more than Two Hundred and Forty-eight Bedsteads in the Prison, the Half of these Numbers have certainly slept without separate Bedsteads, and most of them probably without separate Bedding.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COMMITMENTS.

Appendix, No. 6 & 7. As to the objectionable Circumstances under which these excessive Numbers have been committed, viewing the Structure and Arrangement of this Prison, and considering the fundamental System of its Establishment, we are surprized that the Practice of committing to it Persons detained on Suspicion, and for Trial (or indeed even Convicts for Misdemeanours sentenced by the Courts;)—should have commenced; much more so that such Practice should be continued to this Day, in Opposition to repeated Recommendations and Remonstrances concerning the Evils resulting from it, which appear to have been made by the Committee of Inspection to the Court of Quarter Sessions, and which by that Court have been regularly and pointedly addressed to the several Sources from whence they have arisen.

No. 9. The Magistrates who have separately attended to give us Information on our Enquiry have, as in One Voice, concurred in the Opinion "that all the Disorders and Mischiefs which have shewn themselves in this Prison, have owed their Origin to the Numbers and various Descriptions of Prisoners sent to it."

Notwithstanding these Recommendations, Remonstrances, and Opinions, we observe that, within the last Twelve Months, not less than Two Hundred and Eighty Persons have been detained in this Prison on Suspicion for different Terms and under a Variety of Charges; and within the same Time that there were One Hundred Commitments for Want of Sureties to answer to Indictments, and Complaints in Cafes of Assault and Bastardy; also Forty-five Prisoners for Trial for Felony.

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In the present State of this Prison, we do not hesitate to pronounce it an improper Place of Confinement for these several Descriptions of unconvicted Persons; nor indeed, until its Discipline, Regulations, and Arrangement, shall have undergone considerable Alterations, can we consider it as much less improper for Prisoners convicted for Misdemeanours on Indictments at Common Law.

So necessarily does this Conclusion appear to us to follow a View and Enquiry into the State and Management of this Prison, that we are led to apprehend that those Magistrates who have acted contrary to it, may have neglected to inspect or otherwise to inform themselves of the real Situation in which Prisoners are placed by their Commitments.

DISTINCTION IN FOOD.

We think no Circumstance more likely to create Restlessness and Discontent, than the Distinctions in point of Food which are practised in this Prison, though not mentioned in the Regulations. It has been stated to us by the Governor to have been a constant Usage, that those Prisoners only should receive the Soup and Meat Allowance who are in Execution of Judgment, whilst those confined for Re-examination, waiting for Trial, and for Want of Sureties (who are the Companions of the former in Imprisonment) should have no other than that of Bread and Water. In the Women's Division we find Three of the Class termed Disorderly, of these, Two are confined for a Month under Sentence of the Court, and have full Prison Allowance; the other being held, on Default of Sureties, to appear at the Sessions, has no more than the Bread Allowance.—Of the Six Apprentices, we found Five who (although certainly convicted Prisoners) had no other Sustainance than Bread and Water, whilst One, having been further convicted before the Court, on an aggravated Charge of assaulting and wounding a fellow Servant, received the full Meat Allowance.

We are to presume the original Reason for these Distinctions to have been, that the unconvicted had the exclusive Privilege of receiving Provisions from their Friends; that Privilege being no longer exclusive, the Reason ceases.

However "reasonable and however just it may appear, that Persons who have violated the Laws, and disturbed the Peace and Security of the Public, should rather be a Charge on their Friends than the Country," as stated in a Report of the Committee of Inspection, preceding the Order to permit Prisoners to be maintained by their Friends; we have only to observe, that it has not been so considered by the Legislature.

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More than the Half of the Persons confined in this Prison are subject to the Provisions of the Penitentiary Act; regarding these the Law has not only spoken decidedly, that they shall be "fed and sustained with Bread and coarse Meat, or other inferior Food and Water, or Small Beer," and this at the Cost of the Public, taking into the Account the whole Produce of the Earnings of their Labour, but it has also declared that "during the Term of their Confinement, Offenders shall not be permitted to have any other Food or Drink," and has enforced its Decision by Penalties on the Attempt to feed them by other Means.

19 G. 3. c. 74. l. 35 & 36.

With respect to those who are committed to this Prison as to a "House of Correction to hard Labour," the Law has also spoken in Terms not less explicit; "that they are," by the like Means "to be sustained with Bread, and any coarse, but wholesome Food and Water."

22 G. 3. c. 64. Regulations.

With regard to other Bridewell Prisoners "not ordered to hard Labour by the Warrant of their Commitment," it seems they have a Claim to be also maintained at the Expence of the County, and that no more than the Half of the Net Profits of their Earnings can be applied in Aid of that Expence; for the other "Half is directed to be accounted for, and paid to the Prisoner at the Time of his or her Discharge, and not before."

f. 7.

In the Case of Misdemeanours, as well those "adjudged to be Guilty," as those "waiting Trial," we find no Statute giving them any specific Claim, otherwise than as they may, if committed to a House of Correction, be considered as Part of the last mentioned Description. If in the Sheriff's Custody, they would, we conceive, be entitled to needful and necessary Sustenance, and that it would not be lawful to withhold any Portion of what should be deemed to be such necessary Sustenance.

The Objections to the yielding to the Desire of the Convicts to maintain themselves, do not rest merely on the Point of Authority, they are confirmed by Consequences evident in the present State of this Prison. It has been observed to us, that the Friends who undertake to maintain the Felon Convicts, are generally the Associates of their Gangs, who themselves, in their Turn, get into the Hands of Justice: Or if they have any lawful Connections to afford them Support (without being driven to bad Actions to effect it) their Means soon become exhausted; in either Case, the promised Support fails, and without falling back to County Relief, the Prisoners would starve under their own Engagement: Such appears to us to have been the Progress of the Consequences of the late Order of Court. On the First Admission to the Privilege of being maintained by their Friends, namely, on the 28th of February last, Fifty-three Persons relinquished the County Allowance, until the Middle of April following, the Number of those who entered into this Engagement, increased;

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created; and at that Time we find, that out of One Hundred and Sixty-one Persons entitled by Rule to the Allowance of Meat and Rice Soup, Eighty only accepted it, and Eighty-one were maintained at no greater Expence to the County than the Value of their Pound of Bread per Day. From that Period, the Zeal or the Abilities of their Friends began and have since continued to decline, so far so, that on the 18th Day of October, when we last saw the Dinners served to the convicted Prisoners, Three Persons only (and those of the Class of Misdemeanours) were omitted in the Distribution of Meat Allowance, from the Circumstance of being provided for by their Friends.

We are at the same Time of Opinion, that One Pound of Bread per Day, without other Food, is an insufficient Allowance for any Prisoner, unless the Term of his Commitment be short indeed, and where a Prisoner is far removed from his Friends, it must frequently happen that the Portion of Sustenance allowed by the County will be his sole Dependence.

DEMEANOUR OF OFFICERS.

As we conceive an Enquiry into the Demeanour of the Governor and other Officers of this Prison, to be an important Purpose of our Commission, we shall submit to Your Majesty's Consideration, in Detail, all such Circumstances as have come to our Knowledge, which appear materially to relate to the Conduct, or to affect the Character of these Persons in their respective Situations.

G O V E R N O R.

Regarding the Governor, Mr. Thomas Aris, we have to state, that on the Representation of John Nares, Esq; a respectable acting Magistrate of the County of Middlesex, that divers Charges, highly reflecting on the Character and Conduct of this Officer, had been exhibited by him in September 1799, before the Court of Quarter Sessions, and that those Charges were supported by Affidavits filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, we made Application to the Magistrates assembled in Court of Quarter Sessions, and by their Permission, Five Affidavits were laid before us, in which the several Deponents charge Mr. Aris with Acts of Peculation and Corruption in his Office of Governor of the Prison, amongst others, with borrowing Money of the Deponents, then Prisoners in his Custody, and with accepting Money, or other valuable Considerations, for permitting certain Indulgencies or Exemptions from the Discipline and Rules of the Prison.

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Appendix, No. 3. It appeared by the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Court of Quarter Sessions, which were at the same Time laid before us, that One of these Charges had been enquired into by the Magistrates in Sessions, and dismissed, "as not proved and ill-founded." But that no Proceedings had been entered on respecting the other Charges contained in the Affidavits before us.

As we have not the Authority, under Your Majesty's Commission, to substantiate Enquiries by Evidence on Oath (except in the Case of authenticating Papers which we have the Power to call for) we shall not assume that of giving Judgment in Cases which, when legally proved, may subject the accused Individual to the Penalties of the Law; still less, as we conceive, ought we to call in question the Decision of a competent Court, which has already taken Cognizance and decided on a Case which has regularly come before it; but as the Affidavits before us coincide with, and tend to confirm an Acknowledgment made by Mr. Aris, on his Examination before a Committee of the House of Commons, as well as to the Committee of Inspection, on the 6th of May 1799, it appears to us, that the Facts charged in them ought to be investigated before a Jurisdiction competent to examine the Parties on Oath, and to punish an Offence, if any be proved. If the Acts charged in the several Affidavits be true, we feel it so difficult to contemplate them abstracted from a corrupt Motive, that we are not aware of any possible Circumstances by which they can be justified.

No. 12. We have further to state to Your Majesty, that a Charge has also been exhibited to us by Mr. Thomas Green, now a Prisoner in the King's Bench Prison, but some Time past confined in the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields, on Sentence for a Misdemeanour, setting forth that Mr. Aris, Keeper of the last-mentioned Prison, had received from him, the said Thomas Green, during his Confinement, the several Sums of Thirty-Seven Guineas for Room Rent, Five Pounds for Leave to work in the Kitchen, and Four Guineas as a Present (soon after entering the Prison) for Permission to see his Wife and Friends; which said several Sums of Money, he had since understood, the said Mr. Aris was not justly entitled to receive and take.

We adjourned our Meetings to the King's Bench Prison, for the Purpose of investigating the above Charge, and after hearing Mr. Green, in Support of his alledged Complaint, and also examining the County Books of Account, we are of opinion that Mr. Aris is acquitted of having acted with any corrupt or interested Motive in receiving the several Sums paid for Room Rent, and Admission to live in the Kitchen, as it appears the Money so received has been correctly carried to the County Account: But we have reason to believe, that the Four Guineas stated to have been paid

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paid by Green as a Present, were received by Mr. Aris improperly, if not corruptly, and contrary to his Duty, as expressed in the 13th Rule.

In the Course of our Examination into the Management of this Prison, with the Statutes before us, it was impossible not to observe, and highly to blame, the irregular Facility with which the Punishment of refractory Behaviour has been inflicted.

On Occasions of important Outrages, indeed, we remark some Instances of Reference to the Authority of Magistrates; but we find no Traces of any Register of Punishments; nor does it appear that any Regard has at any Time been paid to those Limits in Point of Time, and Circumstances of Punishment, which the Law has specifically directed.

These Irregularities strongly mark the Impropriety of neglecting to cause Copies, not only of the peculiar Regulations of this Prison, but of the general Laws between Keepers and their Prisoners, to be placed within the Observation of the Parties liable to be affected by them, instead of being barely introduced within the Walls, efficient to no other Purpose than the avoiding a Penalty of the Law.

22 G. 3. c. 64. f. 11. and 7th Regulation. 31 G. 3. c. 46. f. 3.

If the Laws and Regulations were in Effect promulgated as directed, the Keeper might rest in Confidence that his Power, as constituted and regulated by the Legislature, is sufficient to secure his Charge, and make his Commands respected; and the Prisoners on their Part would be made sensible, that Resistance to their Keeper in the first Instance would be useless, as it could only bring them under the Cognizance of Authorities which must finally prevail; they would know (as they ought to do) that although they are exposed to Chastisement for "Refractory Behaviour until subdued," they are protected from any secret and capricious Use of Power.

We believe Mr. Aris to be very deficient in Point of Obedience to those Rules, which enjoin him to execute the Duties of his Office in Person, "to see every Prisoner, and to examine every Cell, Once at least in each Day." From the many unsatisfactory Answers given to our Enquiries, we must conclude, that he has not that intimate Knowledge of what is passing in his Prison, which he is bound to possess by the Regulations before us. In the Course of his Examination he has stated, that under the present Circumstances of the Prison, and the Use made of it, it is impossible for him to comply with many of the Rules; at this Point we must leave him at issue with the Magistrates; his Comptrollers, but if the Observation be just, such Rules ought immediately to be revised.

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We certainly find that many Deviations from the Rules and Regulations published and hung up as the Code of the Prison, are justified by subsequent Directions of the Committee, or Orders of Court, and that others have passed into ordinary Practice without any regular Notification. The Regulations were originally defective, in not including the Clauses of positive Laws, which affect the Officers of the Prison, and carry Penalties on the Infraction.

The 20th and 27th Rules are so equivocally expressed, on a Point of Discipline on which the Law has expressly spoken, that we cannot criminate the Governor, if, with no more positive Guide, he has practised Whipping as a Means of necessary Correction within their Construction.

With regard to Mr. Aris's general Character for Humanity, amongst the Prisoners in his Custody, we found it unimpeached. The few Instances of Complaint made personally against him were alleged by Prisoners suffering a temporary Penance, for an egregious Instance of refractory Conduct; even these Complaints were so far qualified, as to be expressly pointed to their then actual Restraint, which he might conceive to be sanctioned by the Knowledge and Acquiescence of the Magistrates. We feel ourselves warranted by the Testimony of those beyond the Reach of his Repentment, who have exhibited Charges against him, in observing that in the Instances in which he is supposed to have been tempted corruptly to deviate from his Rules, his Deviations have been uniformly on the Side of Indulgence to his Prisoners.

The Declarations of those Magistrates who have attended our Sitzings, the Journals of the visiting Justices, and the Minutes of the Committee of Inspection and Expenditure, testify a general Approbation of Mr. Aris's Service.

SURGEON.

The Statement we have given of the proportionate Mortality amongst the Prisoners who have been confined in this Prison, since Mr. Thomas Webb has been appointed Surgeon and Apothecary to it, furnishes a decided Proof of his Ability as well as of his Attention to the Sick.

Appendix, No. 4.

The late Laws which have enjoined peculiar Restrictions in regard to Diet, in Prisons built and regulated under their Powers, have most humanely and properly guarded the Prisoners, who may be submitted to those Restrictions, from any ill Effects which may follow their Application, by vesting in the appointed Surgeon and Apothecary a discretionary Power to order and direct an Alteration of, or Addition to the established Allowance of Food or Liquor, when he shall think the Health of any Prisoner shall require it. But to prevent Abuse in the Exercise of this Power

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Power as it regards Ale, Wine, and other Liquors; the Law has also directed that no such Deviations shall take place, "unless an Order to that Effect be given in Writing under the Hand of the Surgeon:" By an Order of Court, in the last December Sessions, the Observance of this Precaution was most pointedly enforced, by directing, "that no Food, distinct from ordinary Allowance, shall be given to any Prisoner, without an Order in Writing from the Surgeon to the Governor, mentioning the Name of the Person to whom such extraordinary Allowance should be given, which Order the Governor shall enter in a Book to be kept by the Clerk."

Notwithstanding these Directions, both of general Law and special Order, so informal and so habitual is become the Operation of the dispensing Power, that the Effect of the Rules seems lost in the prevalence of the Exceptions.

On Enquiry for the Authorities for the numberless Indulgences beyond the Rules, which we Daily witnessed, we discovered no Trace of any written Directions, either given by the Surgeon or required by the Governor.

When blaming the Informality, we are far from condemning a proper Use of the Power of this Officer; without a liberal Interference of the Surgeon, the Health of destitute Prisoners might materially suffer from the Pressure of the established Regulations and Discipline.

It is our Duty to report to Your Majesty, that a Complaint against Mr. Webb, as Surgeon to this Prison, has also been laid before us by John Nares, Esq; setting forth, that James Crowder, a Prisoner in Execution for a Misdemeanour, had, through corrupt Means, been admitted into the Infirmary as a Sick Person, although at the Time of his being so admitted, he was not Sick, and required no medical Treatment: and further stating, that after the said Crowder had been a short Time in the Infirmary, Mr. Webb waited on William Brodie, Esq; the Magistrate, by whose Warrant the said Crowder had been committed, and declared that the said Crowder was in so dangerous a State of Health, that he could not live many Days, if he was not discharged from Prison. That Mr. Brodie's Compassion being excited by this Representation, he was induced to make instant Application to the Duke of Portland, desiring his Grace to lay the Case before Your Majesty, with a Request that You would be graciously pleased to extend Your Royal Mercy to the said Prisoner; and that Your Majesty had so immediately complied with this Request, that in a few Days the said Crowder was set at Liberty: Mr. Nares further represented to us, that notwithstanding Mr. Webb had declared

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clared to Mr. Brodie, that the Life of Crowder was in imminent Danger, he had heard and believed, that at the Time of this Application, his Life was in no such Danger, and that soon after his Discharge from Prison, he was walking the Streets, seemingly in perfect Health. And finally, Mr. Nares declared it was his Belief, that Mr. Webb had thus imposed a false Story on the committing Magistrate, from corrupt Motives, and contrary to the Trust and Confidence reposed in him by the Magistrates of the County.

The above Statement of Mr. Nares, being supported by the Contents of Two Depositions on Oath exhibited before us, we proceeded to enquire into the Truth of the alleged Complaint, to the Extent of the Means intrusted to us, by Your Majesty's Commission: but in this, as in the former Statement of a serious Charge, we conceive the Character of an Individual too deeply involved to allow ourselves to give a decided Judgment on the Fact; but we say, that the Impression made on our Minds, by the Evidence of the Accuser, has not been removed by the Defence of the Accused. We think the Charge is serious, and so far substantiated as to be deserving Investigation before Magistrates competent to call for legal Evidence.

C O O K.

Joseph Ballard has been Cook during the last Five Years, and appears to us to act a more considerable Part in the Management of this Prison, than belongs to his peculiar Office; notwithstanding the repeated Orders of the Magistrates, we see no intermediate Eye between the Butcher who supplies the Meat, and the Cook who dresses it: this Officer or Servant of the Public exercises also, on his own Account, the Trade of Sutler, and supplies Provisions of all Kinds to those who have Money to expend. In the latter Capacity, he boards those who are allowed to live in the rented Rooms; and we find he receives from them a Price according to Circumstances, from Ten Shillings and Six Pence to Twenty One Shillings per Week. He also acts an intermediate Part between the Prisoners and a Neighbouring Publican, and supplies them with the Porter and such other Liquors as the Surgeon allows them to purchase for themselves, over and above what he directs that they shall receive at the County Coat.

Appendix,
No. 8.

We heard, however, no Complaint from the Prisoners against this Officer, either in his Capacity of Cook, or in his Trade as Sutler: But we remark in the latter Employ, as combined with the former, an Accumulation of Acts in Defiance of the Laws quoted in the Appendix, committed under the Eye of Magistrates visiting the Prison: Acts, which involve the whole Administration of the Prison in Criminality; the Surgeon,
by

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by his Permission to admit Liquors, which are sold for other than Medical Purposes, and without any Order in Writing, or Name of the Person, for whose Health he thinks them necessary: the Cook, in selling the several Liquors, and supplying the Prisoners with Articles of Provision; and the Governor, by knowingly permitting these Acts to be done.

INFERIOR OFFICERS.

Of the Conduct of the inferior Officers of the Prison, we have nothing to remark of sufficient Moment to claim Your Majesty's Attention.

BROKEN WINDOW SHUTTERS.

The Circumstance of the Occupiers of Seventy Cells being deprived of the Means of shutting out the Air by their own Act, would no otherwise be deserving our Attention than as a Reflection on the general Police of the Prison: But as we have observed that these Cells have been suffered to remain, even to the Day of the Date of this Report, in this unprotected State, we are called on to reprobate this as a most culpable Omission. If, as we presume, this Delay of Repair is intended on a Principle of punishing those who have broken the Shutters, we say, that the Punishments of a Prison ought on no Account to be such as may affect the Health of those on whom they are inflicted. Besides, as the Identity of Prisoners is perpetually changing, it must happen that the succeeding Occupant will suffer for his Predecessor's Misconduct.

By substantially affixing Shutters on the Outside, this Abuse might be prevented and some other Advantages obtained; and, if Prisoners were, as they ought to be, removed from the Upper Cells in the Day Time, this Evil would probably not happen.

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WANT OF WARMTH.

On the General View of this Prison, it is our decided Opinion, that the existing Means of warming the Apartments, in which Prisoners pass the Day in cold and damp Weather, are partial and inadequate.

All which is humbly submitted to Your Majesty's Royal Wisdom.

- G. O. PAUL. (L. S.)
- ()
- JOHN SPRANGER. (L. S.)
- W. M. PITT. (L. S.)
- W^m. BAKER. (L. S.)
- ROBERT JOHN BUXTON. (L. S.)
- J. BERKELEY BURLAND. (L. S.)
- ()

James Thornton,
Clerk to the Commissioners.

N. B. Sir Christopher Willoughby, Bart. and Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq; were prevented from acting under this Commission; the former by a necessary Attendance on his Duty as a Magistrate and Officer, during the late Disturbances in Oxfordshire, the latter by Illness.

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A P P E N D I X

To the Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the State and Management of His Majesty's Prison in Cold Bath Fields.

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Appendix, No. 1.

MR. THOMAS ARIS, the Governor of the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields, appeared, and produced the following

BOOKS relating to the State and Management of the said Prison:

1. Printed Rules and Orders for the Management of the New House of Correction for the County of Middlesex, approved and confirmed by the Justices of the Peace, at their Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 1794.
2. Alphabetical List of Prisoners committed to the Prison from the Month of November 1793; to the present Time.
3. Register of Commitments, beginning the 1st Day of September 1800, with the Nature of their Offences.
4. Journal of the Justices visiting the Prison, from its first opening to the present Time.
5. Governor's Journal, in Three Volumes, from the 23d of October 1794, to the present Time.
6. A Book, containing an Account of the Receipt of Money paid by Prisoners for Beds and Fees.
7. A Book, containing an Account of Work performed by the Prisoners, and the presumed Earning of each Prisoner.
8. An Account of Monies paid to Prisoners on their Discharge, as their Share of Earnings.
9. Bread Book, containing an Account of the Number of Prisoners, taken at the Time of locking up in the Evening, and for whom Orders are given to the Baker to provide Bread for the following Day.
10. A Book, shewing the Number of Loaves delivered each Day, and the total Weight thereof; the Number of convicted Prisoners entitled to Meat Allowance; and the Numbers who (agreeing to find themselves) are deducted from the former Numbers; with the Number of Rations of Meat received each Day.
11. A List of Prisoners in Custody on the 24th Day of September 1800, and classed according to the Rooms, Yards, and Galleries, in which they are now associated.

12. An Account of the Number of Prisoners committed to the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields, from the Year 1793 to the present Time, distinguishing each Year.

13. A List of Prisoners committed for further Examination in the present Year.

Mr. THOMAS ARIS, sworn.

Are you Governor of the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields?
I am.

Have you brought and produced before us all the Records and Regulations, Books and Papers, or other Writings, belonging or appertaining to the Conduct and Management of the Prison under your Care, and the Treatment of the Prisoners confined therein?

I have, all; except the original Commitments, Copies of which are contained in the Books delivered.

Mr. THOMAS WEBB, Surgeon and Apothecary to the Prison in Cold Bath Fields, appeared, and produced the following Books:

1. A Book, intituled, Apothecary's Journal, containing a List of Prisoners who have been under his Care in the Infirmary of the Prison, from April 1795 to the present Time, specifying the Nature of their several Diseases, and the Names of those who have died during that Time; also shewing the extra Allowance of Food or Liquors ordered for each sick Prisoner in the Infirmary.

2. An Abstract taken from the above Book, containing the Number of Sick in each Year, their Diseases, and the Names of those who died.

3. A List of Prisoners who have been infected with Typhus Fever within the last Two Years, and the respective Dates of their Commitments to the Prison, and Admission into the Infirmary.

Mr. THOMAS WEBB, Surgeon, sworn.

Do the Books and Papers you have delivered, contain a true Account, to the best of your Knowledge and Belief, of the Prisoners who have been sick, or who have died, and of their Diseases, since you have been Surgeon of this Prison?

Yes, to the best of my Knowledge and Judgment.

The

The Reverend JOHN EVANS attended, and produced a Book of Observations, intituled, "The Chaplain's Journal, or, Remarks on the Behaviour of the Prisoners."

Are you Chaplain to the Prison in Cold Bath Fields, and how long have you been so?

I am the Chaplain, and have been so since the 28th of October 1795.

Does the Book you have delivered contain all the Observations made by you relative to the State and Management of that Prison?
Exactly so.

Appendix, No. 2.

MR. DANIEL HINLEY, Secretary to the Committee of Magistrates inspecting the Prison in Cold Bath Fields, appeared, and delivered the following Books and Papers:

1. A Book, containing Minutes of the Committee appointed to enquire into the Receipt and Expenditure of Butchers Meat, and other Articles provided for the Prisoners; and also to inspect the general Concerns of the Prisons belonging to the County of Middlesex, held at the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields, from the 27th Day of January 1796, to the 26th Day of September 1800.

2. A Book, containing an Account of Monies received for Fees, Beds, and Rooms, by Mr. Thomas Aris, and by him accounted for to the County of Middlesex, from the October Sessions 1798, to the October Sessions 1799.

Appendix, No. 3.

MR. STERLING, Deputy Clerk of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, attended, and delivered:

1. Copies of all Orders of the Court of Quarter Sessions, respecting the Prison in Cold Bath Fields, from the Time of its being opened to the present Day, together with the Originals of all Reports from the visiting Justices and Committee of Inspection, to the said Court, on which the said Orders were respectively founded.

2. Minutes of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, held by Adjournment, on the 20th and 25th of September, and

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and on the 1st and 5th Days of October, 1799, to take into Consideration certain Charges exhibited against Thomas Aris.

3. Also Five several Affidavits respecting the Conduct of the said Thomas Aris, as Keeper of the said Prison; which said Affidavits are respectively signed by Thomas Miller, Richard Millar, William Brown, Richard Tomkins, and Samuel Butcher, and sworn before John Nares, Esq.

Appendix, No. 4.

EXTRACTS from Acts of Parliament relating to the Construction, Regulation, and Management of Houses of Correction, Penitentiary Houses, and other Prisons.

6 GEO. c. 19.

By the 2d. Section.—“Whereas Vagrants and other Criminals, Offenders and Persons charged with small Offences, are for such Offences, or for Want of Sureties, to be committed to the County Gaol, it being adjudged, that by Law, the Justices of the Peace cannot commit them to any other Prison for safe Custody, which by Experience hath been found to be very prejudicial and expensive; It is Enacted, That the Justices of the Peace, within their respective Jurisdictions, shall and may commit such Vagrants and other Criminals, Offenders, Person and Persons, either to the Common Gaol, or House of Correction, as they in their Judgment shall think proper; any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.”

24 GEO. II. c. 40.

By the 13th Section.—“No Licence shall be granted for the retailing Spirituous Liquors within any Gaol, Prison, or House of Correction, and all Licences granted or to be granted, contrary to this Provision, shall be void and of no Effect, from and after the 1st Day of July 1751; and if any Gaoler, Keeper, or Officer of any Gaol, Prison, or House of Correction, shall sell, use, lend, or give away, or knowingly permit or suffer any Spirituous Liquors or Strong Waters to be sold, used, lent, or given away in any such Gaols, Prisons, or Houses of Correction, or brought into the same, other than and except such Spirituous Liquors or Strong Waters as shall be prescribed or given by the Prescription and Direction of a regular Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, and to be applied in pursuance of such Prescription, from the Shop of some regular Apothecary, every such Gaoler, Keeper, Governor, or other Officer, shall for every such Offence, forfeit and lose the Sum of One Hundred Pounds.”

By the 15th Section.—“No Person shall carry or bring, or attempt or endeavour to carry or bring, any distilled Spirituous Liquors (except to be used in the Way of Medicine, as hereinbefore mentioned) into any Gaol, Prison,

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Prison, or House of Correction; and if any Person or Persons shall offend therein, it shall be lawful for the Gaoler, Keeper, or chief Officer of such Gaol, Prison, or House of Correction, or his or their Servants, to apprehend such Person or Persons, and to carry him, her, or them before a Justice of the Peace of the County, &c. where such Gaol, Prison, or House of Correction is situate; and if by the Oath of One credible Witness, or otherwise, he shall convict such Person or Persons of such Offence, he shall forthwith commit such Offender or Offenders to Prison, or to the House of Correction, there to be kept in Custody for any Time not exceeding Three Months, unless such Offenders respectively shall immediately pay down such Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding Twenty Pounds and not less than Ten Pounds, as the Justice shall impose upon such Offenders severally as their Fines.”

29 GEO. II. c. 12.

By the 26th Section.—“Every Person who shall retail Ale, Beer, or other Liquors, in any Prison or House of Correction, shall be deemed a Keeper of a common Alehouse, or Tipling House, and shall be subject to the Penalties inflicted by Law on the Keepers of common Alehouses and Tipling Houses, unless he or she shall obtain from the Justices of the Peace, according to due Course of Law, a Licence to retail such Beer, Ale, or Exciseable Liquors.”

19 GEO. III. c. 74.

Renewed from Time to Time, and now in Force, by 39 Geo. III. c. 51 and 52.

By the 5th Section.—“Whereas, if many Offenders convicted of Crimes for which Transportation hath been usually inflicted, were ordered to solitary Imprisonment, accompanied by well regulated Labour, and religious Instruction, it might be the Means, under Providence, not only of deterring others from the Commission of the like Crimes, but also of reforming the Individuals, and inuring them to Habits of Industry, It is Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty in His Privy Council, to appoint Three Persons to be Supervisors of Buildings to be erected and used as Penitentiary Houses, in pursuance of this Act, &c.”

By the 24th Section.—“When the Penitentiary Houses herein directed to be built, shall be fitted and completed for the Reception of Offenders, and proper Officers shall be appointed for the Care and Management thereof, the Committee (by this Act directed to be appointed) shall certify under their Hands and Seals, to the Justices of the Court of King's Bench, that such Houses are so fitted and completed, and that such Officers have been appointed; and after the making of such Certificate, where any Person shall, at any Session of Oyer and Terminer or Gaol Delivery, to be holden for the County of the City of London, or the County of Middlesex, or during the Assizes for any other County, within that Part of Great Britain called England, or at any great Session to be holden for the County Palatine

Palatine of Chester, or within the Principality of Wales, be lawfully convicted of Grand or Petty Larceny, or any other Crime for which he or she shall be liable by Law, either under this Statute or any other Statute now in Force, or hereafter to be made, to be transported to any Parts beyond the Seas, it shall be lawful for the Court before which any such Person shall be so convicted, or any Court held for the same Place with like Authority, if such Court shall think fit, in the place of such Punishment by Transportation, to order and adjudge that such Person shall be punished, by being imprisoned and kept to hard Labour in one of such Penitentiary Houses, for any Term not exceeding Two Years in case of Petty Larceny; and for any Term, if such Offender be a Male, not less than One Year; or if such Offender be a Female, not less than Six Months; nor exceeding in either Case Five Years, if he or she is liable by Law, on account of any other Crime, to be transported for Seven Years; and for any Term not less than Two Years nor exceeding Seven Years, in case any such Offender is liable by Law to be transported for Fourteen Years."

By the 26th Section.—"In the mean Time, and until such Certificate shall be made as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Court in which any such Offenders as aforesaid shall be convicted, or any other Court held for the same Place and with like Authority, to order and adjudge such Offenders, not exceeding the Numbers by this Act respectively limited, to be imprisoned and kept to hard Labour for the several Terms aforesaid, in the respective Houses of Correction, or other proper Places, within each respective County, which Houses of Correction, or other proper Places, shall, during such Time, be deemed and esteemed to be Penitentiary Houses, to all Intents and Purposes within the Meaning of this Act, except only with regard to the Appointment of Officers and Servants, and other interior Regulations of such Houses, directed by this Act." And,

By the 28th Section.—"Where any Person shall at any Session of Oyer and Terminer or Gaol Delivery, or Great Session within England or Wales, be lawfully convicted of any Robbery or other Felony, for which he or she shall by Law, either under this Statute or under any other Statute now in Force, or hereafter to be made, be liable to suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy, and His Majesty shall be graciously pleased to extend the Royal Mercy to any such Offender, upon Condition of being kept to hard Labour, during any specified Term, in any Penitentiary House to be erected in pursuance of this Act; every such Offender shall be kept to hard Labour in such Penitentiary House as aforesaid, for the Time specified in the Notification from the Secretary of State."

By the 31st Section.—"After Delivery of any such Offender as aforesaid into the Custody to which he or she shall be ordered or adjudged, such Governor, or Person having the Custody of Offenders under his Direction, shall, during the Term for which such Offender shall be ordered to hard Labour, have the same Powers over such Offender, as are incident to the Office of a Sheriff or Gaoler; and in case of any Abuse of such Custody, or other

other Misbehaviour or Negligence in the Discharge of his Office, shall be liable to the same Punishment as a Gaoler is now liable to by Law."

By the 32d Section.—"Every such Governor shall, during the Term prescribed for the Imprisonment and hard Labour of such Offender, keep him or her, so far as may be consistent with his or her Sex, Age, Health, and Ability, to Labour of the hardest and most servile Kind."

By Section 33d.—"Such Offenders shall, during their Hours of Rest, be kept entirely separate and apart from each other, and be lodged in separate Rooms or Cells, not exceeding Twelve Feet in Length, Eight Feet in Breadth, and Eleven Feet in Height, nor less than Ten Feet in Length, Seven Feet in Breadth, and Nine Feet in Height; and without any Window within Six Feet of the respective Floors; which Rooms or Cells shall be dried and moderately warmed, in damp or cold Weather, by Flues from the Fires in the Kitchens, and other public Fires belonging to each House; and the said Offenders shall also, during their Hours of Labour, in case the Nature of their several Employments will permit, be in like Manner kept separate and apart from each other; and where the Nature of the Employment may require Two Persons to work together, the Room in which such Two Persons shall work shall be of suitable Dimensions; and if the Nature of the Work, wherein any such Offenders shall be employed, shall require the Labour of many Persons at one Time, a common Work Room or Shed shall be allotted to them for that Purpose; and such Two or more Persons shall not be suffered to continue together, except during the Hours of Labour, and Divine Service, and the Times respectively allotted for their Meals and Airings."

By the 35th Section.—"Every Offender, who shall be ordered to either of such Penitentiary Houses, shall, during the Time of his or her Confinement therein, be fed and sustained with Bread and any coarse Meat, or other inferior Food, and Water or Small Beer; and also be clothed with a coarse and uniform Apparel, with certain obvious Marks or Badges affixed to the same, as well to humiliate the Wearers as to facilitate Discovery in case of Escapes: And no such Offender shall, during the Time of his or her Confinement, be permitted to have any other Food, Drink, or Clothing, than such as shall be so appointed; and if any Person or Persons shall wilfully supply any such Offender, at any Time during the Term of his or her Confinement, with any Food, Drink, or Clothing, other than such as shall be so appointed, or with any Money, he or she so supplying such Offender shall, for every such Offence, forfeit a Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds nor less than Forty Shillings."

By the 36th Section.—"No Officer or Servant of either of such Penitentiary Houses shall supply any of the Offenders therein with any Money, Clothing, Provisions, or Diet, or with any Spirituous or other Liquors whatsoever, except such Money, Clothing, Provisions, or Diet, or such Water and Small Beer, as the Governor of the House shall from Time to Time permit or direct, and except such Diet and Liquors as the Surgeon or Apothecary

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Apothecary attending such House, shall think proper to order for any such Offenders in case of Illness; and in case any such Officer or Servant shall be found guilty of carrying to any such Offender, or of knowingly permitting to be carried to any such Offender, any Money, Clothing, Provisions, or Diet, or Liquors whatsoever, contrary to the Intent of this Act, such Officer or Servant shall immediately be suspended by the said Governor, who shall report the same to the Committee at their next Meeting; and such Committee shall enquire thereof upon Oath, and shall punish such Officer or Servant by Forfeiture of Office, by any Fine not exceeding Ten Pounds, and by Imprisonment for any Term not exceeding Six Months, or by any one or more of such Punishments, as the said Committee shall, in their Discretion, think proper."

By the 37th Section.—"When any Offender who shall be ordered to hard Labour in such Houses as aforesaid, shall be brought thither in pursuance of the Powers contained in this Act, he or she shall be separately lodged, and washed, cleansed, and purified, and shall then be examined by the Surgeon or Apothecary, and shall continue in such separate Lodging until it be certified by such Surgeon or Apothecary that he or she is fit to be received among the other Convicts, and the Clothes in which he or she shall then be clothed, shall be burnt, if necessary, or otherwise shall be sold and disposed of: And such Offender shall not be dismissed at the End or other Determination of his Term, unless at his own Request, if he shall then labour under any acute or dangerous Distemper, nor until he can be safely discharged; and when such Offender shall be finally discharged, such other decent Clothing, as shall be judged necessary and proper, shall be delivered to such Offender, and also such Sum of Money, for his or her immediate Subsistence, as the said Committee shall think proper, so as such Sum shall not exceed Three Pounds, nor be less than Twenty Shillings, in case such Offender shall have been confined in such Penitentiary House for the Space of One Year and so in proportion for any shorter Term of Confinement."

By the 38th Section.—"The several Offenders sent to each of such Penitentiary Houses, shall be divided into three Classes, which shall be called the First, Second, and Third Class; for which Purpose the Time, for which such Offenders shall severally be committed, shall be divided into Three equal Parts; and during the first Part of the Time of the Imprisonment of every such Offender, he or she shall be ranked in the First Class, and during the second Part of such Time, he or she shall be ranked in the Second Class, and during the third and last Part of such Time, he or she shall be ranked in the Third Class; and the Confinement and Labour of such Offenders, as shall from Time to Time be ranked in the First Class, shall be the most strict and severe; and the Confinement and Labour of the Offenders ranked in the Second Class, shall be more moderate; and the Confinement and Labour of those ranked in the Third Class, shall be still more relaxed; which several Degrees of Confinement and Labour, so to be affixed to each Class, shall from Time to Time be settled by the Committee, by Orders or Regulation

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gulation to be approved of in Manner aforesaid, but so as not to defeat or elude the special Provisions made and appointed by this Act."

By the 39th Section.—"The Governor of each such Houses may employ, at his Discretion, any of the Offenders aforesaid, who shall be ranked in the said Third Class, as Servants, Overseers, or Assistants, in the Management of the Works, and Care of their Fellow Prisoners, instead of being confined to such their daily Labour as aforesaid."

By the 40th Section.—"Each of the Lodging Rooms, which shall be appointed in the said Penitentiary Houses for the Offenders so confined therein, shall be provided with an Iron Bedstead, with Matting for lying upon, One or more Hempen Sheets, a Coverlet, and Two or more coarse Blankets; and no Person, except the Officers and Servants of the House, and such Person or Persons as shall be authorized by Order of any Two of the Committee aforesaid, shall be permitted to go, at any Time, into such Lodging Rooms, or to see or converse with the Offenders; and every Night in the Year, the Doors of all such Lodging Rooms shall be locked, and all Lights therein extinguished, after the Hour of Nine."

By the 41st Section.—"Any Justice or Justices of the Peace, acting for the County or Place wherein such Penitentiary Houses, or Places of Confinement, to be provided in pursuance of this Act, shall be situated, may at all reasonable Times visit and inspect every Part of such Penitentiary Houses, or Places of Confinement, in order to make Report to the Quarter Sessions of any Abuse or Mismanagement which he or they may observe therein."

By the 43d Section.—"There shall be, adjoining to each of such Penitentiary Houses, One or more large and airy Yards or Places, inclosed and properly secured, in which, and on the Top of such House, if the Building will admit such a Convenience, the Offenders ordered to be confined in such House, shall be permitted to walk and air themselves, for such stated Time as their Health may require, and the Governors shall respectively permit, and if proper Employment can be found, such Offenders may also be permitted to work in such Yards, instead of their Lodging Rooms or Work Rooms; but such airing or working in such Yards, shall never be permitted unless in the Presence or within the View of the Governor or Task Master, or some of their Servants or Assistants."

22d GEO. III. c. 64.

By the 1st Section.—"Whereas in many Counties the Houses of Correction are insufficient in Number, or deficient in Building, and the Apartments in them are very ill accommodated to the Purposes for which they were intended; by Means whereof, and from a Want of due Order, Employment, and Discipline in such Houses of Correction, the Persons sent thither for Correction and Reformation, frequently grow more dissolute and abandoned during their Continuance in such Houses: For Remedy whereof, It is Enacted, &c. That the Justices of the Peace in every County, at their respective

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pective Quarter Sessions of the Peace, shall, and they are hereby required to nominate One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, whom they shall think most proper, to examine and inspect the several Houses of Correction within their respective Jurisdictions; and the Justice or Justices so to be nominated, is and are hereby required carefully and diligently to inspect the same, and to report his or their Opinion to the Justices of their respective Jurisdictions, at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions then next following, as to the State and Condition thereof, and as to the Additions or Alterations which they may judge necessary to make them more convenient and useful, having Regard to the classing of the several Persons who shall be kept there, according to the Nature of their Crimes and Punishments, and to the providing proper Places for the Employment of such Persons who are committed to hard Labour, and to the keeping every Part of such Prisons clean and wholesome; and the Justices, in settling and adjusting Plans for the same, are hereby required to provide separate Apartments for all Persons committed upon Charges of Felony, or convicted of any Theft or Larceny, and committed to the House of Correction for Punishment by hard Labour, under or by virtue of the Laws in being, in order to prevent any Communication between them and the other Prisoners."

By the 3d Section.—“The Justices shall also provide Mills, Looms, Utensils, and such Implements as they shall judge proper, for employing the several Persons who shall be committed to such Houses of Correction for hard Labour.” And,

By the 4th Section.—The Rules, Orders, and Regulations specified and contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed, for the better Rule and Government of the Persons to be committed to the said Houses of Correction, shall be duly observed and enforced at every such House of Correction, subject nevertheless to such Additions as shall from Time to Time be made by the Justices of the Peace for the County, &c. wherein such House of Correction shall be situate; provided that such Additions shall not be contradictory to the Rules, Orders, and Regulations established by this Act; and they are hereby required to cause the same to be printed in plain legible Characters, and fixed up in some conspicuous Part of every such Prison."

By the 7th Section.—“The Governor or Keeper of every House of Correction, is directed to employ all such Persons as shall be Prisoners therein, and kept and maintained at the Expence of the County, Division, or District wherein such House of Correction is situate, in some Work or Labour which is not severe, although such Prisoner was not, by the Warrant of his Commitment, ordered to be kept to hard Labour; and every such Governor or Keeper shall enter a separate Account of the Work done by every Person under that Description, and shall account with, and pay to him or her, One Half of the Net Profits which he or she shall have earned, at the Time of his or her Discharge, and not before."

By the 8th Section.—“No Person or Persons who shall be Governor or Keeper of any House of Correction, or who shall have any Office or Employment

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ployment as Assistant, or otherwise, under such Governor or Keeper of such House of Correction, shall sell, or be capable of being licensed to sell, or have any Benefit or Advantage whatsoever, directly or indirectly, from the Sale of any Wine, Ale, Beer, Spirituous or other Liquors, or any other Article, Matter, or Thing, used in such House of Correction, or by any Person or Persons confined therein, during the Time of such Employment; and every Person offending therein, shall forfeit the Sum of Ten Pounds for every such Offence, and shall be dismissed from his Employment as Governor or Keeper, or as Assistant in such House of Correction, by Order of the Justices at their next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, on Proof being made upon Oath before them of the said Offence; and no Wine, Ale, Spirituous or other Liquors, shall be brought into the House of Correction to be drank there, unless for a medical Purpose, by a written Direction under the Hand of the Apothecary or Surgeon usually attending such House of Correction; and the Directions given by the 17th Geo. II. c. 5. for the Inspection and Controul, by the Justices, over the Master or Keeper of every such House of Correction, shall be strictly adhered to and enforced, and every such Governor and Keeper punished for his Neglect of Duty or Misbehaviour, according to the Directions of the said Act:” And,

By the 11th Section.—“The Governor of every House of Correction shall have Power to put Handcuffs or Fetters upon any Prisoner who shall behave in a refractory Manner, or shew a Disposition to break out of Prison; but such Governor shall give Notice thereof to One of the visiting Justices, within Forty-eight Hours after the Prisoner shall be so fettered, and he shall not continue such fettering longer than Six Days, without obtaining an Order in Writing from One of the visiting Justices."

RULES, ORDERS, and REGULATIONS to be observed and enforced at every House of Correction, provided and established, or to be provided and established, under the Authority of the Acts of the Seventh Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King James the First, the Seventeenth of King George the Second, and the Twenty-second of King George the Third.

1. “That the several Persons who shall be committed to the House of Correction to be kept to hard Labour, shall be employed (unless prevented by ill Health) every Day during their Confinement (except Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday) for so many Hours as the Day-light in the different Seasons of the Year will admit, not exceeding Twelve Hours, being allowed thereout to rest Half an Hour at Breakfast, an Hour at Dinner, and Half an Hour at Supper, and that the Intervals shall be noticed by the Ringing of a Bell."

2. “That the Governor of each House of Correction shall adapt the various Employments, which shall be directed by the Justices at their Quarter Sessions, to each Person, in such Manner as shall be best suited to his or her Strength and Ability, Regard being had to Age and Sex."

3. “That the Males and Females shall be employed, and shall also eat and be lodged, in separate Apartments, and shall have no Intercourse or Communication with each other."

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By the 3d Section.—“ Every Governor of the several Places of Confinement to be used as Houses of Correction or Penitentiary Houses, and his or their Assistants, shall have the same Powers over the Offenders to be confined therein, as are incident to the Office of a Sheriff or of a Gaoler, and in like Manner be answerable for the Escape of any Offender within his Custody; and moreover, the said Governor shall have Power to hear Complaints and examine Persons touching Offences, and punish the same (except by whipping) in such and the same Manner as the Governor of each Penitentiary House, directed to be built by the said Act of the Nineteenth Year of His present Majesty, is by the said Act empowered to do; and in case of the Repetition of such Offences, or in case of Offences more enormous, which the said Governor is not by this Act empowered to punish, the said Governor shall report the same to the visiting Justices, or One of them, for the Time being, to be appointed as hereinafter is directed; and such Justices, or One of them, shall have Power to enquire, upon Oath, and determine concerning all such Offences so reported to them, and shall order such Offenders to be punished, either by moderate Whipping, repeated Whippings, or by close Confinement for any Term not exceeding One Month.”

By the 5th Section.—“ The Justices of the Peace shall, at every General or Quarter Sessions after the passing of this Act, appoint Two or more Justices Visitors of each of the several Gaols and other Places of Confinement within their respective Jurisdiction; and such visiting Justices so respectively appointed shall, either together or singly, personally visit and inspect such Prison, at least Three Times in each Quarter of a Year, and oftener if Occasion shall require, and shall examine into the State of the Buildings, the Behaviour and Conduct of the respective Officers, and the Treatment and Condition of the Prisoners, the Amount of their Earnings, and the Expences attending such Prison, and in Matters of pressing Necessity, and within the Powers of their Commission as Justices, shall take Cognizance thereon, and proceed to regulate and redress the same; and at every General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, the said visiting Justices respectively shall make a Report in Writing of the State and Condition of the same, and of all Abuses which may occur to their Observation therein; and the Chairman of the said Sessions is hereby required to call upon the said Visitors for such Report; and every Justice of the Peace for such County of his own Accord, and without being appointed a Visitor, may enter into and examine the same at such Time or Times, and as often as he shall think fit, and if he shall discover any Abuses therein, he is hereby required to report them in Writing at the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or adjourned Sessions, which shall be holden for such County, &c.; and when and as often as Report of any Abuses in the said Place of Confinement shall be made by the said visiting Justices, or either of them, or by any other Justice of the Peace for such County, &c. the Abuses so reported shall be taken into immediate Consideration by the Justices of the Peace for such County, &c. at the General or Quarter Sessions, or adjourned Sessions, at which such Report shall be made; and they are hereby required to adopt the most effectual Measures for enquiring into and rectifying such Abuses, as soon as the Nature of the Case will allow.”

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By the 6th Section.—“ For establishing and enforcing a proper Police within the Gaols in and for the several Counties, a Body of Rules, Orders, and Regulations, as Bye Laws for the Government of the said Gaols, and of the Prisoners to be therein confined, shall be framed, made, and confirmed, by such Persons and in such Manner as is appointed for County Gaols in general, by the 32d Geo. II. c. 28.; and in the same Rules, Orders, and Regulations, proper and particular Directions shall be give for effectuating such Separation and classing of Prisoners, as is directed by 24th Geo. III. c. 54. with such further Separation and classing as shall be thought requisite, and also as well for enforcing amongst the Prisoners of all Descriptions, Cleanliness, Temperance, and a decent and orderly Behaviour, as for securing a just and humane Treatment of them by the Gaoler and his Servants; and all Directions contained in the said Act, respecting such Rules and Orders, shall be exactly conformed to.”

By the 15th Section.—“ The Justices of the Peace assembled at their General or Quarter Sessions, or at some special Adjournment thereof, shall, and they are hereby required, within Twelve Months after the passing of this Act, to regulate and settle a Table of Fees and Rates to be taken by the Gaoler or Keeper of the Gaols, or other Places of Confinement; and the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, are hereby authorized and empowered from Time to Time to alter, vary, or totally disallow of all or any such Charges and Fees, and to order a Copy of the Table of Fees so regulated, to be hung up in the Court of Assize and Quarter Sessions for the County, and another Copy thereof to be transmitted to the said Gaoler or Keeper, who shall cause the same to be hung up in some conspicuous Place within the Gaols or Penitentiary Houses.”

By the 11th Section.—“ In case the Common Gaol shall not be in a State to afford the Means of Separation according to the Directions of the Act of the Twenty-fourth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty afore-mentioned, the Gaoler shall, and he is hereby required to report the Insufficiency of such County Gaol to the Grand Jury, at the Assizes or General Gaol Delivery next to be holden after the passing of this Act; and at every subsequent Assize or General Gaol Delivery, till such Means of Separation shall be effected.”

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RULES, Orders, and Regulations, for the Management of the New House of Correction for the County of Middlesex; approved and confirmed by the Justices at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 1794.

General Division of the Prisoners in the House of Correction :

- Class 1. Prisoners convicted of Felonies, and other atrocious Offenders.
- Class 2. Prisoners convicted of lesser Offences.
- Class 3. Prisoners committed for Trial.

VISITING JUSTICES.

THE Appointment of Two Justices at the Sessions, to visit the Prison twice a Week, or oftener, seems absolutely necessary; whose Report of the State and Management of the Prison shall be delivered in Writing, on their Resignation of their Charge on the County Day of the Session, when a Re-appointment shall take place.

The GOVERNOR.

- 1. To order every Prisoner, upon his or her Commitment, to be stripped and cleaned, and to be shorn or shaved, if necessary, and the Cloaths fumigated, baked, or destroyed.
- 2. To be exact in classing and separating the Prisoners, according to the Nature of their Offences; never exercising a discretionary Power when his Orders are positive; and taking particular Care, that the Male and Female Prisoners have no Intercourse with each other.
- 3. To provide a proper Book, to be kept as a Journal of the Daily Events of the Prison; such Journal to be produced when called for by the Visiting Justices.
- 4. To execute his Office in Person; and to see every Prisoner in his Custody once at least in every Day; to attend the Prisoners at the Chapel, and notice their Behaviour in his Journal; not to absent himself for a Night, except on urgent Occasions; entering in the Journal, upon his Return,

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Return, the Cause of his Absence; and to take Care that his Turnkeys and other Servants, constantly lodge within the Prison.

- 5. To examine every Day the State of each Cell, in order to discover whether any Means have been made use of towards effecting an Escape, or whether any Mischief has been done to any Part of the Building.
- 6. To examine Daily the Locks, Bolts, and Bars of the Prison, and the State of the Irons by which those Prisoners are confined, for whom Coercion is found necessary; and note his Observations on both these Articles, every Day, in his Journal.
- 7. To see that the Taskmaster, Turnkeys, Servants, and Assistants, conduct themselves with Prudence, Firmness, Attention, and Sobriety; and that they be in all Respects obedient to his Direction and Command; noting in his Journal such Matters respecting their Conduct as he may judge proper for the Information of the Visiting Justices.
- 8. The Prison Allowance to be, One Pound of Bread per Day, with an Addition of other wholesome Food in proportion to the Prisoners Labour, at the Discretion of the Visiting Justices; but no Malt Liquor, nor any Lquor except Water, shall in any Case be allowed; except when Wine is prescribed by the Surgeon and Apothecary to the Sick.
- 9. To see, or order the Turnkeys to see, that the Prisoners daily wash their Faces and Hands; for which proper Cisterns and Towels will be provided in each Yard near the Pump; that their Hair be kept short, and constantly combed; and that this be done before any Food is delivered.
- 10. To provide Paillasses or Linen Bags for the Reception of Straw, and acquaint the Visiting Justices when any fresh Bedding is wanted, that the same may be renewed; and to see that the foul Straw, Rags, and Filth of every Kind be instantly burnt.
- 11. To direct that clean Linen be allowed Once a Week to such Prisoners as wear the Prison Dress, and to other Persons, as the Visiting Justices may from Time to Time think proper.
- 12. To have no Interest in any Contract or Agreement for Feeding or Clothing the Prisoners; but to take Care that neither the Prisoners nor the County be defrauded, and to keep Weights and Scales for that Purpose.
- 13. To take or receive to his own Use, no Fee, Gratuity, or Emolument, except those allowed by the Table of Fees, from any Person whomsoever in his Custody.
- 14. To attend diligently and carefully to the Observations most humanely and judiciously made by Sir George O. Paul, in his Book of Regulations

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gulations of the Gloucester Prisons, respecting the Nature, Degree, and Extent of solitary Confinement; to mark attentively its Effects on the Prisoners, and make his Report thereon to the Visiting Justices.

15. To regulate the Confinement of the Prisoners according to the different Behaviour of Offenders, and strictly to observe the Rules and Provisions for keeping them, as directed by the Warrant of Commitment, or the Sentence of the Court.

16. To take Care that every Prisoner, convicted by a Jury, and ordered by the Sentence of any Court to be kept to hard Labour, be kept, as far as possible, in solitary Confinement, and allowed no Intercourse with any Person from without the Prison, except by an Order in Writing from the Committing or Visiting Justices.

17. To see that the same Regulations be also observed, respecting all Prisoners convicted of any Offence before any Justice or Justices out of Sessions; excepting such Intercourse with their Friends as may be needful to prepare them for their Defence, in Cases where there is an Appeal or Reference to the General or Quarter Sessions, or other superior Courts.

18. To put (if he shall see Cause) Handcuffs or Fetters on any Prisoner who shall behave in a refractory Manner, or shew a Disposition to break out of Prison; such fettering, &c. to be entered in the Journal, with the Reason thereof, and to give Notice to One of the Visiting Justices within Forty-eight Hours, but not to be continued more than Six Days without an Order in Writing from One of the Visiting Justices.

19. To hold no unnecessary Conversation, nor suffer his Servants to do it, with any Prisoner.

20. To take Care that the necessary Correction be given with Temper and Humanity; yet not in such a Manner as to render it either trifling or ridiculous; but with every Circumstance of Seriousness and Solemnity; and to be always given in the Presence of the Governor.

21. To abstain himself, and strictly to require his Servants to abstain, from all violent and angry Expressions; and by no Means to use Oaths or Curfes, under any Provocation whatsoever.

22. It being unquestionably true, that the proper Employment of Prisoners is one leading Step towards their Amendment, especially when united with due Degrees of solitary Confinement, the Governor is to provide Means for setting to Work all Persons not sentenced to Hard Labour, and to set those to Work who are so sentenced, according to their Ability.

N. B. It is very difficult to enumerate the several Kinds of Works, to which the Talents and Abilities of the several Prisoners may be most properly applied; of this the Taskmaster will be the fittest

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fittest Judge; and if he understands his Business, he will so direct the Employment of every Person, as to render the Work most beneficial to the Prisoners, as well as most serviceable to the Public.

23. To keep the Prisoners separate during the Hours of Labour, as far as the Nature of the Employment will admit.

24. To examine the Contents of every Parcel, whether of Food or Cloaths, or other Matter, which is brought within the Walls of the Prison, before it is delivered to the Prisoner.

25. To demand of every Person committed for safe Custody only, and not in Execution, requiring to be lodged in a better Manner than the rest of the Prisoners, and able to pay for a Bed, the Sum of One Shilling per Night; and to keep one or more Beds always fit for Use, in case such Beds should be wanted. With respect to Liquor for such Persons, to adhere strictly to Rule 8.

26. To take Care that every Prisoner, when washed in the Evening, having received his Allowance, be immediately locked in his Cell; and also to admonish every Prisoner, that, on his quiet Resignation to the Prison Rules, and his decent Submission to the Officers, will depend the Governor's Report to the Visiting Justices, and the greater or less Degree of Indulgence which he may expect to receive.

27. That the Governor give every Prisoner to understand, that refractory and obstinate Behaviour will be opposed by more than ordinary Punishment and Restraint, till the Mind of the Prisoner is subdued.

28. That the Business of Washing for the Prisoners, be executed by the Female Prisoners; and that they be allowed some Proportion of Remuneration as other Prisoners working by Task; that this Work be done under the Direction of some prudent Female, to be appointed by the Governor, for the Purpose of not only serving him as a Maid Servant, but of being employed in inspecting the Female Prisoners when Sick; and assisting, if qualified and disposed so to do, in improving the Morals of the Prisoners of her own Sex. Such Servant to receive extra Wages for attending to the Duties of the Prison.

29. That he give Notice to the Visiting Justices, or in his Absence, to the Justices at one of the Public Offices, when the Time of Discharge of any Convict is approaching; that such Prisoner may be examined as to his or her legal Settlement, and, if the Justices shall think proper, passed to the same; unless some creditable Housekeeper shall appear, and be responsible for placing such Prisoner in a State of immediate Employment, to the Satisfaction of the said Justices.

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The TASKMASTER.

30. The Taskmaster to be appointed by the Justices; but in all Respects to be subordinate to and under the Controul of the Governor.

31. The first Bell to be rung at Six o'Clock in the Morning from Lady Day to Michaelmas Day, and at Seven o'Clock during the Winter Half Year; in Half an Hour the Second Bell to be rung, and the Prisoners to wash themselves, as directed by No. 9.

32. After Washing, the daily Allowance of Bread shall be delivered to every Prisoner, in a separate Loaf, of the exact Weight allowed and directed by No. 8.

33. That at Seven o'Clock in the Morning in the Summer, and at Eight o'Clock in the Morning in the Winter, on every Day except Sunday, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, the Prisoners be set to Work, after enquiry into the several Occupations to which they may have been bred; and where admisible, that the Prisoner be set about the Work to which he or she has been accustomed.

34. That the Prisoners of the First and Second Class be allowed One Sixth of the Profits of their Labour; and that the Profits of their Labour be applied, One Sixth to the Prisoner's Benefit, and the Remainder to go to the County Fund.

35. That One Half of the Profits of the other Prisoner's Labour be applied to their Benefit, and the other Half to the County Stock.

36. That an Account be kept of the Profits arising from the Labour of the Prisoners; and that the same be paid to them on their Discharge, or applied to their Benefit, in such Way as the Visiting Justices shall direct or approve.

37. That at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Bell be rung, and the Prisoners cease from their Work, and have their Allowance of Food; and that at One o'Clock the next Bell be rung, and their Labour be resumed.

38. That at Six o'Clock in the Summer Half Year, and at Sun-set in the Winter Half Year, the Bell be rung as a Signal for leaving Work; that every Prisoner be again required to be washed; that an Account be taken of the Work done, and the Tools, &c. be delivered to the Officers of the Prison, to be safely laid up by them; after which the Allowance of Provision is to be delivered to the Prisoners.

39. That a Clerk be appointed by the Governor, and approved by the Justices in Sessions, for the Purpose of keeping the Books, and performing such other Duties as the Governor shall require.

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The CHAPLAIN.

40. Much of our Hopes of the Prisoners Reformation will depend on the Chaplain's zealous and conscientious, as well as prudent Discharge of his Duty. He will be required to read Prayers, and preach, at least Once on every Sunday, and on Christmas Day and Good Friday; and also to read the Morning Service on Wednesdays and Fridays; on which Days the Bell which on other Days would be rung at Twelve o'Clock, will be rung at Half an Hour after Eleven o'Clock; and every Prisoner in Health will be required to attend. On these Occasions the Chaplain, it is hoped, will occasionally deliver a short, but affectionate Exhortation to the Prisoners, to consider their Situation, and to form Resolutions of Amendment. He is also to attend such of the Prisoners as are sick, and give them suitable Instructions.

41. Books of moral and religious Instruction shall be provided, and distributed by the Chaplain, at his Discretion, amongst such Prisoners as can read them, when they shall either express a Desire, or even seem capable of being benefited by them.

42. All indecent Behaviour in the Chapel, or disrespectful Treatment of the Chaplain, or wilful spoiling of the Books delivered to the Prisoners, or any wicked or profane Language, shall be punished by close Confinement, either in their own, or in dark Cells, according to the Nature and Heinousness of the Offence.

43. In the Case of young Offenders committed, as Apprentices, &c. some One of the more orderly Prisoners of the same Class shall be employed to instruct them on Sundays, and at other proper Times, in Reading; and both shall have an extra Remcompence, the one for learning and the other for teaching, at the Discretion of the Visiting Justices: This to be under the Direction of the Chaplain, and the Degree of Remcompence to be regulated by his Report.

44. The Chaplain shall once in every Week enter a short Minute in the Journal of the State and Behaviour of the Prisoners.

The SURGEON.

45. To visit the Prisoners in the Sick Wards every Day, and to enter a Minute of his Attendance in his Journal, and also an Account of the Nature of the Diseases of the Prisoners, with his Reasons for ordering an extra Allowance of Wine, Provisions, &c.

46. To suggest to the Visiting Justices and Governor such Circumstances as he shall think necessary for the Promotion of Cleanliness, and Preservation of the Health of the Prisoners, and enter the same in his Minute Book.

CONCLUSION.

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CONCLUSION.

If any Rule or Order shall be found on Experience impracticable or inexpedient, the same may be suspended or relaxed, by the Visiting Justices; who are required to enter a Minute thereof in the Prison Book, and report the same to the next Session.

Appendix, No. 6.

EXTRACTS from the Reports of the Committee of Inspection, and Orders of the Court of General or Quarter Sessions for the County of Middlesex, relative to the State and Management of the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields; not inserted, but referred to, in the Report.

September Session, 1794.

RESOLVED, "That Two Magistrates be appointed to inspect the Prisons in Rotation between every Session; and to report the State of the said Prisons to the Court on the County Day of the next Session, when Two other Magistrates are to be appointed for the like Purpose."

January Session, 1795.

Resolved, "That the Rules and Orders for the Government of the New House of Correction, be printed; and that a Copy of such Part of the Rules as respects the Prisoners, be also printed, and hung up for the Inspection and Information of the Prisoners."

April Session, 1796.

The Rev. Dr. Glasse, Chairman of the Prison Committee, laid before the Court a Report from the said Committee, of which the following is an Abstract;

"That every Prisoner be employed, as much as possible, in a State of Separation; and that the Governor be directed to attend to this as a main Principle of this Institution."

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The Committee further "submit to the Consideration of the Court, the Propriety of a Recommendation to the Magistrates, to decline sending Prisoners committed for Re-examination, or before Trial, to the New House of Correction, except on very special Occasions; such Persons being seldom employed, and generally conducting themselves (chiefly because they are idle) in a disorderly Manner."

By the COURT,

"Resolved, That the said Report be received and confirmed."

November Session, 1796.

By the COURT,

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the Justices of this County, to commit all young Offenders to the House of Correction, instead of the New Prison."

May Session, 1797.

The Rev. Dr. Glasse, Chairman of the Prison Committee, reported, "That an Exception was ordered to be made in the 17th of the Rules and Orders, in favour of Prisoners committed for Want of Sureties; and that their Friends be permitted to see them, without previous Application to the Magistrates for an Order for that Purpose."

February Session, 1798.

The Rev. Dr. Glasse reported, That the Prison Committee had

"Ordered, That in future an exact Account be delivered to the Committee, in a Book to be provided for that Purpose, stating who are the Persons for whom an additional Allowance of Food is made, and the Reason for allowing it."

"That Mr. Aris having received Five Prisoners from the King's Bench, whom he has hitherto accommodated with Beds at One Guinea per Week each, desired the Opinion of the Committee, whether they might be continued in that Situation, viz. in the Rooms over the Committee-Room;

"Ordered, that they be permitted to remain in their present Situation as to Lodging, but as to Provision, that the Rules and Orders of this Prison be strictly observed and that no Distinction whatever be made in the Treatment of any Prisoners confined under Sentence in this Place."

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APPENDIX, No. 6.

By the COURT,

“ Ordered, That the said Report be received, and confirmed.”

May Session, 1798.

“ The Prison Committee stated to the Court, That the Confinement of the Mutineers in the House of Correction was attended with great Inconvenience; that their Conduct was refractory and desperate in the Extreme; and that the Practice of sending State Prisoners, previous to their Trial, to the House of Correction, was found to be very detrimental, and to break in upon the System established for the Management of that Prison.”

By the COURT,

“ Ordered, That a Memorial should be presented to the Duke of Portland, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, stating the Matters aforesaid: And the following Memorial was thereupon prepared, and unanimously agreed to.”

“ To His Grace the DUKE of PORTLAND, &c. &c. &c. &c.

“ His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, in Sessions assembled, beg leave to represent to your Grace, that being anxiously desirous to secure the Maintenance of good Order within the House of Correction for the said County, and having found, by painful Experience, that the Discipline as well as Security of the Prison is much interrupted and endangered by the Reception of State Prisoners, whether under Conviction, or by Commitment for Trial; and having particularly found that Seamen of a Mutinous Disposition, possessed of Ingenuity heightened by Desperation, require a Degree of Vigilance and Coercion, incompatible with the System of this Prison; Do therefore humbly entreat your Grace to take into Consideration the Difficulties under which they labour; which are yet farther increased by the Addition of so great a Number of Prisoners of the above Description to those whom the House of Correction was originally intended to receive, and with which it is crowded to a great Degree of Inconvenience. They beg leave to state, not only that an Escape of Seven of the most daring Prisoners, convicted of Mutiny, has already been effected, by Artifices which no ordinary Sagacity could foresee or prevent; but that a Discovery of a most dangerous Conspiracy and Design hath recently been made, among the remaining Mutineers (One only excepted) to overpower and destroy the Governor and his Assistants, and to liberate themselves by Force, if their Contrivances to escape should fail.

“ His

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APPENDIX, No. 6.

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“ His Majesty's Justices of the Peace beg leave further to state to your Grace, the Inconvenience arising from the Commitment of Prisoners for Trial to this Prison, on account of the necessary Intercourse with Persons appointed to conduct their respective Trials; which greatly disturbs the Tranquillity of the Prison, and opens the Door to Irregularities unknown in the ordinary Management of it.

“ They also beg leave to observe, that a very great additional Expence has been incurred, on account of Prisoners of the above Description; which Expenditure, as the various Burthens upon the County Rate are already very severely felt, they are deeply concerned to be under the Necessity of adding to the ordinary Charges of the Prison; but this Expence the Magistrates confidently hope will be reimbursed to the County, on a fair Statement of the several Particulars.

“ They trust that, if your Grace is so good as to take the above Particulars into your Consideration, some Steps will be immediately taken to deliver the Magistrates from the Burthen of such additional Responsibility, and the Persons entrusted with the Management of the Prisons from a Charge to which the System of a House of Correction does not find itself equal; the Principal whereof is legal Punishment, tempered with Humanity, and peaceful Confinement rendered subservient to the Purpose of Reformation.

“ Signed by Order of the Magistrates,

“ H. C. S.

“ Clerk of the Peace.”

By the COURT,

“ Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to present the above Memorial to his Grace the Duke of Portland, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.”

December Session, 1798.

“ The Committee appointed to enquire into the Receipt and Expence of the Butcher's Meat and other Articles provided for the Prisoners in the House of Correction, and to take into Consideration all other Expences incurred in managing and conducting the Affairs of the said Prison; stated, That, in consequence of the Order of Reference made on the County Day of the last Session, they had proceeded to enquire into several Matters relating to the Expences of the House of Correction; and with respect to Butcher's Meat, and other Provisions for the Support of the Prisoners, they found that the Butcher's Bill for Forty-three Days, for the House of Correction, amounted to £. 100. 18 s. 7 d. ½. and the Baker's Bill for Forty Days, to £. 118. 5 s. 8 d. — That the Average

"rage Number of Prisoners in the House of Correction each Day, during the Time aforesaid, was about Two hundred and Fifty Persons; so that the Expence of keeping each Prisoner per Day was something more than Five Pence, without including Vegetables, Oatmeal, Cloaths, firing for dressing the Dinners, and additional Servants in consequence of the almost constant Cooking.—That there was paid for Coals, in the last Year, the Sum of £.435. 16 s. the greatest Part of which was consumed in the Kitchen in the House of Correction.

"The Committee further stated, that with a View of considering whether so large and expensive an Allowance from the County is necessary for the Support of the Prisoners, they had been led to enquire what Allowance was made to the Prisoners in New Prison, and in Tothill Fields Bridewell: And they found, that no Allowance of Butcher's Meat was provided by the County for the Prisoners in New Prison; but that the Prisoners were permitted to receive Meat and other Provisions from their Friends.—That the same Allowance of Bread was made to the Prisoners in New Prison as in the House of Correction; but that the Expence of dieting them was less than Two Pence per Day for each Prisoner, except in some few Instances, when Butcher's Meat had been ordered for Sick Prisoners, by the Surgeon attending the Prison. And with respect to the Allowance of Provisions made to the Prisoners in Tothill Fields Bridewell, they found that no Butcher's Meat was allowed by the County, or by the Magistrates of the City and Liberty of Westminster; but that the Prisoners were permitted to receive Meat, and other Provisions from their Friends, as in New Prison; and that a Person, who kept a Chandler's Shop near the Prison, attended every Day at the Door; and such Prisoners as had Money were allowed to purchase Cheese and Butter, and any little Articles of that Sort.—That the Expence to the County of dieting the Prisoners in that Prison was less than Two Pence per Day for each Prisoner, except when Butcher's Meat was occasionally ordered by the Surgeon for Sick Prisoners. The Difference of the Expence to the County, in maintaining the Prisoners in the House of Correction, and in Tothill Field's Bridewell and New Prison, being so great, the Committee had thought it proper to enquire respecting the Health of the Prisoners in the different Prisons; and found that the Prisoners in general, in the New Prison and in Tothill Fields Bridewell, were as healthy as in the House of Correction. And it appeared to the Committee, that a very considerable Saving to the County might be made in the very expensive Article of Butcher's Meat, if the Friends of the Prisoners were permitted to assist them in the House of Correction with Provisions, as they were in the other Prisons in the County, and which the Committee conceived might be done under proper Regulations and Restrictions, without breaking in upon that System of Sobriety and Reform, so much to be desired. The Keepers of the several Prisons were all of Opinion it would be much more satisfactory to the Generality of the Prisoners, to depend on such Assistance from their Friends, even if the whole Allowance of Meat, made by the County, was discontinued. And it seemed reasonable and just to the Committee, that those who have violated the Law, and disturbed the Peace and Security of the Public, should rather be a Charge on their Friends than the County."

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By the COURT,

"Resolved, That the further Consideration of the above Report be postponed till the next Session.

"Resolved, That the Governor, or in case of his Absence the Person next in Authority to him, do examine and inspect all Meat, Bread, and other Provisions brought into the Prison; and that he see the same weighed or measured, as the Nature of the Provisions may be; and that the Clerk, under his Direction, do enter an Account thereof each Day in a Book to be provided for that Purpose."

May Session, 1799.

The Prison Committee reported "That they were of Opinion, that the Governor should be directed to inspect any Article brought into the Prison, and that he should cause an Account thereof to be entered in a Book, on the Day in which the same shall be received." The Committee further reported, "That it appeared, that the Rules, Orders, and Regulations, for the Management of the new House of Correction, were not hung up in the Prison, as directed by Act of Parliament; and that they had ordered a fair Copy of the said Rules should be immediately made and hung up in some conspicuous Part of the Prison, that the same may be read by all the Prisoners."

By the COURT,

"Resolved, That the said Report be received, and that the Regulations recommended therein by the said Committee be adopted; and that the Keeper be served with a Copy of the said Directions for his future Government."

December Session, 1799.

By the COURT,

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the several Magistrates acting for this County, not to send to the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields, any Prisoner committed for Re-examination; and that Felons, when committed for Trial, be sent in the first Instance, to the County Gaol of Newgate."

January Session, 1800.

The Prison Committee reported, "That it appeared to them, that several of the Prisoners in the House of Correction receive Food from their Friends, under

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“ under the Sanction of Mr. Webb, the Apothecary: And, it being their
“ Opinion that it would be conducive to the Comfort of the Prisoners, and
“ an important Saving to the County, if they were permitted, under certain
“ Regulations, to receive common plain Food (not Liquor) from their
“ Friends, to be delivered at the Outer Gates of the Prison; the Com-
“ mittee begged leave to recommend it to the Court, to adopt this
“ Measure.”

By the COURT,

“ Resolved, That the said Report be received, and confirmed.

July Session, 1800.

The Prison Committee reported, “ That it appears that occasionally
“ Persons are committed to the House of Correction previous to Trial, and
“ who have what is called ‘ The Prison Allowance of Bread and Water
“ only,’ unless the Medical Person attending the Prison, thinks it
“ necessary to give Orders for their being allowed other Food; but
“ that such Prisoners are permitted to receive such Food and Provisions
“ as their Friends bring them, as in the other Gaol called New Prison, and
“ that Prisoners Friends might see them every Day between the Hours of
“ Twelve and Two, on an Application to a Magistrate for an Order,
“ and that Orders are constantly obtained from Hatton Garden, and the
“ other Police Offices.”

By the COURT,

“ Resolved, That the said Report be received, and confirmed.”

September Session, 1800.

“ It appearing unto this Court, that the Average Number of Prisoners
“ in the New House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields, since the last Session,
“ has been 276; and that there are in the said House of Correction 202
“ separate Apartments, which are made to contain One Person each,
“ and 16 Apartments, which hold Two Prisoners each; and that the
“ Number of Prisoners on the Average, considerably exceeds the Number
“ of Apartments.

“ Ordered, That a Letter be written to the Lord Mayor and Judges,
“ sitting at the Old Bailey, by the Clerk of the Peace, representing the State
“ of the Prison; in order to prevent any Accession of Number being made
“ from thence during the present Session.”

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Appendix, No. 7.

EXTRACTS from the MINUTES of the Committee of Inspection,
not included in their Reports.

19th APRIL, 1797.

“ RESOLVED, That an Exception be made respecting the Prisoners
“ committed to the House of Correction in Execution from the
“ Court of Conscience for Small Debts; and that their Friends should be
“ permitted to see Prisoners of this Description, without being under the
“ Necessity of applying to Magistrates for an Order for that Purpose.”

11th APRIL, 1798.

“ The Governor having reported, That the Magistrates Orders for Per-
“ sons to see the Prisoners are so numerous, and at such different Hours of
“ the Day, as to occasion much Trouble and Confusion in the Prison; the
“ Committee are of Opinion, that no General Order ought to be given, nor
“ any Order granted but by the Committing Magistrate, or by those Ma-
“ gistrates belonging to the Office from which the Prisoner was committed;
“ nor any Order received at the House of Correction, except between the
“ Hours of Twelve and Two.”

30th APRIL, 1798.

“ Resolved, That Mr. Webb should be desired to provide a Book, and
“ enter therein the Names of all the Prisoners to whom he allows extra
“ Food.”

6th MAY, 1799.

“ The Committee being informed, that in the Evidence given to the
“ Committee of the House of Commons by Mr. Aris, it appeared that he
“ had borrowed several Sums of Money from Prisoners in his Custody; the
“ Committee desired Mr. Aris to inform them of all Sums of Money
“ which he had borrowed, and the Names of the Prisoners to whom he had
“ applied for that Purpose.”

“ Mr. Aris answered as follows: viz.—I built Eighteen Houses in Clerken-
“ well, and being in want of some Money to pay for the Completion of
“ them, I applied to Mr. Avis, an Attorney in Fisher Street Red Lion
“ Square,

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APPENDIX, No. 7.

“ Square, to raise me some Money as a Rent Charge upon the Houses;
 “ Mr. Avis procured me £. 700. from one Miller, (a Client of his,) who
 “ was a Prisoner in my Custody to give Evidence against Two Persons,
 “ named Porteus and Whenham, for Forgery. Miller was to have an An-
 “ nuity of £. 70. a Year for his own Life and his Mother's, to be charged
 “ upon the Houses; I had the Money about Five or Six Months, at which
 “ Time Miller was not satisfied with the Agreement, and I repaid him the
 “ Money with Interest before he was discharged out of my Custody. I de-
 “ fired Mr. Avis not to tell Miller that the Money was for me; and I ve-
 “ rily believe that Miller did not know that the Money was for me till the
 “ Day before I received it.

“ I had One Hundred Pounds from a Prisoner named Brown, about
 “ Two Years ago, who was sentenced to be imprisoned in the House of
 “ Correction for Smuggling. Brown offered to lend me the Money: He
 “ said he had a little Money by him, and if it would be of any Use, I
 “ might have it. I had Brown's Money about Three Months, and then
 “ it was repaid to him by Mr. Avis. During the Time that I had
 “ Brown's Money, it appeared, that he had endeavoured to assist Miller in
 “ making his Escape out of the Prison, for which I locked him up, and
 “ kept him in close Confinement.

“ I also borrowed £. 100. of a Man named Tomkins, who was con-
 “ victed under the Lottery Act for taking illegal Insurances; and I repaid
 “ him at the Expiration of Four Months. These are all the Sums of
 “ Money which I ever borrowed from the Prisoners.”

28th FEBRUARY 1800.

“ The Governor reported, That several Prisoners in his Custody had un-
 “ dertaken to provide themselves with Food, without putting the County
 “ to any Expence; that he had entered their Names in his Journal, and
 “ that the Numbers were as follows; namely, 41 Males, 7 Females, and
 “ 5 Mutineers—Total 53.”

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APPENDIX, No. 8.

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Appendix, No. 8.

MINUTES TAKEN BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. THOMAS ARIS,

Called in, and Examined.

Are the Books now delivered to us inspected by the visiting Magistrates,
 and how frequently?

There are no visiting Magistrates, nor have there been for about Two
 Years past to my Knowledge; but there is an open Committee of Magis-
 trates, who visit the Friday before, and the Friday after each Sessions,
 whose Reports are left with their Clerk, Mr. Hinley.

How many Cells have you in the Prison?

Two hundred and Two single, and Twelve double Cells.

Have you a Prisoner for each of those Cells at present?

I believe not, since the Sessions; but from Necessity, previous to the
 Sessions, there had been more than One Person confined in several of the
 single Cells, and as many as Three in several of the double Cells; and
 this has frequently happened previous to each Sessions for these Twelve
 Months past.

From what Cause do you imagine this great Increase of Prisoners to
 arise?

From the increased Number of Convicts sent from the Old Bailey.

If Prisoners are confined in Solitude, do they pass the Day and work
 in the Cells in which they sleep?

Yes, they do.

Is there any Glass in the Windows of the Cells in which the Prisoners
 pass the Day?

None.

Are there any Means of warming the Cells in Winter?

Experiments have been made to warm the Cells, but have never
 answered; but in the severe Weather, all the Prisoners have had Access to
 a Fire in some Part of the Day.

How many Rooms have you with Fires or Fire-places in the Prison, to
 which Prisoners may have occasional Access?

About Ten or Twelve.

Is there one or more of such Rooms to each Class or Division, or

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are you obliged to remove the Prisoners from one Class or Division into another for the Benefit of the Fire?

We have many Classes or Divisions of Prisoners, which have not any Fires appropriated to them, so that we must remove the Prisoners from their own to another Class, to receive the Benefit of the Fire.

Are the Prisoners under your Custody allowed to receive Articles of Food, or other Comforts, which may be sent them by their Friends, over and above the County Allowance?

For about these Six Months past all the Prisoners have been allowed to receive Provisions sent them by their Friends.

Have you observed the Directions given you by the Regulations, in classing your Prisoners?

As near as possible; but the Description of Persons sent to the Prison is so various, it is impossible the Directions given will always apply.

Is every Prisoner stripped and cleansed, and are the Cloaths fumigated, baked, or destroyed, as directed by the Regulations?

Never done, except after Conviction.

Do you examine Daily the State of each Cell, and the Locks and Bolts, and note your Observations in your Journal?

I see most of my Prisoners every Day; and each Cell about Four Times a Week; and, on locking up, I constantly enquire the Health of each Prisoner; if ill, send for the Doctor.

We observe that, by Rule the Eighth, in addition to One Pound of Bread, other wholesome Food shall be allowed, in proportion to the Prisoner's Labour: Have the visiting Magistrates made any Order in this Behalf, and what?

The following is the present Dietary of the Prison; on One Day about Eight Ounces of Meat, which, by boiling, is reduced to about Six Ounces; and the Day following, the Prisoners have the Broth produced by that Meat; and so alternately from Day to Day, One Pound of Bread Daily. Besides this Allowance, there are about Fifty Prisoners who have Water Gruel, by Order of the Doctor.

Is Attention paid to the Cleanliness of the Persons of the Prisoners, as directed by the Ninth Rule?

It cannot, in all Cases, be done without Force.

Under the Tenth Rule, what is the Bedding at present allowed?

The Prisoners sleep on Straw put into Linen Bags, and each Prisoner has a Rug and Blanket.

Would it be allowed to any Prisoner to bring in Bedding of his own?

It has been allowed in many Cases, where the Friends have undertaken to keep them clean; there are at present not more than Two so provided.
In

In what Degree have the Rules, respecting solitary Confinement, been complied with?

Regarding this Prison, there has been no solitary Confinement near these Two Years; and no Distinction in the Mode of keeping, except in the Case of a refractory Prisoner.

Have you complied with the Eighteenth Rule, limiting the use of Irons?

Until within these Twelve Months, I have found little or no Occasion to use Irons; and when used I have complied with the Rule, when any visiting Justice appeared; but within these Twelve Months, the refractory Behaviour of the Prisoners has obliged me to have Recourse to them. In some few Instances, since the Riot on the 14th Day of August last, I have found it necessary to put Irons on about Thirteen, who are all Felon Convicts.

Are the Prisoners employed as directed by the Twenty-second Rule?

The Prisoners are not at present employed, except the Female Prisoners, who wash for the Prison, and who, when in that Employment, receive an extraordinary Loaf, and a Pint of Porter per Day.

When more than One Prisoner has been confined in a single Cell, has there always been an additional Supply of Bedding?

In general they have had Two Beds, sometimes only One.

How many Rooms for Lodging, with superior Accommodation, have you in the Prison?

Three, all glazed and floored.

What Price do you take per Week?

It was a Guinea until within the last Twelve Months: It is now only Ten Shillings and Sixpence per Week: And whilst a Guinea was the Price, the County found Firing; now the Prisoners find it.

Who sets the Price for which these Rooms are let?

The Committee of Magistrates fix the Price for which all Rooms are let; and the Money is accounted for to the County.

Is Money ever paid for Bedding in the Cells by the Prisoners?

Often.

How much?

One Shilling a Night.

What Description of Prisoners pay for this last-mentioned Accommodation?

All Prisoners committed for Re-examination, or fully for Trial, who require such extra Bedding.

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What is the Nature of this Accommodation?
It is a Flock Bed instead of a Straw Bed, and they are allowed Sheets.

Who receives the Money for which the Beds are let?
The County, at whose Expence the Accommodations are provided.

Are there any, and what, Fees paid on the Discharge of any, and what Description of Prisoners?

Four Shillings and Six Pence, for keeping and discharging every Prisoner committed by Warrant; and One Shilling for turning the Key on every Prisoner. These Fees are received by the County.

Mr. THOMAS ARIS,

Called in, and further Examined.

At what Time of the Year do Fires commence?

According to the Weather; but I don't know precisely when, as I keep no Account of such Circumstances: I believe last Year about Christmas.

Have you had any written Authority for confining the Rioters in Irons?

No written Authority: After the Rior, I immediately communicated to the Magistrate, who attended at the Prison that Day, what I had done.

Have you any written Order for continuing these Men in Irons?

No; there have been Two Committees of Magistrates held at the Prison since their being ironed; but I have received no Directions to take their Irons off.

We find Five Men confined in an Apartment in the Second Yard up Stairs, since the 16th of August last, without having Access to the Yard to air: What is your Reason for so strictly confining these Men?

For about Eight Days after their first Confinement, I let them into the Yard; but their Behaviour was so refractory, I thought it not right they should be suffered to mix with other Prisoners; and they remain there by way of Punishment.

Why, and when, were the Vagrants, Debtors, and Apprentices, restrained from receiving the same Allowance of Provisions as Felons, and other convicted Prisoners?

I never remember it otherwise: Vagrants and Debtors may have other Food, if their Friends send it; but Apprentices may not. Apprentices never go to any Court, nor beyond their Gallery to wash themselves.

Do the Committee of Magistrates know, that the Turnkeys are permitted to buy other Provisions than what are brought in by their Friends?

I believe not.

Two

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Two Prisoners have complained to us, that, during the last Summer, the Meat delivered to them was tainted; what do you know of this Circumstance?

I have heard, but speak not from my own Knowledge, that Two or Three Times, during the hot Weather in the late Summer, it has happened that some of the Meat was a little tainted.

Holmes, a Mutineer, has complained to us, that an Half Guinea was left for him with James Aris, by his Sister, which he has not received: What do you know of this Circumstance?

I cannot say but some Mistake might happen; but at present, when Money is brought, the Prisoner is taken down to the Gate, and, when paid, signs a Receipt.

Do Persons committed receive any Food on the Day of their Commitment?

Persons committed after Ten in the Morning, receive no Prison Allowance until the next Morning; but are allowed to receive what their Friends send them.

Are the Rooms of superior Accommodation, confined to the Use of any particular Description of Prisoners?

Any Person, Convict Felons excepted, I conceive, may have a good Room, if he can pay for it.

Is there any particular Mode of Treatment for Prisoners committed for further Examination?

Persons committed for Re-examination and Trial, are put in Cells, as others, and have no Access to Fire; the Prison Allowance for them is nothing but Bread and Water.

Mr. THOMAS ARIS,

Called in, and further Examined.

In what Manner are the different Articles of Food provided?

The Meat is ordered by Nicholson, the Clerk, who, taking the Number of Prisoners entitled to Meat Allowance, at Night, orders so many Half Pounds of Meat for the following Day, which is delivered without Bone. Samuel Skinner is Butcher. A Book is kept, in which the Weight is entered: The Meat is delivered to Ballard, the Cook, who dresses, weighs, and delivers it to the Turnkeys, to be served to the several Yards.—The Baker brings the Bread about Three o'Clock, and the Number of Loaves, ordered the preceding Day, is delivered and told into a Basket; they are then weighed, and the Weight is entered in the Bread Account: I frequently inspect the Quality. It is Household Bread. The Bread is delivered by the Turnkeys to the Prisoners at Eight o'Clock in the Morning. I buy the Rice. My Son James is Keeper of all the Stores, and keeps the Store Book. He delivers out Two Ounces of Rice for each Ration on the

Z

Soup

321

90

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Soup Day. I buy the Coals, and my Son delivers them to Prisoners allowed Fire.

Is it your Practice to borrow Money of your Prisoners?

I have not borrowed any Money of the Prisoners, nor have any of their Friends for me, since my Examination before the House of Commons. Being obliged to give a Year's Credit to the County, I got into Debt, and was obliged to borrow.

Have you any other Trade or Occupation besides being Keeper of this Prison?

I have no other Trade.

Mr. THOMAS ARIS,

Called in, and further Examined.

Are you sure you have shewn to the Commissioners every Prisoner and every Part of the Prison?

I am quite sure I have shewn every Prisoner in the Prison, and every Part of it.

Do you write your own Journals?

I do not write my own Journals, but frequently tell Nicholson what to write.

In May Session 1799, it is ordered that the Governor shall inspect every Article of Provision; have you done so?

Frequently; but since the Prison has been so crowded, I have not had it in my Power.

Regarding Prisoners ordered to hard Labour; how do you treat them?

When I had Work for them, they were let out in a Morning to wash themselves; they then received their Bread, and afterwards were locked up to work, (both Men and Women) and when the Task was done, they were let out till they went to Bed; some finished sooner than others; it might be Two or Three Hours. Prisoners for Misdemeanors are treated in the same Way as to Solitude.

How were the Prisoners fed at the first Opening of the Prison?

Until the Riot in the Chapel, the Prisoners had, every Day, about Three Quarters of a Pound of Meat, and Broth and Vegetables.

Do you often inspect the Infirmary?

I know nothing of the Infirmary, and do not interfere in the Doctor's Business, nor with the sick Prisoners, until they return to me again.

Mr.

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91

Mr. THOMAS ARIS,

Called in, and further Examined.

By the Order of Sessions, September 1796, the Prisoners were restricted from having Meat Three Days in the Week. We observe, that it is the present Custom to allow Meat only every alternate Day; have you received any subsequent Order to that Effect?

I have received no special Order to that Effect: I interpreted the Order you allude to, to be Meat every other Day, as by that Means we get the Broth regular for making the Soup.

You have said, in a former Examination, that all Prisoners committed for Re-examination or Trial, may have better Bedding by paying for it; is this Indulgence never extended to Felon Convicts?

I should not allow better Bedding to Felon Convicts, without Leave of the Committee.

Are Felon Convicts allowed to bring their own Bedding?

Yes, sometimes, if well behaved.

May the Misdemeanor Convicts bring in their own Bedding, or hire the better Bedding?

They may do either.

May Prisoners, of any or all Descriptions, wear their own Cloaths?

Yes; all Prisoners may wear their own Cloaths, if their Friends will undertake to keep them clean.

Where is the Order of Court, authorizing you to take a Guinea per Week Room-Rent.

I never had any such Order from the Court; it was the Custom of the old Prison.

Where is your Order for taking Ten Shillings and Six Pence per Week for each Room?

The Magistrates know that I do so: I have no written Order for it; the Committee gave me Instructions so to do.

In what Division do you place the Female Apprentices?

In the Yard, with the Female Vagrants and Disorderly.

Is the Copy of the Rules and Regulations, which is hung up at the Gate, the same as that printed and delivered to us?

It is exactly the same.

Is there a Copy of these Rules hung up in any other Part of the Prison?

No.

Have

Have you any Copy of Orders of Court, for the subsequent Alterations regarding them?
No.

On every Committee Day, do the Gentlemen attending go round, and see the Prison?
Sometimes, not always.

Do they speak to Prisoners in close Confinement?
They do not make it a Rule; they see them sometimes on my Report.

What is the Reason, that the Shutters of the Cell Windows, which were broken in the Summer, are not repaired?
I do not think myself authorised to order them to be repaired: I have made several Applications to the Committee, particularly at the last Sessions, who sent for the Surveyor, and gave him Directions; but the Surveyor has not yet attended.

Do you consider you have a Right to demand Fees from a Prisoner detained for further Examination?
I conceive I have that Right: I generally demand them of Misdemeanors; sometimes of those discharged after further Examination.

We see no printed Rule for the present Mode of keeping Apprentices; have you any written Rule to that Purpose?
No particular Instructions have been given since this Prison was first opened. It was a Regulation long existing in the old Prison, never to suffer any Connection between the Apprentices and other Prisoners, nor to let them be seen by their Friends, without an Order from the committing Magistrate.

You have stated that the Number of the Cells, single and double, is 227; have you a Bedstead for each Cell, allowing a sufficient Number for the Infirmaries and rented Rooms?
We have 248 Bedsteads, and no more.

Mr. THOMAS WEBB,

Called in, and Examined.

We observe, on perusing your Journal, that in the Year 1799, a remarkable Change has taken place in the Nature of the Fevers in this Prison; and that since that Time the Typhus Fever has been constantly prevalent; to what Cause or Causes do you impute this Change?
To the State of the Atmosphere.

Did this Fever shew itself chiefly on such Prisoners as had been a considerable Time confined in the Prison; or did it appear they were infected with it, or disposed to it, before brought in?
They were solely affected with it, or disposed to it, before brought in.

The Prisoners, whom you state as so affected, from what Place or Situation were they chiefly brought?
Chiefly Convicts brought from Newgate, and disorderly Women taken from the Streets.

How long, after these Prisoners were brought in, in general, did you perceive Symptoms of this Fever?
Some had the Fever on them when brought in, some shewed Symptoms in Two or Three Days, some in a longer Time.

You have stated it as your Belief, that the State of the Atmosphere has been a considerable Cause of the Increase of this Distemper; do you conceive that the Weather of the late Spring and Summer, has been remarkably unfavourable to Health, or conducive to such Fevers?
I do conceive so.

As many Persons are confined for long Terms in this Prison, do you mean to say that none of those, who had been long confined, have been so infected.
None of those have been so infected.

Do you think that any of the Prisoners, who have had the Typhus Fever within these last Two Years, have been seized with it in consequence either of improper or insufficient Diet, Want of Cleanliness, or from the too crowded State of the Prisoners in this Prison?
I don't conceive that it has originated from improper or insufficient Food, nor from want of Cleanliness, nor from the too crowded State of the Prisoners, excepting among the Females, who being taken up as disorderly Persons, are brought in for short Periods, and are crowded in their Apartments, in consequence of the Female Yard being occupied by the Mutineers, and Prisoners of other Descriptions.

Are there any Baths in this Prison?
There is no Cold Bath fit to use; but there is a portable Tin Bath for Warm Bathing, used for Convicts sentenced to Terms of Imprisonment, who, on being brought in, are washed, and their Cloaths changed.

Are the Cells on the Ground Floor damp or dry?
They are as dry as the Cells above Stairs, except when the Rain or Snow beats under the Door, which is generally prevented by putting Oakum under it.

Since the Prisoners were allowed to have Food brought to them by their Friends, have you observed any Alteration in their Health?
No; because when I found that any Person from Age, Infirmary, or Disease, stood in need of additional Food, I ordered an Addition to be made to the Prison Allowance.

A a

Have

Have all the Prisoners Access to the Fire in the Day?
I believe they have Recourse to the Fire by Turns.

We have understood that the Prisoners confined for Mutiny on board His Majesty's Ships of War, receive a greater Allowance of Food than other Convicts by your Order: What is your Reason for this Distinction?
The Mutineers have more Food, because many of them were falling ill from the Scurvy by long Confinement.

What Accommodation is there for the Sick in this Prison?
There are only Two Sick Wards, and there are Six Beds in each: There should be a separate Infirmary for Typhus or other infectious Complaints, and a Warm Bath.

Have you any Reason to suppose the Prisoners have, in general, suffered from Insufficiency of Bedding and Food?
I think not with respect to Bedding: But with respect to Food, in the case of long Confinement, I do not think it sufficient. After about Six Months Confinement, I find it necessary to give additional Allowance. I never saw the Apprentice Boys suffer from Want of Food, their Time being short. I think myself entitled by the Rules, to make additional Allowance to such Prisoners as require it. This Power puts me in a disagreeable Situation, as I am constantly solicited by Prisoners, who also frequently attempt to impose themselves on me as sick. I think Bread the important Want: The Prisoners dine about Twelve at Noon; they get nothing until about Seven o'Clock the Morning following, when they receive their Loaf. Dining at Two o'Clock would perhaps be an Improvement.

By an Order of December Session, 1798, "No Person shall have extra Food, but by the Surgeon's Order, whose Name shall be put in a Book." Why is this disobeyed?

Till June 1799, such Returns were regularly made; but they were neglected to be entered in a Book. It took up so much of my Time, I could not do it; and from that Time it has been omitted. I gave Leave to the Mutineers to buy a Pint of Porter, who afterwards complained they could not afford to buy it: I then ordered it from the County, and they then took both. I have given Leave to Debtors, and Prisoners for Misdemeanors, to buy a Pint of Porter; and if it sometimes is stretched to more, it is not from my Authority.—I never allow any to Convicts.

Have you observed, that the Confinement of the Prisoners to their Cells for a Length of Time, has any visible Effect on their Health?
Yes; when Prisoners have been close confined to the same Cells without Change of Air, after a Month, I have constantly observed that their Health became impaired.

The

The Rev. JOHN EVANS,

Called in, and Examined.

What do you consider to be the Extent of your Duty as Chaplain?
To read Prayers and preach upon a Sunday; to read Prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays, occasionally to deliver an Exhortation, and attend the Sick. Over and above this Duty, I have sometimes catechised such Prisoners as were inclined to be taught.

Has solitary Confinement been adopted in the Management of this Prison, since you have been appointed Chaplain?

Not so, except as a Punishment for refractory Behaviour, and in the Case of Apprentices.

When you have perceived any Prisoners particularly disposed to receive Instruction, have you applied to the Governor to have them kept separate from others?

In One Instance I have.

Has it been your Practice, occasionally, to visit and instruct the Prisoners separately in their Cells?

It has not been my Practice, except on Occasion of visiting a sick Prisoner.

In passing through the Prison on your Duty, have you observed the Governor, or Turnkeys, to use abusive Language to the Prisoners; or to curse and swear in their Presence?

I never heard the Governor use an improper Word to the Prisoners: I remember, with respect to Turnkeys, one who used improper Expressions, and he was discharged.

Have you observed the Governor, or any Turnkey, forcibly strike any Prisoner?

Never: I remember a Riot in the Chapel quelled without Violence.

Have Prisoners ever made Complaints to you of ill Treatment from the Governor, or Turnkeys?

Never.

As you have been so long Chaplain, have you any Reason to believe, that, with respect to the Convicts, any of them have been reformed, either in their religious or moral Principles?

I have received the Thanks of some of the Convicts on their Discharge, for my Instructions and Admonitions to them; and think many have made Resolutions of Amendment, and now follow their lawful Occupations.

Has

827

Has this been to any great Extent?
Some of these Persons now reside in this Neighbourhood, and I frequently see them in their lawful Occupations.

As you say that Apprentices have been generally confined in Solitude, do you think it has led to their Reformation?

I am strongly of Opinion their Imprisonment has worked a Reformation, as in very few Instances I have known them committed a Second Time.

Is the Prison more or less orderly now, than when you were first appointed Chaplain?

There has been a visible Alteration for the worse in the Behaviour of the Prisoners, which took place Two Sundays before the late Riot of the 14th of August last.

What were the Instructions of the Committee of Magistrates, on your first Appointment as Chaplain?

It was intimated to me, that my Employment was of a spiritual Nature, not to meddle with the internal Government of the Prison; but if I observed any Thing of a bad Tendency, to make a Minute of it, and report it to the visiting Magistrates.

Can you state to the Commissioners any other Circumstance or Circumstances relating to this Prison, that you consider deserving His Majesty's Consideration?

I cannot.

Mr. THOMAS NICHOLSON, the Clerk,

Called in, and Examined.

What is your Office in the Prison?

I have been Clerk since the Year 1795.

We observe, in your Account of Bread and Meat received, that the Number of Rations of Meat ordered for the Prison Yesterday was only Twenty less than the Number of Rations of Bread. Did all the Prisoners receive Meat, except Twenty?

There are Two Prisoners for Misdemeanors, Two for Re-examination, Eleven State Prisoners, and Five Apprentices, who had no Meat Allowance from the County.

We observe the Governor's Journal is kept by you; does he write an Original for you to copy, or do you write it from your own Observation?

I ask him, and he tells me what to note down.

How

828

How much Porter was Yesterday sent in on the County Account?
Forty-one Pints for Mutineers, Persons working out, and for those in the Infirmary.

Have you the Surgeon's written Authority, or any other, for the Number of Rations of extra Food or Porter you order?

No Return is now made by the Surgeon of the Numbers to have extra Provisions; or, when made, it is so imperfect as not to justify me in acting from it.

We observe the Rule for Prisoners to maintain themselves is become nugatory; and that Prisoners receive both County Provision, and also a Supply from their Friends.

When the Convicts were first allowed to receive Provisions from their Friends, they were chiefly maintained by the Thieves who belonged to their Gangs, or their Girls; of those who supplied them at first, many of the Thieves are themselves taken up, and the Girls are got to other Men; and being thus by Degrees deserted, if they were left to depend on their Friends without, they would be starved under their own Engagement. The Leave to bring Provisions, enables their Friends to send Intelligence, Knives, and other Instruments, so artfully concealed, it is difficult to detect them. I think it is a very uncertain Way of feeding Prisoners.

JAMES ARIS, Storekeeper,

Appeared, and delivered a Book containing an Account of the Receipt and Expenditure of Soap, Candles, Salt, and Oatmeal, used in the Prison, and being examined respecting his Duty as Storekeeper, said;

I am Keeper of the Stores of the Prison, have been appointed by the Governor, my Father, about Three Years, and keep the Book delivered. — I have the Care of the Coals provided by the County, but keep no Account of them; also of the Linen and Bedding. The Prisoners have a Peck of Coals a Day for each Fire Place, when very cold Weather; but I do not know as to the Day or Week when Fires were made last Winter. I deliver Coals when my Father orders it, but I think none were delivered before Christmas last Winter. The Prisoners have a clean Shirt every Sunday Morning. The Bedding is washed when judged necessary, and changed when dirty. I always fumigate and wash after foul Prisoners. The sick Prisoners have a Hair Mattress and Sheets. Prisoners committed for Re-examination, pay a Shilling per Night for an extra Blanket, clean Sheets, and a Mattress.

JOSEPH BALLARD, the Cook,

Being Examined respecting his Duty as Cook, says;

I have been Cook to the House of Correction near Five Years.—
Mr. Nicholson, the Clerk, tells me what the Weight of the Meat ought to be:
B b

APPENDIX, No. 3.

be: I weigh it when brought in, to see that it is the Weight ordered. Three or Four Times last Summer, I returned it to the Butcher as not good; do not know I ever dressed any that was tainted, or that I would not eat myself; small Pieces might have escaped me. The Clerk used to make out a List of Persons to be supplied with Meat; he has not done so latterly. I supply such Prisoners as wish to employ me, on my own Account. I used to board all the Seditious, but since June all but one board themselves. I now provide for Four Seamen at One Shilling each for Dinner, and for Three other Prisoners at Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence per Week; the last Three have each never less than a Pound of Meat Daily; Tea and Bread with it: They have the County Allowance of Bread beside.

HENRY KAY,

Called in, and Examined.

How long have you acted as Turnkey?
I have been a Turnkey here Five Years.

In what Division of the Prison do you act?
I have always had the Care of the Women's Division.

What is your Age?
I am Sixty-two Years old next December.

Do you sleep in the Prison?
Yes; over the Gateway.

Are the Women in the Second Yard supplied with Cloaths or clean Linen?

No; Prisoners in the Second Yard are furnished with Soap and hot Water every Saturday, to wash their Persons and Linen: Prisoners having no Change of Linen, sit by a Fire whilst the Linen is drying.

NATHANIEL OLIVER,

Being Examined, says;

I have been Turnkey here near Eight Years. I belong to no particular Yard. Convicts have regularly the Prison Allowance. Sometimes the Governor withholds from refractory Prisoners all their Allowance, except their Bread and Water, for a Day or two. I think the longest Time the Allowance has been stopped, has not exceeded a Fortnight. It has not been stopped for the late Riot. Mr. Webb, of late, has suffered those who have Provisions from without, to have also the County Allowance. I look for these Orders from Mr. Webb. Mr. Webb allows such as come from the Infirmary a Pint of Porter. I lay out the Prisoners Money; going

APPENDIX, No. 3.

ing their Errands without being paid for it. The Convicts are never furnished with Porter beyond what the Surgeon allows.--I think Prisoners suffer much in damp Weather from the Dampness of the Cells.--Prisoners, whose Friends send them Provisions, were allowed by the Magistrates to buy Coals. I do not think myself entitled to Perquisites; in One Instance, Mr. Crowder gave me Three Shillings. The Shutters below are all almost torn down, and some of them not replaced, so that those who come in sleep without Shutters.

EDWARD RUSSELL,

Being Examined, says;

I have been Three Years, next November, a Turnkey here. I attend no particular Yard: I have seldom known less than the Prison Allowance to be given to the Prisoners: They have the Prison Allowance in addition to their Friends Food: They have only Fire in sharp severe Weather: The Convicts have no Porter, by the Surgeon's Order: I have sometimes carried Porter from Ballard to the Debtors and Vagrants, on their paying for it, seldom more than a Pint a-piece; I pay Four Pence a Pot for it; there is no particular Order from the Surgeon for this. I sometimes carry a Pot or a Pint of Porter to Fines, on their paying for it. All Fines have Meat and Soup every other Day, and Bread Daily. Vagrants and Debtors, Bread and Water Daily, and on Soup Days a little Soup.

GEORGE FRODSHAM,

Being Examined, says;

I have been a Turnkey here Fifteen Months, attached to no particular Yard. I have served no Provisions to Day; Yesterday I served the Six Prisoners, who are locked up Stairs, with their Meat. The State Prisoners find themselves. Many of those receiving the County Meat, had Meat brought to them Yesterday by their Friends. There is One or Two who will not receive the County Meat. Convicts who work, are allowed Porter, and the Surgeon allows Convicts when ill, Porter. Convicts are never allowed to buy Porter, but by the Surgeon's Order; Vagrants and Debtors may, with his Leave, to the Amount of Two Pints. I should not buy Porter for the Convicts without the Surgeon's Order. Money is not taken into the Prison, but by Permission of the Governor; and the Prisoner for whom Money is brought, receives it at the Gate with his own Hand, and gives a Receipt for the same. Sometimes Money is left in a Bundle for a Prisoner, and when discovered on searching the Bundle, the Prisoner is brought down as before, and, on receiving it, gives a Receipt. The Prisoners generally lay out their Money for Provisions, and I frequently lay their Money out in this Way, for which I am paid nothing. Fires were allowed last Winter only in frosty Weather, not in wet. The Fire Rooms would hold Fourteen or Fifteen Men. I think the

the Prisoners ought to have had more Fire last Winter. I never recollect any Instance of solitary Confinement, except for Prison Offences; nor has any one been locked up in the dark Cells. I think the Cells below as warm as those above.

WILLIAM PRICE,

Being called in, and Examined, says;

I am a Turnkey, and have been in that Situation Two Years last May; and chiefly attend on the Mutineers, Apprentices, and short Fines.— Apprentices have One Pound of Bread and Water daily. The short Fines have the usual Prison Allowance. The Mutineers have Meat, and a Pint of Porter every Day; and every other Day Soup, and Liberty to receive what their Friends send them. When they are in Want of an extra Pint of Porter, over and above the Allowance, I get it for them by the Surgeon's Authority, and sometimes more in the same Day; but this has not happened more than Three Times, and then on Occasion of a Discharge. The Porter allowed by the Surgeon's Order is paid for by the County. I lay out the Money for the Mutineers, sent them by their Friends. I pay Two Pence a Pint for Porter for them to Mr. Ballard, who gets it from a neighbouring Public House. When I first came, the Mutineers were locked up; but were allowed to come out in the Morning to wash and walk, about Six at a Time, for Two or Three Hours. I do not think I get much by Fees. When the Weather becomes cold, the Surgeon gives Directions for Fires; in wet Weather, the Prisoners club for Fires. Sometimes Prisoners have suffered from Want of Fires.

Appendix, No. 9.

INFORMATION communicated to the Commissioners by Magistrates of the County of Middlesex.

The Rev. Dr. GLASSE,

Having attended the Commissioners, was asked;

AS it appears, by the Journal of the Magistrates visiting the Prison, that you have had more frequent Opportunities of seeing what has passed in the Prison than any other Magistrate, do you know any particular Instance in the Keeper, or other Officers, of ill Treatment of the Prisoners?

I never recollect more than One Instance, which was the undue Correction of a refractory Prisoner, on which Occasion the Keeper vindicated himself, by saying it was in his Self Defence: I believe his general Character to be very humane.

Do

Do you conceive that the Alteration from visiting Magistrates to a Committee, has or has not been beneficial to the Prison?
I think not.

Was there any Inconvenience found from different Trades being carried on, as to the Security of the Prison?

It was judged necessary to have a Person of great Confidence placed in the Smiths Shop, because that was the most liable to Abuse. I never heard of any Escape being attempted in consequence of the Work; but I recollect a Prisoner, employed at the Governor's House, attempting to escape without Success.

Did different Descriptions of Prisoners work together?
We seldom employed others than Convicts, the other Prisoners not remaining long enough. If Work had been continued, you, Gentlemen, would not have this Trouble.

Was ever the Allowance of Bread greater than at present?
Never.

Have you ever known any Instance of Injury to the Health of the Prisoners from Deficiency of Food?
Truly not.

What Effect has the Commitment of State Prisoners produced on the good Order and Discipline of the Prison?
No very favourable one; and for this Reason, because these Prisoners expect an Indulgence not granted to other Prisoners; and because their Food is superior to the other Prisoners, and that occasions Discontent.

What Effect has the Commitment of the Mutineers produced on the good Order and Discipline of the Prison?
As far as they are concerned, great Disorder and Confusion has been introduced.

Does Dr. Glasse know any Instance of the Gaoler keeping his Prisoners any Length of Time in Irons?
I do not know; but I have frequently ordered them off, and reminded the Gaoler of the Clause in the Statute.

Do you think that Prisoners sleeping in the Cells, communicating with the Gallery up Stairs, and having the Prison Allowance of Bed Cloaths, suffer from Cold in the Nights?

I never found any material Inconvenience arise from this; at the same Time, it seems very desirable that some Mode of warming those Cells should be adopted, by Flues or otherwise. With respect to the Cells below, the Prisoners in them suffer more of course.

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Suppose

Suppose Prisoners to pass the Day in the Cells below, do you think they may require to be warmed by Flues or other Means?
Certainly.

During the Time you visited this Prison, was any Distinction made between Prisoners before Trial and Convicts?

The Prisoners committed for Trial, being permitted to see their Friends, who were allowed to bring Food to them when visiting, places that Description of Prisoners on a different Footing from Convicts.

When committed for Trial, are they in Solitude?
Certainly not, except at Night.

Is this Prison sufficiently extensive for the Reception of the various Description of Offenders now sent to it?
It is not.

Is it of sufficient Magnitude, if restricted to the Confinement of Persons convicted?
Hardly so.

Do you know why Apprentices are now restricted to One Pound of Bread, and are confined constantly to their Cells?

In my Time there was no Distinction in the Prison Allowance, and they were not more confined than other Prisoners.
The same Answer with respect to Debtors and Vagrants.

Is Dr. Glasse enabled to communicate any other Circumstances respecting the State and Management of the House of Correction, which he thinks worthy His Majesty's Consideration?
None.

WILLIAM MAINWARING, Esquire,

Having attended the Commissioners, was asked;

Can you communicate to the Commissioners any Circumstances respecting the State and Management of the House of Correction, which you think worthy His Majesty's Consideration?

I know of no Circumstances but what are before you: I believe all the Disorders and Mischief that have got into the Prison, originate from the State Prisoners and Mutineers being sent there; and that before that Time, the Prison went on in a State of Quietude, much to the Satisfaction of the Public at large, and seemingly to the Prisoners: But from the Indulgences, perhaps necessarily, afforded to this Description, it brought on Discontent among other Prisoners more closely confined, and introduced a Communication,

cation, made use of by ill disposed Persons to bad Purposes: And I am fearful, while they continue in it, the Prison will not be in that perfect good Order, as a House of Correction it ought to be, or otherwise would be.

Was any Representation ever made to the Court of Quarter Sessions from the Committee, expressing a Wish that the Commitments of Persons for Re-examination, or before Trial, might be discontinued, and requesting that Recommendations to that Effect might be sent to the several Magistrates; and was such Request complied with?

There is a Resolution of Sessions, and the Magistrates have been requested not to send Prisoners for Re-examination to this Prison, except in very especial Cases.

What is your Opinion as to the Character of Mr. Thomas Aris, the Governor?

I believe Aris to be as honest a Man as is under the Sun; upright; his Intentions are good; but he is sometimes mistaken in his Conduct.

What is your Opinion as to the Character of Mr. Webb, the Surgeon?

I think him a very honest Man; and that all Charges against him, about Money Matters, are not grounded.

WILLIAM BLEAMIRE, Esquire,

Having attended the Commissioners, was asked;

Can you communicate to the Commissioners any Circumstances respecting the State and Management of the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields, which you think worthy His Majesty's Consideration?

Upon the opening of that Prison Dr. Glasse and myself were appointed by the Sessions visiting Justices, for two successive Sessions. Our Proceedings under that Appointment were regularly entered in a Book, and laid before, and approved by the Justices at the following Sessions. Other Magistrates were afterwards appointed visiting Justices, and in this Mode it continued for a considerable Time, when some Objections occurring (which I do not perfectly recollect) a Committee was appointed by the Court, (instead of the visiting Justices) of which Dr. Glasse and myself were of the Number. It was the usual Custom for this Committee to go round and examine the Prison and Prisoners, before they sat upon Business in the Committee Room; and their Report was always read at the First Sessions. This Committee continued for several Years, but something arising, which I am not well acquainted with, Dr. Glasse, as Chairman, declined attending, and from that Time I seldom attended the Committee, and therefore know not whether the Magistrates who did attend, pursued the same Mode of visiting and examining, which the original Committee had adopted; but I hope they did, at least till of late, when the popular Clamour became so strong against the Governor and Committee, that many Magistrates declined attending, and it several Times happened, that a sufficient Number of Gentlemen did not attend to make a Committee, and do Business. The Public Office in Hatton Garden

Garden being near to the Prison, the Governor, agreeably to a Standing Order, used to bring the Prisoners there, the Day before the Expiration of their Sentence, in order to their being examined as to their Place of Settlement, &c.; and it was the constant Practice of the Magistrates to ask the Governor, in their Presence, how they had behaved themselves in Prison, and whether he had any Thing to say respecting their Conduct during their Confinement. The Answer generally was, that they had demeaned themselves orderly and well. The Governor was then ordered out of the Room, and the Prisoners requested to speak out, if they had any Complaint to make against him, or his Servants, and if they had, that they should be redressed. The Answer almost uniformly was that they had none to make, but that on the contrary they had been humanely treated, and with every Attention suitable to their Situation. I don't remember One Instance of any Complaint being made against the Governor, or his Servants, of harsh or inhuman Treatment, from the opening of the Prison to the present Time; but Complaints have lately been made by some Prisoners, that their Earnings were held back, with some of their Cloaths. With regard to the first Part, it appeared, upon sending for the Governor and enquiring into the Fact, that he had so done, in consequence of the discretionary Power lately vested in him (by the Committee) for improper Conduct in the Prisoner; and with regard to the latter, when it was satisfactorily made out, that either from the Theft of other Prisoners, or any Accident in misplacing the Cloaths of a Number of Prisoners, when they were received into Prison, the Governor was always ordered, and did readily make Satisfaction for such Things as were missing. The Conduct of the Governor and his Servants having been called in Question in the House of Commons, the Magistrates at the Public Office determined to take an Account of all Prisoners brought before them, and make a particular Entry in a Book, of their Declarations as to the Usage they met with whilst in Prison, and which Mode is still closely attended to. Ever since the Prison was opened, I have occasionally visited it on Sundays and Week Days, sometimes alone, and sometimes with Friends, at other Times with the Governor, and carefully observed the Prisoners Behaviour in Chapel, and at Work, and examined them as to the Manner in which they were treated and accommodated; and to the best of my Recollection, they one and all constantly expressed the most grateful Sense of the Governor's Kindness, and that they had no Complaints either against him or his Servants, except only of late, when they made some Complaints against the Turnkeys, which upon Enquiry were found to be trifling, and scarce worth Notice. And as an Instance of the Governor's kind Treatment, I have more than once had Instances of Prisoners wishing to remain in Prison after the Expiration of their Sentences; and have myself been Witness to his great Care and Attention to miserable Objects. In the Enquiry instituted against the Governor about a Year ago, for borrowing Money of a Prisoner's Friend, with a View to get the Prisoner liberated, I thought him blameable; but I do not otherwise recollect having seen any Thing in his Conduct, as Governor of the Prison, of a Nature sufficient to bring it into Enquiry at the Sessions; but on the contrary I think it a Justice due to him to say, that, as far as came within my Knowledge, he has been in general attentive to the Discharge of his Duty as a Governor, so much so at least

least as the Nature of his Office, and the Variety of infamous Objects he had to manage and deal with, would admit of. As to the Turnkeys, I have had frequent Complaints that their Conduct was reprehensible, and of which I always acquainted the Governor, who had the Appointment of them, and who, I believe, frequently changed them; but from the Nature of their Office, and the Sort of Persons that were fit for it, he found it impossible to get any against whom Complaints would not be made. I do not at present recollect any more Particulars respecting the Cold Bath Fields Prison, or the Governor of it, and beg Leave to observe, that I am fully persuaded, that if no other Persons than those who are the proper Objects of a House of Correction, had been confined there, Complaints similar to those which now agitate the Public Mind, would never have existed.

Appendix, No. 10.

Mr. DANIEL HINLEY,

Appeared, and was Examined:

WE have observed, that at the Commencement of the Year 1796, some Change took place in the Mode adopted by the Magistrates in superintending the Management of the Prison and that from that Time there appears no regular Journal of the Visiting Magistrates;—Can you explain to us the Reason of that Change?

It appeared, that the Opinions of the Visiting Magistrates, acting as at that Time disjointedly, frequently clashed with each other, the Magistrates thought it more advisable to form themselves into a permanent Prison Committee, consisting of certain Magistrates, then named, and such others as chose to attend.

We observe, in the First Report made by the Committee of Magistrates appointed to draw up Rules for the Government of this Prison, that the Quantity of Bread to be allowed to Prisoners was fixed at One Pound and an Half, but in the printed Rules it stands only as One Pound;—How do you account for this Difference?

You may observe, that the Report you allude to is entered only as received at the September Session 1794; it was re-considered at a future Time, and altered by the Court from One Pound and an Half to One Pound. The established Usage for Prison Allowance in this County, was only a Pound of Bread; the Prisoners to receive what other Provisions they could obtain from their Friends. In the Year 1776, when the Act passed for sending Prisoners to the Hulks, those sent there were wholly maintained by the Public. Two Pence a Day was then added to the Allowance of convicted Prisoners in the House of Correction in Clerkenwell; there was

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an established Candler's Shop near it for supplying their Wants, by Sale of Bread and Cheese; the late Governor of that Prison latterly took the Money, and found the Prisoners the additional Provision for it; so stood the usual Allowance in that Prison, when the Prisoners were removed to the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields.

Appendix, No. II.

JOHN MARSH,

Called in, and Examined:

ARE you Baker to the Prison in Cold Bath Fields?
I am Baker to the Prison, and am paid from Quarter to Quarter.

A Complaint has been made by the Prisoners confined for Seditious Practices, that the Bread with which they have lately been supplied, was not good, and had a bad Taste; what is the Kind of Bread you bake for the Prison?

I make as good Household Bread for the Prisoners as I can make; since the Home-grown Wheat has been scarce, and Foreign is mixed with it, I have found it impossible always to make the Bread totally exempt from a peculiar Taste, acquired by its being heated in its Stowage on Ship-board, and scarce any Bread in the Metropolis is exempt therefrom.

SAMUEL SKINNER,

Called in, and Examined:

Do you supply the Prison in Cold Bath Fields with Meat?
I am Butcher to the Prison.

Explain to us the Nature of your Agreement.
I serve the Prison by Contract, and have 4½d. per Pound for Clods, Stickings, and Mousse Buttocks, the same Quantity of each in Weight; I kill only Oxen, and the Meat is as good as any I serve my Customers with. The Meat is delivered to the Cook, who weighs and enters it. I kill Three Times a Week. The Quantity to be supplied is ordered the Night before, and when delivered, the Clerk, Mr. Nicholson, gives me a Note of the Receipt. About Three Times this Summer, on a Monday, the Meat having been killed on a Friday, I can't say it was so clever as I wished it, the Weather being so hot.

Mr.

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Mr. RANKEN,

Called in, and Examined:

What is your Trade?
I keep a Public House at the Sign of the Anchor, Clerkenwell.

Do you supply any Prisoners in the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields with Porter?

I supply Mr. Ballard with Porter for Servants, and Prisoners who purchase of him. Mrs. Bilson supplies that which is paid for by the County.

What is the daily Consumption of Porter from your House, at the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields?
About Eight Gallons. I delivered about that Quantity Yesterday.

What do you allow Mr. Ballard for the Sale?
Nothing; he has no Profit for me.

Appendix, No. 12.

THOMAS GREEN,

Called in, and Examined:

WHAT is the Nature of the Complaints which you have called upon the Commissioners to hear against Mr. Thomas Aris, the Governor of the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields?

I was sentenced by the Court of King's Bench, for a Misdemeanour, to be confined in the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields for Two Years. I was committed on the 24th January 1798. I was first put into the Committee Room with Capt. Parnell, and slept in a little Room adjoining the Room over the Committee Room; and in this Situation I continued Thirteen Weeks; breakfasted and dined in the Committee Room with Four other Prisoners, who, together with myself, were boarded by Ballard the Cook. I paid for my Board One Pound One Shilling per Week, and One other Guinea per Week for Room Rent. About the 26th of April following, I was removed to the North Front; there I slept in a Room up One Pair of Stairs. I continued in this Room until the Spring following, when I was removed to sleep in the little Room wherein I slept on my first Commitment, and continued there until my Discharge. From the Time of my being removed to this Room until the 18th of August following, I continued to pay One Pound One per Week for my Room Rent. About that Time I got Mr. Aris to state my Poverty to the Committee; and I was allowed to remain in my Room, paying only Ten Shillings and Six-pence, which I continued to do until the 22d of November following. On the 1st of December following, I gave Thomas Miller Five Guineas to give Mr. Aris to get me employed in the Kitchen; and from the 5th of December until the End of July following, I remained in the Kitchen, assisting the Cook, and serving the Prisoners Dinners; and in consequence of this Agreement, from this Time I paid nothing for Room-rent. Captain Parnell having represented to me soon after my entering the Prison, that it was necessary to give the Governor a Present for Permission to see my Wife and Friends; I gave him Four Guineas to give Aris for that Purpose. Parnell observed, I ought to make it Five Guineas: I told Parnell I had no more Money. Parnell frequently afterwards asked me for the other Guinea, but which I never gave him. From the Time I was removed into the Back Front, I made a fresh Agreement with Ballard, and gave him only Ten Shillings and Six-pence per Week, finding my own Tea and Supper; which I continued to do until the following July, when my Money failing, I accepted Prison Allowance, and bought other Necessaries for myself. On the Whole, I paid during the Time of my Imprisonment Thirty-seven Guineas for Room Rent, Four Pounds Four Shillings as a Present to Mr. Aris, and Five Pounds Five Shillings for Leave to work in the Kitchen, which, with Eighteen Guineas and a Half paid to Ballard, makes Sixty-Seven Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Six-pence; which Sum, I have

I have been given to understand, was, in the Whole or in Part, unlawfully demanded and taken. I further paid Ballard One Pound Sixteen Shillings and Four Pence Half-penny for Washing; and also Six Pounds Nineteen Shillings for Beer and Wine, occasionally had of him.

Were you, on your first Entrance, compelled to pay One Pound One Shilling per Week for Room Rent?

I certainly knew I was not compelled; but if I had slept in a Cell it would have injured my Health; and I knew if I did not give the Guinea per Week, I should go into a Cell.

Did you ever sleep in a Cell during your Confinement in that Prison?

I never slept in a Cell; I never even saw the Gaol during the first Thirteen Weeks, which I passed in the Committee Room as above-mentioned.

Did you consider yourself as obliged to board with Ballard?

I must have lived on the Gaol Allowance if Ballard had not boarded me.

Have you any Reason to suppose that Ballard imposed on you in the above-mentioned Charges?

I have no Complaint to make against Ballard.

Are you certain that the Four Pounds Four Shillings, which you say you gave to Captain Parnell to give the Governor as a Present for Leave to see your Wife and Friends, was given by the said Parnell to Aris?

I am not positive of that; but I dare say that Captain Parnell did give the Money to Mr. Aris.

Have you not heard, that the Money taken for Room Rent is paid to the County Account?

I have sometimes heard the Fees for the Rooms were the Perquisite of the Gaoler, and at other Times, that they were carried to the County Account.

Although you say you was never confined in the Cells or Yards of the Prison; yet, as you were long employed in carrying Provisions to the Yards, in which were confined the Prisoners, who, as yourself, were convicted of Misdemeanours, did you observe whether Prisoners there confined could get at Fire during the Winter?

There is no Possibility of the Prisoners in the Misdemeanour Yard getting at Fire without Leave.

Mr. ARIS,

Being present, further Examined:

You have heard the Complaint alledged against you by Mr. Thomas Green;—Would you ask him any Questions, or would you make any Observation to the Commissioners, relative to the Facts he has stated?

In respect to the Thirty-seven Guineas, which Green says he has paid

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for Room Rent; the Book, now before the Commissioners, containing my Account with the County, will shew, that the Whole has been regularly accounted for, and paid to the County. I know nothing of Ballard's Business.—Regarding the Four Guineas, I do not know, I cannot recollect; if Parnell paid the Four Guineas to me, it was as a Present, and not for any Indulgence; they boarded together. I never saw Parnell until he and Green came into the Prison together. Green paid the Five Pounds, because another Man before him had paid the same Sum, to go into the Kitchen.

Have you any Order from the Magistrates for making this Demand, and taking such a Sum from a Prisoner to live in the Kitchen?

I do not know that there is any Order from the Magistrates for it; but I thought I was entitled to receive Five Pounds for the County; because, when admitted to the Kitchen, a Prisoner no longer paid Room Rent.

Appendix, No. 13.

WILLIAM FLINT,

Called in, and Examined:

How long have you been confined in the House of Correction?
Since 3d February 1798.

What is your Employment?

I generally attend the Sick, under the Orders of the Surgeon,

State to the Commissioners what you have observed, regarding the Situation of Prisoners in this Prison?

The Prisoners prefer being down Stairs, because they have a Cell of their own, in the Day-time, in the Yard; and only the Penthouse in the Yard, when they have Cells up Stairs.—Prisoners getting warm at Work, having no Day Room, lay down on the Stones and catch Cold. They have a Peck of Coals for each Fire-place in the Four Yards, on such Days as Fires are allowed in very cold Weather.—When it thaws, the Coals are withheld.

GEORGE DUNSMORE, a Prisoner,

Called in, and Examined:

How long have you been confined in this Prison?
Since the 11th of January last: I was sentenced for a Misdemeanour.

What

What is your Situation?

I belong to the First Yard, but work at my Trade as a Shoemaker in the Shop.

State to the Commissioners what you have observed relative to the Management of this Prison?

From the Day I was committed, to the 27th February following, I had no Access to Fire in the Yard in which I was confined; but afterwards, the Prisoners were allowed Fire by paying for it; and when they were permitted to have Food brought them, they were at Liberty to purchase Coals to dress it, and by that Means could warm themselves.

Appendix, No. 14.

TOTAL NUMBER of PRISONERS confined in the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields, on the 24th Day of September 1800; classed according to their respective Sentences.

Male Felon Convicts	- - 69	Female Felon Convicts	- - 28
Smugglers	- - - 4	Misdemeanour	- - - 1
Misdemeanours; Violent Assaults	- - - 4	Pawning	- - - 4
with Intent to rob	- - 6	Idle Apprentices	- - - 1
Reputed Thieves	- - - 3	Debtor, Tower Hamlets	- - - 1
Detained as Evidence on Prosecutions for Felony	- - - 2	Idle and Disorderly Convicts	- - 2
Lottery Rogue and Vagabond	- - 1	D ^o Want of Sureties	- - - 1
Misdemeanours	- - - 29	Seven Days Vagrant	- - - 1
Want of Sureties, Bastardy	- - 3	Total	- - - 39
Re-examination	- - - 2		
Idle Apprentices	- - - 6		
Muriny on Board His Majesty's Ships of War	- - - 20		
Debtors, Tower Hamlets	- - - 2		
Seven Days Vagrants	- - 2		
Insane	- - - 1		
Detained under the Alien Act	- - 1		
Detained on Suspicion of High Treason	- - - 7		
Detained for treasonable Practices	- - 5		
Total	- - - 163		

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Appendix, No. 15.

ABSTRACT from the Surgeon's Journal, from the Year 1795 to the 22d September, 1800, shewing the Number of Sick, compared with the Number of Commitments for each Year.

FROM the 1st of May to the last of December, in the Year 1795, 957 Persons were committed; of these, 162 appear on the Sick List; 40 were brought in with the Itch; 55 with Venereal Complaints; 23 with Fevers and other Disorders: Two died within the Year, One of a Venereal Complaint, the other a Lunatic.

In the Year 1796 there were committed 1,398 Persons; of these, 157 were admitted on the Sick List; of whom 45 were brought in with the Itch; 50 with Venereal Cases; 20 with Inflammatory Fevers and other Disorders: Five died in this Year; One of the Small Pox, One of a Pulmonary Complaint, Two of the Venereal Disease, whose Cases were desperate when committed, and One other died Four Days after Commitment.

In the Year 1797 there were committed 1,035 Persons; of these, 410 were on the Sick List; of whom 211 were brought in with the Itch; 143 with Venereal Complaints; 17 only had Fevers and other Disorders: Six died in this Year; namely, Two of Pulmonary Complaints, Two in Fits, One of a Flux, and One of a Venereal Complaint.

In the Year 1798 there were committed 1,383 Persons; of these, 262 were admitted on the Sick List; of whom 53 were brought in with the Itch; 127 with Venereal Complaints; 26 had Fevers and other Disorders: Five died in this Year; One suddenly, One of a Flux, One of the Venereal Disease; and Two of Pulmonary Complaints.

In 1799 there were committed 1,323 Persons; of these, 324 were admitted on the Sick List; of whom 198 were brought in with the Itch; 130 with Venereal Cases; 33 had Typhus Fevers; and 14 had Inflammatory Fevers and other Complaints: Seven died in this Year, viz. Two of Pulmonary Complaints, Two of Typhus Fevers, One of Water on the Brain, One of the Dropsy, and One of a Venereal Complaint.

In the present Year, 1,154 Persons have been committed; of these, 331 have been admitted on the Sick List; of whom 67 were brought in with the Itch; 137 with Venereal Complaints; and 46 with Fevers and other Complaints, of which 34 were Typhus: Five have died this Year, viz. Two of a Venereal, and One of a Pulmonary Complaint, One of Typhus Fever, and One in Fits.

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