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Prison Association of New York,

Chartered 1846.

Theodore W. Dwight, L.L. D., *President.*
Charlton T. Lewis, *Chairman Executive Committee.*
Cornelius B. Gold, *Treasurer.*
Eugene Smith, *Secretary.*
Wm. M. F. Round, *Corresponding Secretary.*

OFFICE OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
135 EAST 15TH STREET.

NEW YORK

March 12th 1891

(Dictated)

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee

Mayville, N.Y.

My Dear Sir:--

At the ~~December~~ *January* meeting of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York held on the third Thursday of ~~December~~ *January*, you were unanimously elected a member of the Co-operative Committee of the P. A. for *Chautauqua* County.

We shall consider it a great honor for you to take part in our work with us; and the enclosed circular will give you some idea of what the work is. A meeting will presently be called by the Chairman of the Committee, *we hope.*

and I am sure you will see in our work an opportunity of doing good service for God and humanity at a small expenditure of labor and time.

Trusting that you will accept this position-- and at least will not think of declining till our work is made plain at the meeting.

I am,

Yours Very Respectfully

Wm. M. F. Round
Cor. Sec.

Enclosure.

PRISON • ASSOCIATION

OF NEW YORK.

(CHARTERED MAY 9TH, 1846)

OFFICE, 135 EAST FIFTEENTH ST., NEW YORK.

Theodore W. Dwight, LL. D., *President.*
Charlton T. Lewis, *Chairman Executive Committee.*
Cornelius B. Gold, *Treasurer.*
Eugene Smith, *Secretary.*
Wm. M F. Round, *Corresponding Secretary.*

The work of the Prison Association of New York, is as follows :

1st. To improve our Prison system, so that, by better discipline in penal institutions, criminals may be reformed and thus society protected against their depredations

2nd To improve the condition of our county jails ; many of them are to day an offence to humanity and a stigma upon Christian civilization.

3rd. To assist ex-convicts who are struggling to reform, and yet who find the forces of society opposed to them and the ranks of labor closed to them.

4th. To succor those who are unjustly arrested ; and though themselves ignorant of the law's ways, are unable to secure legal counsel.

5th. To counsel and otherwise assist families who are, by the criminal course of some supporting member, left to the bitter struggle of poverty and the added burden of disgrace

6th. To provide wholesome reading matter for prisoners, and to secure proper spiritual and moral instruction in the penal institutions where it does not exist already.

IN ORDER TO PROSECUTE THIS WORK, THE PRISON ASSOCIATION NEEDS :—

1st.—The moral support of all good citizens.

2d.—It needs money, that it may maintain a thorough system of inspection in prisons and jails, and a constant correspondence with its county committees, and that it may circulate correct information upon prison topics.

3d.—It needs money to assist discharged prisoners who give good evidences of intention to reform. It must frequently provide such applicants with lodging and food, and sometimes with clothing, and it not infrequently happens that a man cannot ply the only honest trade he knows till tools are furnished him.

4th.—It needs work for discharged prisoners where prison record has been creditable, and whose prison life has taught them that a good life is better than an evil one.

5th.—It needs wholesome reading matter—books, papers and periodicals, that can be sent to the prisoners in our jails and prisons.

Therefore we ask the charitably disposed, whose hearts are warm to those who are trying to return to better lives, to send us contributions for the work. We ask for help with less hesitation, because we know that the public is in no small measure protected from the depredations of criminals through our efforts. To those who refuse to look upon our work in a philanthropic aspect, we appeal on economic grounds. We ask that the protection afforded may be recognized by a contribution to our treasury.

Men are coming out of prison poorly clad. For these we ask donations of clothing or money to buy clothing.

Men are coming to us who honestly want to reform. They search for employment through many days and weeks, grow discouraged, they begin to starve, and drift by a natural impulse in the old criminal companionship and thence into prison again. For such men we ask employment.

There are families that have been stricken with that misfortune which is worse than death. They have seen a father, a son, the only supporting member, taken away to prison. They have been crushed with a burden of poverty, made heavier with a burden of disgrace. For them we ask help in money, in clothing and bed-clothing, in household goods, or such labor as they are able to do. The county jails of the state, under a political system that invites cor-

ruption, are in many instances a crying disgrace to humanity. The Prison Association asks means to further its inspection of jails, and to correct abuses therein.

The prisons and penitentiaries are as yet neglectful, in a great degree, of reformatory influences. By pressing the introduction of prison schools, and other means of moral elevation the Prison Association hopes to exert a healthful influence on the whole prison system of the state.

The work of the Prison Association has never been more important than now. In forty-five years of steady labor in improving the prisons and reforming criminals, and the unquestioned good that has come to society through its efforts, entitle it, we believe to the hearty co-operation of all good citizens.

Donations in money, or in the articles named may be sent to the office of the Association, 135 East 15th St., and they will be most gratefully and promptly acknowledged.

By the charter of the Prison Association there are the following classes of members:

LIFE PATRONS.—By payment of \$100, to whom engraved certificates of membership will be given.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS.—By payment of \$100 at one time. These memberships are printed from year to year in the reports, and when made in the name of deceased friends constitute a perennial memorial.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.—By payment of \$5.00 which entitles to all publications of the Society, and to participation in its regular meetings.

I AM YOURS, VERY RESPECTFULLY,

WM. M. F. ROUND,

Cor. Sec. P. A. N. Y.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath to my executors the sum of Dollars, IN TRUST, to pay over the same in after my decease, to the person who, when the same is payable, shall act as Treasurer to the PRISON ASSOCIATION of New York, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, to be applied to the benevolent uses and purposes of said Society, and under its direction.

PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

OFFICERS FOR 1891.

PRESIDENT.

THEODORE W. DWIGHT, L. L. D.

Vice-Presidents.

RT. REV. F. D. HUNTINGTON,
W. P. LETCHWORTH.
RT. REV. HENRY C. POTTER, D. D.,
REV. WENDELL PRIME, D. D.

Corresponding Secretary.

WM. M. F. ROUND, 135 EAST 15TH ST.

Recording Secretary.

EUGENE SMITH.

Treasurer.

CORNELIUS B. GOLD, 18 WALL ST., N. Y.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Charlton T. Lewis, <i>Chairman</i> ,	F. P. Bellamy,
James McKeen,	Charles Watrous,
John D. Crimmins,	Henry K. McHarg,
Henry W. De Forest,	George S. Fraser,
James R. Steers,	Charles H. Kitchel,
Lispenard Stewart,	Dean Sage,
Edward B. Merrill,	Richard A. McCurdy,
C. D. Wood,	Walter P. Phillips,
J. Hampden Robb,	J. Fenimore Cooper,
Jno. Wm. Hutchinson,	Churchill H. Cutting.

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CHARTERED 1846.

Theodore W. Dwight, LL.D., *President.*
Charlton T. Lewis, *Chairman Executive Committee.*
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Wm. M. F. Round, *Corresponding Secretary.*
~~Stephen Gutter, *General Agent.*~~

Office of Corresponding Secretary,

~~45-BIBLE HOUSE~~

To

Member of Co-operative Committee for

County.

DEAR SIR:

The Prison Association of New York enters upon its ~~fourth~~ year of work with unusual opportunities for usefulness. In the name of public economy and public philanthropy it asks your earnest co-operation during the coming twelve months. Little can be done to improve the prison system of the State unless there are workers in every part of it who are intelligently pressing forward principles of reform. In order to make the work of the local co-operative committees more uniform and more in harmony with the association's general plan of work the following rules are offered to you, subject, of course, to the discretion you may find it best to exercise regarding them. The first rule, you will see, does not apply where committees have already affected organizations.

RULES FOR LOCAL CO-OPERATIVE COUNTY COMMITTEES OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

First. Committees are expected to organize within one month after their appointment, meeting at the call of one of their number to be designated by the corresponding secretary of the association, and to elect a chairman, secretary and treasurer.

Second. Committees are expected to have stated meetings at least semi-annually, and to keep the corresponding secretary informed of the date of such regular meeting; should any special meeting be held, it is requested that notice of the same shall be given to the general office.

Third. Local committees are expected to inspect, at least twice a year, the jails, station-houses, prisons and penitentiaries in their respective counties, and to take cognizance of, and report at this office, as to the discipline, maintenance, moral and sanitary conditions, and to promptly notify the corresponding secretary at other times of any failure on the part of the local authorities to comply with the laws as to the governance and keeping of prisoners, should such failure come to their knowledge. They are further expected to make such suggestions, from time to time, as will help the association to carry out the purposes for which it was organized.

Fourth. They are, at the stated meetings, requested to give full discussion to any plans of the Prison Association that may be submitted to them by the Executive Committee, to estimate as far as possible the feelings of their respective neighborhoods regarding any such plans, and to help the association's work by creating a right public sentiment as to prison discipline and the criminal class.

Fifth. They are requested to collect and forward to the office of the Prison Association such printed reports of local institutions as are obtainable, and such extracts from local publications as bear upon penological matters.

Sixth. They are expected, by sub-committees, to see that suitable moral and religious instruction is provided in the jails, to collect and distribute reading matter to prisoners, to investigate complaints of ill usage, to report to this office the cases of such as seem unjustly accused, or badly treated.

Seventh. It is the purpose of the Prison Association to hold an average of at least one public meeting within each two years in every county of the State, and the local committees are expected to secure the co-operation of clergymen and others in making the arrangements for such a meeting.

Eighth. It is most urgently requested that each county committee do its utmost to increase the membership of the association, and aid in extending its influence.

Ninth. Committees are requested to send annually to the association a list of the names of fifty, or more, of the prominent citizens of their respective counties, to whom the reports and miscellaneous documents of the association may be sent.

Tenth. It is the policy of the Prison Association, and has been from its organization, to secure reforms and the correction of abuses *so far as it can be done* through the co-operation of officials. The local committees are, therefore, so far as they represent the association, expected to cultivate relations of mutual helpfulness with sheriffs and jailors, and to aid them in every way possible, in the promotion of right discipline in the county institutions.

Eleventh. Local committees can greatly aid the general agent of the society by reporting to the office of the association the names of any in their respective neighborhoods who are willing to employ discharged convicts who give satisfactory evidence of a desire to reform. They are also requested to furnish the names of those who employ skilled or unskilled labor, in order that direct communication may be made with them from this office.

Twelfth. They are urged to secure as large a local observance as possible of Prisoner's Sunday, and to send printed reports of such observance to this office for filing.

Thirteenth. Through sub-committees to give such counsel and help as they are able, to prisoners discharged from the local correctional and penal institutions.

These rules are printed here, not only for the benefit of the local committees themselves, but to indicate to others the special forms of helpfulness which they render in carrying on the work of the association. Through them it reaches into every county in the State, as a vital and ever present force.

In making up the annual report of this year it is desirable that the reports of County Committees be sent in as early as November 15th, and in order to facilitate filing it is requested that they be written on foolscap paper and on one side of the sheet only.

Committees will confer a favor by notifying the undersigned at once of any changes in their organization.

Without wishing to dictate as to the time for the stated meetings of local committees, the corresponding secretary would beg leave to suggest that these meetings be held early in November and May.

In the matter of the Prisoner's Sunday, for which October 25th has been named as a suitable date, you are earnestly requested to use your influence with your neighboring religious societies to secure their recognition of the day, to send us newspaper reports of sermons preached, and a statement as to the observance of the day.

We also hope that collections of money for our philanthropic work may be secured from the congregations of your neighborhood. We shall gladly send statements of our work for distribution in the places where such collections are taken. We ask every part of the State to contribute to our work, as there is no part of the State but that is reached by its labors.

We specially hope that during the coming year you will secure the introduction of some systematic labor into your county jails.

We have undertaken to collect a library for every county jail in the State, where the county authorities or our own committees will guarantee that the books will be properly cared for. Will you confer with your county authorities in this matter? A book-case must be provided, and some one designated who will take care of the library.

Will you not secure a neighborhood contribution of books for the jail library in your own county?

Our county work has grown greatly during the past year. We need a great deal of money to carry it on. Would it be too much to ask your committee to raise \$45 for the general work (three dollars from each member when your committee is full, to pay or collect). That would give us \$2,700 from the counties for our county work; a sum not above its cost.

Thanking you in behalf of the Executive Committee for your past labors, and bespeaking your continued interest and zeal, I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. M. F. ROUND,

Cor. Sec. P. A., N. Y.