

## SENATE...., No. 22.

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### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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IN SENATE, February 6, 1846.

The Joint Standing Committee on Prisons, to which were referred the Annual Reports of the Inspectors, Warden and Physician of the State Prison, submit the subjoined

### REPORT:

The Reports of the Officers of the State Prison have been, by the Committee, examined and considered, and to this source of information, touching the affairs in that institution, personal examination and inquiry at the Prison, have been superadded. On visiting the Prison, the Committee were fortunate in finding there the Inspectors, Warden, Chaplain and Physician, with whom they freely communicated, and from whom they received ready and satisfactory answers to such inquiries as it was deemed proper to make; the result of all which, is the pleasing conviction, in the minds of the Committee, that the administration of the affairs of the institution has been judicious and discreet, and well calculated to produce desired results.

The Committee deem it unnecessary to go into detail in reference to the expenditures of the past year, the improvements which have been made, the course of discipline pursued, (which, the Committee believe, has been characterized by mildness and

humanity,) as all these subjects and others, have been fully noticed in the Reports of the officers of the Prison, which the Committee are of opinion, after a careful examination into their details, are fully justified by facts, so far as they have come to their knowledge. The Physician, in his report, asks attention to a "more complete apparatus for bathing." In regard to the matter of bathing, he says, no argument need be used to show that an occasional bath of warm water, during the cold months of the year, would conduce as much to health as to cleanliness.

At present, the Prison is without this useful and salutary convenience. This part of the Report of the Physician, received the special attention of the Committee, and the Physician was requested, with the Inspectors and Warden, upon due examination, to furnish to the Committee such data as might be useful to them in their investigation of the subject. Subsequently, the Physician made the following communication to the Committee:—

CHARLESTOWN, Feb. 4th, 1846.

*To the Gentlemen of the Committee on Prisons:—*

In compliance with the request of some of your Committee, I offer this communication. Since your meeting at the Prison, I have made inquiry of the Warden and mechanics, as to the expense of fitting up a bathing apparatus, and as to the most suitable place. I am led to believe, that it would be best to locate it over the canal, at the back part of the yard. A building of about ten feet by eighteen would furnish room enough for two bathing tubs for warm water. This building would also allow of their taking a cold bath, in warm weather, without being exposed, from the yard, to observation. It is thought that a water tank, holding several hogsheads of water, could be heated from the escape steam of the steam engine, which is near by, and that this warm water could be conveyed by a pipe, for use, to the bathing tubs. This small building would cost one hundred dollars; the water tank and pipes one hundred dollars; other expenses fifty dollars; making the whole expense two hundred and fifty dollars.

As the result of their examination and inquiry, the Committee are of opinion that a more complete apparatus for bathing should be furnished, and therefore recommend, that the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be appropriated from the funds of the prison for that purpose, and report the accompanying Resolves.

Per order of the Committee,

CALVIN WILLARD, *Chairman.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-six.

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RESOLVES

Relating to the State Prison.

*Resolved,* That the Inspectors and Warden of the State Prison be, and they are hereby, authorized to cause to be erected in the Prison yard, a small building, with suitable apparatus for bathing.

*Resolved,* That the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be appropriated from the funds of the Prison, for carrying the foregoing Resolve into effect.