Park, and enjoys the inestimable advantage of being surrounded by more healthful air, and purer influences, than are obtainable at any of the other prisons in New York. Con-Bequently, the ratio of sickness and mortality at Yorkville prison is smaller than at any of the others. Reats said of a certain locality that it was beautiful enough to make one almost in love with death. In like manner, it night be said that the vicinity of Yorkville is almost attractive enough to make one in love with captivity. Fresh breezes rush up from East river, and, sweeping over the prison, others cablended with the wide extent reering over of park. The exterior of the prison is imposing-the stately row of massive greystone pillars inspiring less the idea of a penitentiary than of a baronial hall. The facade is abundantly intersticed with long wide winflows. The same fenestrad arrangements prewail in those portions that overlook East river and the park, so that the interior is amply provided with light and air. The cells are arranged in tiers, and are void of dampness. Water is introduced into every cell, which is also provided with a wooden settee, where the prisoner may sleep off the effects of that horrible "last night," and wake up to face the consequences upon that not less horrible "next morning." One of the features of Yorkville is the dark cell, where refractory prisoners are put, and for a prototype of which the reader is referred to Charles Reade's graphic description in 'It is Never Too Late to Mend." It is in this Yorkville prison that some of the most ridiculously painful notes that were ever penned by morzal man have been written by an incorrigible Bohemian, who has long since gone the way incorrigible Bohemians go, and who, when Living, used to be notorious for always getting drunk at the wrong moment. Somehow or other, let him get drank where he would, he always managed to stumble into Yorkville at last, whence he would despatch despairing and maudinly-eloquent notes to the managing editors of the various newspapers with which he had at one time or another been conmected. His memory is still cherished by 2he warden of the place. Perhaps he would be remembered by Philadelphians were his name mentioned, for I regret to say he was a Philadelphian by birth. Yorkville is not represented in the daily press-with the exception of the Herald-as well as it ought to be. It is so far up that none of the dailies, excepting the Herald, seem to think it worth While to detail a man especially to attend to It. The Herald keeps one man perpetually posted at each of the four police stations, viz.: Jefferson Market, Essex Market, the Tombs, and Yorkville. Consequently, its reports of the transactions at Yorkville are ever fresh and reliable. It is a mistake to suppose, berause this police court is up as far as Fifty-Seventh street and Third avenue, that nothing of interest does not very often transpire there. Essex Market.

The Essex Market Court is the smallest of all the courts, is gloomy-visaged and has a heterogeneous smell. This comes from its being in the rear of a market, which, at this Justice Mansfield is a Jewishlooking, corpulent young creature of about forty, with a big Brazilian-pebble breast-pin and enough shirt-front to answer for half a flozen ordinary men. The building extends the entire length of the block from Essex to Ludlow street. The principal entrance is from Essex street, where you enter into a court-yard that conducts you to the jail proper. Upon each side of the prison are three tiers of cells-one side being dewoted to the male prisoners and the other to the females. The cells are over fifty in number, and each prisoner is nsually accommodated with one. Suicides have been so frequent that the iron-railed doors are lined with strong network, the interstices of which are too small to allow anything being passed to those confined by friends outside. The cells upon the first tier are devoted to ordinary prisoners, those who have committed no greater offense than being drunk and disprderly, and who, when morning comes pround, will be only too glad to pay the ten dollars fine, or to be let off with a reprimand and the promise to "never do so no more." The number of persons thus furnished free lodgings every twenty-four hours is scarcely more than half that the cells would accommodate, supposing there to be one prisoner to every pell. Until after trial and conviction, prisoners of every grade are allowed to purchase their meals from putside if so "dispoged," and there is nothing to prevent the unsentenced murderer feasting like a fighting-cock (however that may be), if he has the "stamps." The cells in which convicted felons are confined are on the second zier, and are much stronger than the others. It is enough to make an innocent man feel Telonious to gaze upon these low-browed dens of confinement. The doors are barely four Teet high; the atmosphere is gloomy and stiffing; through it steals the steamy odor of the butchers' stalls and shambles without; the doors are double-barred and studded with enormous nails, and when they are shut upon him the prisoner feels that he has indeed enzered a place where he has left Hope behind. No prison in New York State has more ingeniously-forbidding oubliettes than the felons pells of Essex Market Police Court.

Ladlow Street Jail. It is not generally known that there is ; debtor's prison in New York which might furmish as many humorous and pathetic incidents to the American journalist as the Fleet and the Marshalsea did to Mr. Dickens. It is, in fact, the Marshalsea of New York, where hopeless debtors languish from year to year in ppartments little better than cells, for which, when able, they pay a most exorbitant price. This prison is known as the Ludlow Street Jail, and is situated in one of the most prowded and unhealthy quarters of the city. Were an epidemic to break out, those confined in it would be among the first to suffer, | girl of fourteen or fifteen, who, six months | with a polluted soul, however pure it may

The front faces on Ludlow street and the cups and daisies of her native heath. rear upon Essex, so that it is in the closest proximity to Essex Market Police Court, It is a large, uncouth red-brick structure, two stories in height. The windows are immense. Any one of them, if it was changed from a perpendicular to a horizontal position, would answer for a respectable-sized skylight. In spite of these enormous windows, which might reasonably be supposed to confer an air of some cheerfulness upon the architecture, the entire building is as gloomy as can well be imagined. It looks like a cheap mausoleum with windows let in. Visitors are treated in a very chary and gingerly manner. By dint of careful observation and judicious inquiry, however, you come into possession of a few interesting facts. For instance, you learn that there are two orders of rooms to let and two orders of meals. The rooms intended for the wealthier class of residents are scarcely, if any, larger than those occupied by the poorer residents. A bed, a chair, a looking-glass, a wash-basin, and sometimes a table, comprise the entire furniture, The occupant, however, has the room to himself, and, in contrast with the constant publicity in which the poorer prisoners are forced to live, this is a blessed privilege indeed. Meals are served three times a day, and are quite respectable, considering that they are the diet of captivity. Coffee and mutton-chops or beefsteak for breakfast; roast meats and a fair supply of vegetables for dinner, with sometimes pie or pudding; and cold meat and tea for supper, are to be had. For this munificent board and lodging the moderate sum of \$30 per week is charged, or more than \$1 per day! As for the wretched captives who can afford to pay only \$15 or \$20 per week, the accommodations provided for them can readily be gauged from this standard. There is no prisoner but what can pay something towards his support, and his bed and board are in exact proportion to that amount. No distinction is made between the aristocrat and the plebeian so long as the greenbacks are forthcoming. If you are an inmate of Ludlow Street Jail, and have money, though not enough perhaps to pay your debts, you may be able to find captivity tolerable. There is no limit to the comforts and luxuries you may provide for yourself, if you are willing to be atrociously swindled by the agents you employ to procure them. You may paper, and furnish, and uphelster your room; you may surround yourself with books, statuettes, and music; you may have champagne and sherry for dinner every day; you may get gloriously drunk whenever you please: nay, you may even occasionally take a stroll up Broadway or go to the theatre, with a deputy sheriff at your heels, if you only have the money. You cannot, indeed, divest yourself of the shadow of captivity thrown around you at every step you take, but you will find the gloom of that shadow inconceivably lightened. But if you ever are so unfortunate as to become a resident there, the chances of your getting out again are exceedingly slim. When Hope got out of Pandora's box, Beason of the year, sends up a perfume like | it visited most places in the world, but omit-Phoice extracts of cholera and yellow fever | ted Ludlow Street Jail. The world is too busy, too much occupied in gratifying its own selfishness, to bestow much thought upon the unhappy debtors it has locked up there. And so they remain incarcerated year after year, suffering a useless punishment, the very nature of which will prevent their ever making an effort toward amendment.

Jefferson Market. One of the most remarkable features of the Jefferson Market Police Court, which is situated at the intersection of Greenwich avenue and Tenth street, is the large partition at the northeast corner of the court-room. This partition is about nine feet in width and fifteen and a half feet deep, and is used for the temporary reception of the prisoners waiting to be called up before the judge. It is furnished with a few hard benches, and is not half large enough to accommodate the numbers that are often forced into it. Here criminals of both sexes, and of every grade, color, condition, and nationality, are indiscriminately huddled; and consequently, while justice is being administered in open court, not a little scuffling is transacted inside this den. The narrow windows with which it is furnished let in just sufficient light for the prisoners to discern each others' faces, and the scuffling is usually commenced by the attempts of one of the more hardened eriminals to pummel some unoffending young man or boy whose frightened looks proclaim him an inmate there for the first time. When the scuffling reaches its height, it is usually put a stop to by two officers of the court making an unsuspected raid, brandishing their truncheons, and improvising a number of bruised and bleeding heads, which restores order in a remarkably short space of time. The interior of the prison, which is reached by a bridge-like arrangement, sardonically termed the "Bridge of Sighs," does not greatly differ from that of the prisons connected with the other police courts. The principal feature in connection with it is what is known as the Ten-day House. This is a room on the first floor of the female prison, and is designed for the reception of women arrested for intoxication, solicitation of people of the other sex, and disorder of any kind. Here they are confined for ten days-long enough | Street Jail. Of the two, I don't know but what to think seriously over their miserable conduct, and make good resolutions for the future. There is also a separate department intended for the reception of young girls who have run away from home and commenced a disgraceful career in some of the maisons de joie that swarm in the vicinity of the police court. On no account are these interesting prisoners placed in the Ten-day House, in contact with its brazen occupants. The parents of these girls, who have discovered them in their shameful hiding-places, not unfrequently cause their arrest; and it is no un- length of time, forced to consort with older common sight to see there a young country. people of the same sex, will be sure to issue

and their cases would be the least hopeful. | ago, was as pure and untouched as the butter- | have been when the period of detention com-

The Tomba. The most celebrated prison and police court in New York the Tombs, of which Justice Dowling is the notorious potentate. This gentleman is about forty years of age, is clean-shaven, has a moderately full brown bristly moustache, a rubicund countenance, and a bald head. With his hat off he looks fully forty; with it on, he looks only thirtynine! He was once a police officer himself, has risen gradually from the ranks, and is acquainted with all the intricate sinuosities of the police business. He makes laws of his own, which are quite as good in his eyes as the laws of the Commonwealth, and he "shuts down" upon all who oppose him with most tornado-like fierceness. After 4 o'clock in the afternoon, he may generally be seen upon Broadway, dressed in gentlemanly black, but with an air of restrained ruffianism about him which the handsome clothes do not quite conceal. He is noted for his quarrels with police captains, his arbitrary habit of "putting down" the "shysters" of the Tombs, his cordiality with reporters and newspaper people generally, and the bullyism with which he asserts the supremacy of his authority over that of Mr. Bergh. Indeed, he and the President of the S. P. C. A. quarrelled irretrievably long ago: for the gentlemanly Bergh stood no chance at all with the loquacious and brow-beating Dowling. Before no presence has Justice Dowling ever been known to quail. If General Grant himself were brought before him on a charge of disorderly conduct, Dowling would "send him up" for thirty days with the utmost sang froid, indifferent to the silent eloquence of the partially-smoked Presidential Havana. Judge Dowling does some very kind acts. The distressed newsboy, the persecuted orange-vender, the beaten and outraged wife, whose bandaged forehead bears witness to her husband's bratality, find a fast friend in him. I have seen him take money out of his own pocket and give it to a bankrupt newsboy, with the understanding that the latter should make his reappearance at an appointed time and give a faithful account of himself. Woe to him if he fail to do this, for Justice Dowling never forgets a face, and never "lets up" on any one who has once "gone back" on him, or who he imagines has done so. This was the cause of quarrel between him and Bergh,

The Tombs is an Egyptian building, and, being such, it is not wholly irrelevant to speak of Dowling as the Sphiux. The exterior of the prison is quite enough to create a succession of cold chills along the spine of the observer. There are no very peculiar features in the internal arrangements, unless the padded cells be one. These are for the reception of insane prisoners, or those suffering with mania-a-pota. A similar contrivance obtains in the female department, which likewise occasionally numbers one or two lunatics among its inmates. Very particular pains are taken to keep all these cells neat and clean. They are scrubbed and whitewashed every day; and if cleanliness is next to godliness, it must be a "mean" between the two extremes of vice and virtue, for certainly cleaner and neater-looking cells were never occupied by more audacious and filthy criminals. There is not a crime, recognizable by human law, which can be named, that has not had its representative within these walls; for, after all, what is any prison but man's grim monument over a violated decalogue?

among this sketch of New York prisons, the House of Detention for witnesses. Though originally erected, as its name implies, for the temporary accommodation of such witnesses whose presence it was necessary to insure, it has, little by little, degenerated to a condition but little better than that of the prisons themselves. It is a handsome red brick structure, located within a few blocks of police headquarters, and consists of two houses bearing the exterior appearance of one. They are, in fact, however, as separate and distinct as two houses would be, there being no door of communication between them. One of them is used for male witnesses, the other for females. Few indeed are the cases in which the witnesses of either sex are of a high, or even tolerably respectable, social grade. Many of them are little

The House of Detention.

It would be a just sareasm to include,

better than the prisoners for whom, or against whom, they are expected to appear. This is used as a reason for the poorness of the accommodations and the little pains that are taken to provide the detained witnesses with books and innocent recreation. Still it sometimes happens that a man or a woman, educated, refined, and accustomed from birth to all the luxurious elegances of life, is remanded to this house. The ordeal through which such a person goes is torturing. There is no escape from the vile contaminations of the general sitting-rooms, Attached to the house are no public grounds of any extent, in which walks can be taken and the fresh air breathed. A small, square paved court-yard is the only apology for open space connected with the institution. The men's sitting-room has for furniture several wooden benches without backs, carved all over with a species of grotesque tattooing. The women's sitting-room is only a little better. The meals are indigestible to every man or woman accustomed to delicate fare. The bed-rooms are on a par with those of Ludlow Ludlow Street Jail is preferable. And yet, in this; place men and women are detained for days, for weeks, for months. These detained witnesses may in many cases be coarse, but they are not in most cases criminal. Yet they suffer the wages of criminality by being detained for an indefinite time in this dreary abode. If this be a model institution of its kind, I know not what the former House of

Detention must have been like. This one is

the vestibule of the Tombs, and the young

girl or the young boy who is detained for any

menced.

Conclusion. The prisons of New York, then, do not compare favorably with those of Philadelphia. In this, as in many other things, the city that aspires to the motto of "Excelsior" is far behind the one whose boastings are more modest because her merits are more real. The homeelement, which has made Philadelphia the most comfortable city to reside in on the face of the earth, has reformed even the rigor of prison life, and introduced its amenities into the chastisement of captivity. That element is wanting in New York, whose prison-life is merely a blind and obstinate punishment, holding out no hope of penitence and reform. ALI BARA.

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