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## PRISONS.

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### Report from Judges Botsford and Parker on State of Prisons.

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SIR—In compliance with your Excellency's desire, we visited the Gaol in this place on the 24th December last, accompanied by Mr. White, the High Sheriff, and inspected all the apartments.

The building is altogether too small for the present wants of this City and County, and does not admit of any separation or classification of the Prisoners, even of the most obvious necessity, viz:—

Between Convicts and those committed for trial;

Between Felons and Convicts for minor offences;

Between Juvenile and other offenders.

The only division which appears to have been regularly observed is that of the sexes.

The Debtors principally confined within the walls of the Gaol, are those for small debts upon executions from the City Court ; who are obliged to remain fourteen days before they can obtain support from their creditors, frequently destitute of the ordinary necessaries of life, and relying on the charity of the Gaoler, or their fellow prisoners.

There appeared, as far as we could judge, as much attention paid to the comfort and security of the prisoners, as the present state of the premises would admit : and

than such as was necessarily produced by the confined dimensions and crowded state of the apartments, and want of cleanliness in some of the prisoners.

We beg leave to accompany this Report with a ground plan (or rather sketch) of the Gaol, which will serve to explain our remarks, and those of the Sheriff.

Thinking also, it would be in fulfilment of Your Excellency's wishes to obtain such further information respecting the past and present state of the Gaol, and the regulations therein observed, as could be furnished by the High Sheriff and the visiting Magistrates, we addressed severally communications to them, which with their replies, we beg also to enclose.

We have pleasure in stating to Your Excellency that the Justices, at their last Session, determined to erect a new Gaol ; and that the House of Correction, when completed, will remedy many of the evils which we now complain of.

We have the honor to be

Your Excellency's very faithful and  
obedient servants,

W. BOTSFORD.  
R. PARKER.

His Excellency Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. and K. C. H.,  
Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c.