

number. The cells are each 8 feet, 8 inches by 3 feet, 6.—Of the total number of cells, 66 are in the Basement, 7 of these being *dark* cells for punishment, and 4 are totally unfit for use, owing to the dampness. The upper portion of this building is quite comfortable, and furnishes accommodation for perhaps 250 prisoners, but the basement story we found damp, and entirely unfit for use, yet there are confined upon that floor 56 convicts. In this building the Warden is enabled to fulfill the provisions of the Law, which provides for separate confinement, but in no other building within the walls can he do so, and as the prisoners now confined in the Institution, number six hundred and eighty-two, it will be seen that not one half of the entire number are afforded separate confinement, as the law provides. We next visited the

WESTERN DORMITORY.

This is what is described in the Annual Report as the "Old Building," a most appropriate name, as it was built over fifty years ago, and has been in constant use ever since. This building is also 150 by 40 feet, but is differently constructed having been originally designed as the "Female Department" of the Institution, for which purpose it is still used, but is unworthy the title of *Prison* in any sense of the word, and might be more appropriately termed a "Pest House," which it literally is, and it would seem like a Providential interposition in favor of the unfortunate inmates, in preserving them, so far, from some sweeping epidemic. The first, or lower story of this building, is divided into 18 rooms, each 10 by 20 feet. Of this number, three rooms are occupied by the Matron, three others are used as a *Kitchen* and *Hospital*, leaving twelve rooms adjoining the *Kitchen* and *Hospital* as sleeping apartments, into which are nightly crowded, *eighty-six females*, white and black, there being as many as *nine* persons in some of the rooms, whilst the law provides for one person. The over-crowded condition of this department ought alone to condemn it as a place totally unfit for the purpose for which it is used; but this abuse is not by far the *worst* of the many now being heaped upon the poor women now immured within this miserable place, and who, although perhaps unfortunate—nay, guilty of misdemeanor, yet, are they each and all entitled to that humane treatment as prisoners which the law designed, but which is at present a moral impossibility, because of want of accommodation. It will doubtless create a feeling of remorse, indignation and compassion in the mind of every reader of this report, when we announce that within this Female Department, in which are immured *eighty-six* poor women, "*a garment hung against the wall for twenty-four hours, becomes so wet from the dampness, that water can be rung from it,*" and yet the in-