

seem to them best calculated to arrest the evil. Diligent observation is kept by the police upon those in the community who are known to lead dissolute and profligate lives, without having or being able to show any visible means of support; and in all such cases the provisions of the Vagrant Act will continue to be rigidly enforced. Other steps have also been taken, which the Board trust will have the effect of detecting and bringing to justice the perpetrators of such crimes.

The experience of the Board has already satisfied them that improvements may be made in the present Police system, which would much increase its efficiency. Some of these would require, before they could be adopted, alteration in the Law of the State under which the force is organized. Of such the Board do not propose now to speak, preferring to wait until time shall more fully test the correctness of their views. There are others of an important character, which the Board have had under consideration, and which they have already sufficient authority to make; but they have refrained from doing so as yet on account of the additional expense in which they would involve the city. The chief of these would be to increase the number, and improve the condition of the station houses, none of which are suitable for the purposes for which they are designed. They neither afford sufficient accommodation for the number of men now employed on the force, nor for the detention, in a proper manner, of persons taken to them, charged with various offences, of very different grades. The drunkard, in a disgusting state of intoxication; the common loafer, whether white or colored; the suspected murderer, or other felon; the respectable and orderly citizen, who may, in a moment of excitement, have committed an offence against the laws, have all to be treated alike, and detained in the same description of cells, and those by no means of a suitable description. There surely ought to be provision made which would allow of some classification being made of parties detained in custody at the station houses. The Board are also satisfied that the number of the station houses should be at least doubled. The extent of the city is now so great that many portions of it are far removed from any of the station houses; and, when an officer makes an arrest, much time is necessarily lost whilst he is taking his prisoner to one of the stations and returning to his proper post. The Board deem it highly important that, whenever the financial condition of the city may justify such a measure, an entire change should be made in the present division of the same into police districts, and new and additional station houses should be provided.