

THE POLICE.

In entering upon the investigation of that branch of our extended inquiry which relates to the due administration of the penal statutes of the State, and the police and discipline of the Penitentiary, we felt it to be due to the magnitude and importance of the subject at large to devote some attention to the general question of Penitentiary discipline, and particularly to the systems established in the States of Pennsylvania and New York, where the two most approved are in successful operation. The better to enable us to decide on the merits of the system in operation in the former State, we went on to Philadelphia last June and visited the Cherry Hill Penitentiary near that city. We were politely received by the Warden, Samuel R. Woods, Esq. and every facility was afforded us to make a full and thorough examination of the prison. It contains 844 separate cells, and is formed by seven radiating wings, connected by passages or corridors with the central building, in which is the keeper's office, and from which he commands a view of the passages and overlooks the deputy keepers engaged in giving out and superintending the work of the prisoners, furnishing them with food, &c.

The discipline is that of total solitary confinement in the cells, which serve at once for lodging rooms and for purposes of labor. The blocks of cells are provided with a combination of pipes, in some of which hot water is introduced, in cold weather, to warm the cells, and in others water for drinking, washing, &c., another is a large pipe to serve the purposes of a water closet. Each of the cells on the ground floor is provided with a small yard, and the prisoners are let out into them two hours, in every fair day, for the purposes of exercise.

Under this system no means are used for the punishment of refractory convicts, except temporary confinement in a dark cell, deprivation of labor, and a diminution of the quantity of food.

Unlike the discipline, established at the Auburn prison, in New York, which is maintained by constant vigilance and coercion, by the keepers, that of Pennsylvania discards all harsh measures, and seeks the reformation of convicts by placing them under circumstances awakening only the better feelings of their nature, and fitting them