

*Loc. c  
Serials Rev. Dr. Sewell  
with the Society's reports*

CONSTITUTION  
—  
AND  
BY-LAWS  
OF  
THE BOSTON SOCIETY  
—  
FOR  
AIDING DISCHARGED CONVICTS.

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# SPECIAL NOTICE.

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SOCIETY FOR AIDING DISCHARGED CONVICTS.

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## GENERAL AGENT.

DR AUGUSTINE C. TAFT, State Agent for aiding Discharged Convicts, is *Sole* Agent of this Society. Office, No. ~~60 Cornhill~~ *Spring St.* Regular hours from 11 to 1 daily. Office open at other business hours. Persons wishing to employ Discharged Convicts, or to transact any other business with the Agent, are requested to call as above. All correspondence should be directed to Dr. TAFT, at the same place.

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## TREASURER'S OFFICE.

The office of the Treasurer of the Society, J. A. ANDREW, Esq., is in No. 4, Court Street. Persons desirous to become Annual or Life members of the Society, are requested to call as above, or to enclose the sum for membership, when a certificate, and receipt for the same will at once be sent to them by the Treasurer. He will also receive Donations. *The Treasurer is the only person authorized to receive money for the Society.*

## ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

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THIS Society was formed in April, 1846. Its object is to aid discharged convicts. It has been obliged to limit itself, mainly, thus far, to convicts discharged from the State Prison. It makes inquiry beforehand who are to be discharged from the State Prison in each month. It learns the character of each, what has been his conduct in Prison, what his habits, what the trade which he carried there with him, and which he has exercised there, or what trade he has been taught. It also learns what is the exact position of the convict as to friends, and what are their means, and their disposition to receive and aid him. About one hundred are discharged annually, and the average recommitments are about fifteen. The Society, proceeding upon exact knowledge of all these, and kindred details, derived directly from the government of the prison itself, seeks beforehand for employment for those who are to be discharged. It is in correspondence, by its agent, with persons who may need the services of the discharged convict, and thus, is always ready to receive and put him into employment, by which he may surely support himself. It receives the convict. It places him in a boarding-house where he is safe from bad example, and shut out from the society of his old associates in crime. He is received as a man, having the functions of

a man in society to perform, and is aided in their performance.

And now what has been the result of this agency of this Society? It has received, and extended its aid to about ninety convicts since its organization. We learn frequently from them, by letter, and from others, that they are doing well. They have already begun to return the money advanced to them by the Society, and express the sincerest gratitude for its treatment of them. And what is the farther result of this agency? The convict himself is made by it a responsible man. He is under the strongest moral obligation, and he feels it, too, to requite such service by fidelity to duty. He feels what the debt is which he owes, and is daily and hourly anxious to repay it. And what is the result of this agency to the public, to the community everywhere? Nothing but good can come from it to the State. Crime is at once checked at its fountain-head when the criminal is reformed, and wrong-doing is replaced by its whole opposite. The power of criminal example is at once brought to an end. The reformed man becomes an apostle of the true and of the right, and such a teacher rarely speaks in vain.

The Society has derived its means of aiding the discharged convict from a few friends who have been personally addressed, and who have most liberally contributed to its important objects. These objects have been readily understood, for they have been presented by themselves. Nothing has been allowed to be mingled with them of extraneous interest.

Having now for nearly a year labored in its great office by accidental, not precarious means, for its early friends have never ceased to be such, it now comes forward to ask for a wider sympathy, for a more permanent and larger patronage. It now looks to the State, and to the public throughout

the State, for means of larger usefulness, and for the reason, that the whole State is deeply interested in its permanency and success. It has now to acknowledge the most public form of patronage it can receive, in the appointment by the Governor and Council of its General Agent to the office of State Agent for aiding Discharged Convicts. In its important objects, it looks for the kindness and assistance of the community.

For what, now, is this money asked? It is a reasonable demand, for those who give money, to know for what it is to be used.

*First.* The Society must keep an Office in which to accommodate its officers,—its Agent and Secretary, and in which its records shall be kept; and most important of all, in which Discharged Convicts shall be at once received, and arrangements made for their temporary support, and for their future employment. It is farther to be a place at which those who desire the services of the convict may apply for such information as they need, and in which the Society shall discharge all its business with the public.

This Office should be exclusively devoted to the objects of the Society.

*Second.* The Society wants money to pay its agent.

*Third.* Money is wanted to enable the Society to open a house of its own, a home for discharged convicts, that they may be under such MORAL influence before they may get employment as shall be to them the means of their permanent reform. The Society regards this as its most important agency. Money is wanted to aid the discharged in other ways. Some have lived at a distance. They wish at once to return to their friends, and it is most desirable they should do so. They want sometimes clothing, and the So-

ciety must furnish this. They are sick, and must be healed.

*Fourth.* The Society has confined its operations to the State Prison Convicts. It chose to begin in such a manner as to make a fair experiment of what may be done. It has had great success. It would now, as soon as practicable, extend its operations, so as to embrace those who are discharged from Jail, the House of Correction &c.; do, in short, what the kindred Society in New York does, and which is done by similar ones in Europe. Suppose, for a moment, that a tythe of that benefit were done to this community, by saving these bad classes of criminals from at once committing new crime, or repeating the old, what a saving of money, and what a saving of men, would at once be brought about. The Society proposes to do this, and asks for money with which to do it.

A wide and most important field of labor is now brought before the public. The State, and the people, are asked for the means of entering faithfully into this work. The Society may hereafter ask for the public sanction of the Government on its labors; and, as in New York, that its officers may have official authority to visit prisons, and as the Inspectors now do, examine them. The Society pledges itself to its duty. It only asks for facilities and means to do it.

# GOVERNMENT.



*President,*  
WALTER CHANNING.

*Vice-President,*  
LOUIS DWIGHT.

*General Agent,*  
AUGUSTINE C. TAFT.

*Secretary,*  
CHARLES SPEAR.

*Treasurer,*  
J. A. ANDREW.

*Counsellors,*  
ROBERT F. WALLCUT,  
CHARLES K. WHIPPLE,  
JOHN W. BROWNE.

# CONSTITUTION.



ARTICLE 1st.—This Society shall be called the “Boston Society for Aiding Discharged Convicts.”

ARTICLE 2d.—Its objects shall be to aid and to provide employment for Discharged Convicts.

ARTICLE 3d.—The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, General Agent, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and three Counsellors.

ARTICLE 4th.—The above Officers shall constitute an Executive Committee who shall meet on the first Tuesday in every month.

ARTICLE 5th.—There shall be an annual Meeting during the anniversary week, in May, in Boston.

ARTICLE 6th.—Any person may become a Member of the Society by paying Two Dollars, annually. And any person contributing Thirty Dollars shall be considered a Life Member. Honorary and Corresponding Members may be elected by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 7th.—Any Society having the same objects in view may become Auxiliary to this by contributing to its funds and co-operating with it.



ARTICLE 8th.—The Executive Committee shall have power to add to their number such persons as, in their opinion, may be likely to promote the objects of the Society, and shall have power to fill any vacancy which may occur in any of the offices of the Society between the Annual Meetings.

ARTICLE 9th.—This Constitution may be amended by a vote of the majority of the Society, at any regular meeting, provided notice has been given at the preceding meeting.

## BY - LAWS.

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ARTICLE 1st.—The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society, and in his absence the Vice-President. He shall examine all Bills, and endorse them for payment before they are settled, and shall have the general superintendance of the affairs of the Society.

ARTICLE 2d.—This Society, for the present, shall be confined in its operations to convicts discharged from our State Prison.

ARTICLE 3d.—It shall be the duty of the General Agent, in company with a Member of the Board, to get subscriptions, collect money, and to pay the same into the hands of the Treasurer, as it shall be collected. He shall examine the claims of all persons who may apply for aid, and in case of question, consult the Board of Counsel, and keep a true and correct record of all his proceedings, in the premises, in a book prepared for the purpose, and make report of the same at each monthly meeting of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 4th.—The Secretary shall keep a fair record of each meeting of the Society, and the same record shall be read at the opening of the one succeeding, and manage the correspondence of the Society.

ARTICLE 5th.—The Treasurer shall receive all moneys from the General Agent and others, and enter the same into a book kept for the purpose, and pay all Bills under the direction of the President.

ARTICLE 6th.—The Board of Counsel shall be an advisory Committee ; and for the recommendation of any such measures as, in their opinion, may be necessary for advancing the interests of the Society.

ARTICLE 7th.—The officers and members of this Society shall never be individually responsible for its debts.