



LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana,
Moses Bates, Superintending and Financial Agent,
Office on Third Street, Near Louisiana Branch Bank

Baton Rouge, La. July 14 1862.
His Excellency Gov. Shepley
Sir

Herewith I send
such a statement of the condition of the
Louisiana Penitentiary as I am enabled to
make from the brief space of time which
has been allotted me since I have assumed
the duties of its management. The institution
is suffering much, and will suffer more
for want of cotton to keep the prisoners em-
ployed. This must be had as the Government
has the responsibility, and four hundred prisoners
and employees must be daily fed. To accomplish
the result requires a positive order forbidding
any officer or private in the army from
engaging in the cotton trade, and prohibiting
the army transports from freighting cotton
until the Penitentiary is supplied. This will
keep down the price of cotton, and without
such prohibition the expenditures will be sure
to exceed the income.

I also ask your attention to the fact of
committals to the prison. The laws of the State

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Date: July 14, 1862

Description: Moses Bates reported to George F. Shepley on the need for cotton to keep prisoners employed and to bring in income for the prison.

are not in force, nor are the courts assuming
their usual functions. One man has been
committed by the Provost Court for the Parish
of Baton Rouge for the term of two years, for
the crime of larceny. If this is a court of
competent jurisdiction I doubt not prisoners
may be sent here from New Orleans, and
other Parishes within Gen Butler's lines. Though
the Mittimus in the case referred to was without
seal I committed the prisoner to hard labor,
and under your instruction shall so dispose
of such cases in the future.

Trusting I may have the benefit of suggestions
which will enable me more intelligibly
to discharge my duties I am

Most Respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Moses Bates
Financial Agent & Supt.

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