John William Goff

Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst

On compliance with the new law's provisions, the mayor named the new commissioners of the separated agencies, he re- 
judges to the fact that the history of the combined agency had not been satisfactory but that he expected the new leader-
ship of the agencies would bring major improvement.

A few weeks later in his annual message, January 1996, he noted:

"On the first of this month the provisions of the statute passed at the last session of the Legis-
lation went into effect, dividing the then existing Department of Charities and Correction into two separate departments, to be
known as the Department of Public Charities and the Department of Correction. Provision
was made for three Commissioners of Public Charities and for one Commissioner of Correction. These appoint-
ments have already been made.

"I am quite sure that our citizens generally do not appreci-
iate the magnitude of the new departments referred to, or
the work imposed upon the former Department of Charities and Correction. The management of the
City Prison, the care of the insane and paupers, and the
health of the Penitentiary, together with the hospi-
tals, covers already about 17,000 people, when added to a quarter of that number in con-
templation.

"The condition of our City Prisons, to speak

of many forces to put aside differences, this
time to unite in battle against
another machine in the Tweed
twice headed by the same
"Boss" - Richard Croker, a
former Fourth Ave. Tunnel
youth gang leader.

On September 13, 1892, the Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, head of the Society for Preven-
tion of Crime, preached a sermon at the First Presbyterian Church charging City Hall, Tammany and the Police with providing the various elements. He backed up his accus-
atory rhetoric with sworn af-
fidavits from private detectives he had hired to accompany them as they investigated the links between vice houses, stationhouses and political clubs.

The sermon and affidavits fired public indignation prompting a probe in the spring of
1894 by a state legislative com-
mittee. The vigorous and un-
compromising efforts of its chief
counsel, Democrat attorney
John Goff, uncovered syndicate
crime and police corruption
raking in more than $7 million
annually and involving payoffs for promotions up the rank.


Police Courts, Jails Often Joined

Jefferson Market Prison, at 6th and Greenwich Avenue
and 10th St., was built in 1868. It featured a tall tower on
northeast corner with lighted clock dial. The police court, jail and mar-
ket shared the same building. The jail served as an annex of Tombs.

The judges at the Jefferson Market Police Court, like those
at the Tombs, Essex Market, Yorkville and Morrisania police court/

Jails were named by the mayor but, unlike the Criminal Court
prisons, the number of terms varied from 10 years at $5,000 per annum.

Most charges involved drunkenness, disorderliness, assaultive
conduct, and petty larceny. Most charges consisted of modest fines and/or short
imprisonments. Those imprisoned with serious crimes were

held for higher courts.