

PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

ST. JOHN, N.B., 1st July, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—During the year ending this day I have been engaged in the duties of my office. For a short time indeed in the spring of this year I was confined to a sick room, but now am fully restored to health. With this exception the services both on Sundays and Wednesdays have been regularly conducted, and have been rendered the more interesting by reason of an improvement in the singing. We have no instrument to guide us, but a number of the men are under weekly training in hymns and chants and responses, and these lead the rest; so that we have a hearty, united service in which all may join. The sermons are of a special class, suited to the actual wants and characters of the hearers, and it is evident from the expressions of many countenances that they do feel a real interest in the service. I have hope that a fair proportion of these men will return to the life of freedom, wiser and better though sadder men. The day school is efficiently conducted, and the average attendance is 24; perfect order is maintained in it. The books in the library are kept in good repair, and are much read at leisure hours and on Sundays. I took great pains in selecting suitable books; seeking such as would be so interesting as to induce the men to read them, and so instructive as to make them useful. We have now a considerable selection of books possessing both these qualities. As this is probably my last Report as Protestant Chaplain of this Penitentiary, I cannot but contrast the present state of things with the state in which I found them fourteen years ago. Then we had no books of any kind, except some old magazines which nobody read, and two or three remnants of prayer books which could hardly be used; we had no singing. I had to officiate in a tube which resembled a tub, and there were no robes. Now we have a neat desk, all the men are supplied with bibles, hymn books and prayer books, and we sing hymns, chants and short anthems; all things are done decently and in order.

And as to the effect of my ministrations on the hearts and lives of many of the men, I have good reason to know and to rejoice that by the blessing of God many have been turned from the paths of folly and sin into the way of truth and life. This is to me a real gratification in looking back on the years I have spent in this service. And now I have only to add my gratitude for the uniform kindness shown me by the various officers of this institution during the entire period of my association with them.

I am, respectfully yours,

GEO. SCHOFIELD, *Protestant Chaplain.*

To J. G. MOYLAN, Esq.,
Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa.

CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

ST. JOHN, N.B., 10th July, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—The following is the Annual Report which I have the honor to submit to your examination for the year ended 30th June, 1879:—

The average number of Catholic prisoners who have assembled together every Sunday for divine worship is:—Convicts, 31 men and 4 women; common prisoners, 34 men and 11 women; total 80.

The common prisoners owe, with few exceptions, all their misfortunes to intemperate habits. And, as it happens that the same person is sent to the Penitentiary for drunkenness, not unfrequently three or four times in the twelve months, the number of common prisoners appears larger than it is in reality. As soon as one of these poor victims of intemperance is committed to jail, it becomes the imperious duty of the Chaplain to undertake at once his reformation. Who, however, does not see the great difficulty of amending the moral conduct of offenders sentenced only for a short period to imprisonment, and then let free again among temptations of all kinds?