

The average daily number of convict Women may be placed at forty. Some of these have read nearly a Volume per week through the year. Absolute certainty cannot be attained upon this point, but undoubtedly the amount of reading among the convict Women was equal, on the average, to two Volumes per month each, eighty a month among all, and nine hundred and sixty Volumes during the year.

6. In conclusion, the good effect produced by the circulation and perusal of so many valuable Books cannot be easily appreciated, they having sown the seed of a rich and abundant harvest in future. They have communicated instruction to hundreds of men, and, independent of the intelligence conveyed, have afforded great satisfaction and contentment while reading them to the minds of these wretched men. They have given to them a better knowledge of their duty to themselves, to their families, to society, and to their God, and have assisted in fitting them for its fulfilment. Altogether the conviction seems irresistible that Libraries are calculated to perform most important functions in all Institutions for the reformation of fallen men, and it is to be hoped that the Chief Superintendent will not relax in his efforts until adequate Libraries are introduced into all the Prisons for reform, Penitentiaries, and to all the Jails of Canada.

7. Finally, it is gratifying to report the unanimity of feeling prevailing between the Roman Catholic Vicar-General and Protestant Chaplain in the selection of those Books, and in the desire and effort to make the Library a source of improvement, harmony and contentment among the Convicts; and to record how readily the Inspectors and Warden have endeavoured to promote the establishment of this Library, and the free and full circulation of these valuable Books.

KINGSTON, 1858.

HANNIBAL MULKINS, *Chaplain.*

The following is a copy of the Letter addressed to the Warden of the Municipal Council of the Counties of York and Peel, urging that Body to provide a Prison Library, for the free use of the Criminals in the Counties' Jail:—

I have the honour to submit the following for your consideration and that of the Education Committee of the Council over which you preside:

In the interesting yet painful facts disclosed in the report to the Council by the Governor of the Jail of these Metropolitan Counties there is matter for the gravest reflection, particularly in regard to the state of education among the criminals. There is, however, one agreeable fact stated, and that is, that of the one thousand four hundred and sixteen criminals in Jail during the year 1845, eight hundred and forty-eight are reported by Mr. Allen, the Governor, as able to read.

2. Now although we may not be able to reach so unfortunate a class of persons by education, (even were the Council to appoint a School Master among them), owing to the age of the chief part of the criminals, still the Council can, under the authority of the School Act and the Library Regulations of this Department, establish a Branch Library in the Jail for the benefit of those who can read. So benevolent and appropriate an act on the part of the Council would, no doubt, effect great moral good, particularly among the younger criminals; and this Department will gladly aid the Council in the matter should it see fit to concur in this suggestion.

3. By means of a well-selected Library of appropriate and instructive books, many whose moral perceptions are not yet blunted, and whose life is not yet hardened by crime, might be reclaimed, a new bias might be given to their feelings and tastes, and a purer and nobler ambition might inspire some of those who are now only noted, more or less, in the annals of crime.

J. GEORGE HODGINS,

TORONTO, February 5th, 1856.

*Deputy Superintendent of Education.*