

is "well spent." Describing the accommodations and conveniences of the convicts in these penitentiaries, we are told that the prisons are all provided with libraries, and that there are schoolmasters who direct the reading of the prisoners and assist the ignorant in obtaining a rudimentary education. A large majority of the prisoners appreciate works of fiction, books of travel and history, and some of them aim at a higher standard and seek advancement in knowledge, the foundation of which was laid in better and happier days. Convicts who evince a taste for reading during their imprisonment are generally well conducted; and Mr. Moylan informs us that "properly directed reading effects a salutary revolution in the soul of the prisoner." Regarding the comforts with which the convicts are surrounded, we are told that the sanitary conditions are good; water supply sufficient and of good quality; cells thoroughly cleansed, and either painted or whitewashed at proper intervals; floors scrubbed and kept clean; closets properly disinfected; body and bed linen regularly changed; frequent baths; food healthy, clean and sufficient; requisite medical attention, etc. With a high regard for the early religious inclinations of the ladies and gentlemen who are so well cared for at these expensive hotels, they are supplied not only with schoolmasters, but with spiritual guides also, both Roman Catholic and Protestant; and the testimony of the Catholic chaplain at the Kingston penitentiary, Father Twomey, is that the convicts under his spiritual care "assist at the holy sacrifice of the mass and at vespers, with an unvarying and edifying piety and reverence which would be creditable to any congregation in the land." Regarding the schools, we are told that they are well attended, and that the prisoner-pupils are earnest in their efforts to learn. The schoolmasters are required to be competent and educated, which, Mr. Moylan tells us, is necessary, as he "must be prepared to hold his own against men of varied information," and that "ignorance in the teacher would not long remain undiscovered" by his pupils.

Mr. Moylan's remarks regarding the Cobourg prison mat-making industry and the competition of English prison-made mats are strong arguments in favor of the National Policy which protects Canadian industries against the cheap labor of England and other European countries, and shows the wisdom of our laws which prohibit, under penalty of confiscation, the importation into Canada of any convict-made goods whatever. His assertions that "cheapness in price is an advantage to the greatest number, so that even granting that prison manufactures did sensibly affect the permanent prices of articles, such effect would be a good rather than an evil"; that "every dollar saved to the public by prison earnings is a dollar added to the fund from which wages must be paid," and that the competition such as that which exists in the Central Prison, at Toronto, is "a fair and legitimate rivalry," commend themselves to workingmen with great force.

Mr. Moylan probably thinks that his grasp on one of the most important economic questions that has ever occupied the mind and demanded the close attention of statesmen and humanitarians, fits him to be not only an inspector of penitentiaries, but a law maker for the whole community, and never make an error or mistake. It is clear, however, that he misapprehends even the very purpose for which prisons are instituted and supported. His expressions indicate that he thinks

that the most important concern in the management of these prisons is the spiritual welfare of the convicts committed to them; after which comes their education in both literary pursuits and in the manual trades, and, lastly, the employment of them in productive industries, regardless of the effect such employment may have on manufacturers who are engaged in and have their money invested in similar industries; and on the free labor which is dependent upon such industries for employment.

The generally accepted idea regarding the confinement of criminals in prisons is to punish them for crimes committed; and the cost of such imprisonment and punishment is legitimately taxed against the whole community or State, even as other expenses of the administration of justice and the support of Government is similarly taxed. It is unfortunate that men will commit crime, but when crime is committed the State does not undertake to reimburse the victim, but rather to punish the offender; and it is evidently unjust to make any particular class of the community bear any unequal share of the burden of such punishment, as is the case when convict labor is brought into competition with free labor. It is a painful exhibition of heartlessness and indifference to the rights of others when Mr. Moylan, in endeavoring to make the penitentiaries of the Dominion contribute somewhat to their own support, says that good rather than evil is the result of such competition; and that "convict labor can be utilized upon every description of work without the prison authorities being amenable to outside opinion, no matter by whom expressed." (Report of 1886.)

And while it is all right and proper that the unfortunate criminals incarcerated within prisons should be humanely treated, it should be borne in mind that their restraint is for punishment for crime committed; and that the interests of honest, free men should not be unduly injured by any method of punishment of criminals. There are but few of the laboring classes who fare as well in their freedom as Mr. Moylan's convicts fare in his penitentiaries. There are hundreds of thousands of good, honest, willing hardworking people in Canada who do not enjoy to even a very limited extent the comforts and conveniences that environ the convicts in our penitentiaries. These comforts are not restricted to plenty of healthy, clean and properly prepared food; good, warm, comfortable clothing; clean and well ventilated accommodations; good beds, and prompt and skillful medical attendance when sick; but there are schoolmasters to educate them, and plenty of good books to amuse and instruct them; and spiritual teachers to care for their soul's eternal salvation.

Mr. Moylan seems to rely for moral support in the strange position he has chosen to occupy not upon manufacturers as a class, who contribute so largely to the support of the Government, and whose contributions go to swell the enormous amounts necessary to support these penitentiaries; nor upon the working classes generally, who are equally interested in the matter, but upon the professional and non-producing classes who have no direct interests to be damaged or injured—judges, lawyers, clergymen, physicians, politicians and other visionary enthusiasts and so called humanitarians. And it is strange that while Mr. Moylan is desirous of becoming the champion benefactor of the convicts under his care, and employing them in occupations that would very seriously impair the prosperity