

the system could be placed under the supervision of men who have given the matter most intelligent consideration.

To be at all satisfactory, isolation must be complete, associated with industry of a kind that will be useful when prisoners are released. I think there can be no doubt that the ultimate results will prove, even in a financial sense, that it will pay.

Criminals will be lessened and repeaters fewer, thereby diminishing the expense of administration of justice. The still higher ground of saving men and making them good citizens, should not be lost sight of in a country like ours.

By all means let the experiment be tried as suggested; advances must be made, and the practical test is really the only one to show its advantages.

TESTIMONY OF DR. J. T. GILMOUR, WARDEN, CENTRAL PRISON.

In a symposium on Prison Reform, in the *Evangelical Churchman*, for February 21st, Warden Gilmour, on the question of Penal Sentences writes as follows:—

For the purpose of this brief article, we will divide criminals into two classes, accidental and habitual. In the accidental class we place those who, up to the time of their committal, have led honest lives, and after a time of imprisonment again lead honest lives.

The habitual criminal refuses to pursue honest labor, and follows crime during the intervals between his prison terms. It is apparent that the manner of dealing with these two should be vastly different. Is it? We fear not. The greatest concern, both for the benefit of the prisoner and the State, should be how to restore the criminal as an honest and useful member of society. A sentence having only punishment in view is most demoralizing. Reformation must be the great aim. That prison life demoralizes and degrades, none will deny. With the accidental criminal, the first offender, unless the crime is exceedingly grave, the highest aim of every tribunal should be to induce the man to lead an honest life without the prison contamination and the indelible brand on him and his family, of a prison record.

The Lord Chief Justice of England (Lord Coleridge), said: "There were few things more frequently borne in upon a judge's mind than the little good he could do a criminal by the sentence he imposed. These sentences often did nothing but unmixed harm," etc.

M. Laloue, Inspector-General of Prisons in France, stated before a commission, That with our existing system, twenty-four hours' imprisonment suffices under certain circumstances to ruin a man." The following conversation ensued: M. Talihand: "There is, perhaps, some exaggeration in the statement that twenty-four hours' imprisonment can ruin a man." M. Laloue: "I do not exaggerate. I say what I have seen. The prisoner meets a corrupt recidivist; they appoint a rendezvous outside, and that man is lost." The danger signal so definitely displayed by such eminent authorities should serve as a warning to every judge and magistrate, and induce them to hasten slowly before launching a human being on such a perilous sea.