
No. 6.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLMASTER.

DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY, 13th August, 1890.

SIR,—I am glad to report what I think was quite a successful year in the school of this Penitentiary.

The average attendance increased from 39·25 during the year 1888-89, to 44·92 for the one just closed, being at the rate of 14½ per cent. This, I think, may be considered as very satisfactory.

There are doubtless a few prisoners who come to school chiefly as a pastime, and with very little inclination to study, still, I am persuaded that the large majority are desirous of receiving instruction, and the rapidity with which many of them learn to read and write is really surprising, considering the limited time given to their tuition.

The conduct of the prisoners attending school is, generally speaking, all that I could wish for, and I have only been obliged in two instances during the year to dismiss pupils for improper behaviour.

The libraries are in fairly good order. A number of books from both the general and religious libraries were re-bound last fall; a few new books were added, and we have now upwards of 800 volumes in circulation.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. GRAY,
Schoolmaster.

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