

gaol, no matter what the charge may be he would be put in a cell by himself, and while there he would be beyond the influence of other prisoners. Only the officials and the chaplain might go there and talk with him and advise him, and show him the mistake he has made, and at the end of his sentence he is, at any rate, made no worse than he was when he came in. But take the present system, a boy gets into trouble with four or five others, I might think these are all boys of suitable characters to go together, and yet there is no telling what mischievous influence they might exercise over each other. A boy came in yesterday; he was brought in in the afternoon by a county constable, apparently well provided and well cared for. He was under seventeen years of age. "Well, my boy," I said, what is your trouble?" with tears in his eyes he replied, "I have been stealing." "What have you been stealing?" "\$12." There were some prisoners there and I put them back, then I went to the boy, "Whom did you steal the money from?" I asked, "From my master my employer," he said, "Where was he at that time?" "He had gone to church." "Where do you come from?" "I came from England." "What is your name?" "Patrick Kelly." "You had Irish parents?" "Yes but my mother and father are both dead, and I have no friends in this country." "How long have you been here?" "Six months." "What have you been doing?" "Working on the farm." "What did you take the money for?" "I wanted to go home to the Old Country to my friends." He said they worked him hard on this farm, and he wanted to get away. I told him that \$12 would not take him to the Old Country, but he was apparently under the impression that it would have been sufficient. When that boy was brought in I put him with two others who had never been there before, to-day he goes down to the court, is tried, pleads guilty and gets two months, but he is ruined by the contamination, there is no hope for him in my opinion. If he had been kept by himself in a separate cell so that he would have no communication with his fellow prisoners he might have been saved.

Question—You don't say from actual experience that all these boys are ruined—that is your surmise? Answer—Yes, but I have good reason for thinking it, in fact, I may say it is more than a surmise, it is the truth. A boy comes to me apparently heart-broken, but he will soon commence a conversation with the others, and in two or three hours begin to look quite bright, the next day he is up to all the mischief you could imagine, just the same as all the others.

Question—But say that the boy has no inclination to become a thief, and is no thief, and not a bad boy at all, but has been led into crime by some accidental circumstances? Answer—But the chances are against him once he goes to gaol, I think he will learn so much in the gaol through the association with other prisoners that his experience will have an abiding effect upon him.