

years, and five others at the age of fifteen. These are nearly all orphans, and have no one to receive and protect them on their return into society. To add to their difficulties, they will meet with that distrust from society to which their condition as prisoners will have given rise; thus they will find themselves reduced to the sad alternative of begging their bread, stealing, or dying of hunger.

It is to be desired that summary power should be given to the Justices of Police and Recorder's Courts to send to this Institution all little vagabonds and young unfortunate individuals who may be convicted of slight offences, to the commission of which they are frequently impelled by necessity, instead of committing them to the common gaols for some weeks, or even months, there to reside in the midst of criminals of all ages and all shades of depravity. Such a change in the law respecting Reformatories would do away with the serious evil which results from frequent confinements before the prisoner is sent to such Institutions as this.

It may not be out of place to remark that in the case of nearly all the young prisoners, this class of unfortunate youths evince at first neither aptitude nor taste for labor. The tender age of most of them, joined to a habit of despairing laziness contracted during a miserable existence when they were at liberty, make them unfit, for a long time, for any occupation, and it is only by means of great patience, firm and continuous efforts and good advice frequently repeated, that I succeed in making them display good will, and in creating within them a disposition to learn a trade; but this success is never attained in less than eighteen months, or sometimes a longer term, of surveillance and exertion.

I must here state that the zealous ministrations of the two Chaplains contribute powerfully to the moral and intellectual reformation of the prisoners.

It gives me pleasure to testify, before concluding this report, to the punctuality, activity and intelligence displayed by the officers of this Institution in the discharge of their duties, thus rendering the performance of the numerous details of mine less difficult.

The Reports of the Chaplains and of the Physician of the Institution, and the statistics of the Accountant, are appended to my report, which I have the honor to present to you, and which will, I hope, meet with your approbation.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. X. PRIEUR,

Warden, R. P., L. C.

Reformatory Prison,  
St. Vincent de Paul,  
31st December, 1862.