

this country seems to be verging towards the same: I mean the state prison, or penitentiary system, where they employ mechanics and trades-people at their handicrafts. It looks all very well to have a large prison or penitentiary, capable of containing two or three hundred, or a thousand convicts, and a great part of the expense of the establishment defrayed by the labour of the convicts. But the American mechanics, who have had a fair trial of it, are decidedly opposed to it, because it interferes with their trades; for master-manufacturers of shoes, saddlery, clothiery, iron work, &c., who contract with the managers of the state prison, are enabled to undersell the regular trades-people. I saw a number of articles, produced by convict labour, exhibited at a public meeting in New York; and in the prices, compared with similar articles made by honest trades-people, the difference was so great that there appeared good cause of complaint.

It is not likely that our prison boards and county gentlemen will understand this; but, if, in the penitentiary at Perth, and others that are being established in different parts of the