

convicts, old and young, said to a Christian friend, "such things are coming into my eyes and into my ears, that they get down into my heart, and I find it difficult to pray;" what is it but an illustration of the importance of solitude?

It is the object of these questions to put the friends of improvement to thinking; for we are satisfied for ourselves, that there is such a thing as architecture adapted to morals; that other things being equal, the prospect of improvement, in morals, depends, in some degree, upon the construction of buildings; and that among certain classes of persons, and for certain purposes, separate sleeping rooms should be provided. How far this principle ought to be extended, we do not pretend to decide; but we have no doubt that it should be extended to all prisons; that it is scarcely less necessary for the vicious poor, in extensive alms-houses; that it would be useful, in all establishments, where large numbers of youth of both sexes are assembled and exposed to youthful lusts; and that it would greatly promote order, seriousness, and purity in large families, male and female boarding schools, and colleges.

The principle is already applied to the prisons in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New-York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the District of Columbia; to the houses of refuge in New-York, and Philadelphia; and resolves have passed the Legislatures of the respective States, directing an estimate of the expense of doing it, or measures are in progress with reference to its accomplishment, in Vermont, New-Jersey, Georgia, and Illinois. It has been proposed to apply the principle, and there is little doubt it will be done, to the extensive alms-houses now erecting near New-York and Philadelphia, so far as the intemperate, vagrant and vicious poor are concerned; and it is obvious from very slight observation, on many poor-houses, that their character would not suffer by the application of the same principle to them.

The principle has not yet been applied to boarding schools, so far as our knowledge extends; and this is the more to be lamented, since most of the jealousy, whispering, heart-burning, censoriousness, discontent, revelling, juvenile gambling, impurity, and such like, have their beginning in the chambers, after the youth have retired from the observation of their teachers and guardians, two, three, or five in a room, and have been left to themselves;—which would all be prevented, with perfect ease, and rendered physically impossible, so far as evil communication from one to another, takes place in the chambers, by a building so constructed, that the dormitories should not only be separate, but be so arranged that fifty, or one hundred, if necessary, should be under the eye of the tutor or guardian from the door of his study—and if in this door there is a window, the whole building is under supervision and control from the tutor's chair.

A proposal has been made for the erection of such a building, and the plan furnished to a gentleman, for an important school in Massachusetts. The plan of this building is as follows:—to be three stories high, having the rooms arranged, on either side of a centre space, extending through the building lengthwise.—The space to be unbroken from the floor of the lower story to the arch above the third. The two upper stories having narrow galleries extending two and a half feet from the doors, towards the centre, leaving an unbroken space between the opposite galleries.—The rooms to be entered from these galleries, through doors, in each of which is a glass window. Each room to have a window through the external wall, which, together with the large windows in the ends of the building, and sky-lights, will make the whole light and airy. The length of the building, the width of the space between the galleries, and the size of the rooms,—as these points do not affect the principle of separation and supervision,—are left to the taste, judgment and resources of the proprietor. Rooms, however, 8 feet by 10, freely ventilated from the centre, will be large enough. The tutor's apartment to be placed on the lower floor, at the end and entrance of the building.

The advantages of this plan of building, besides the great advantages of separation and supervision, are economy and safety in regard to warming and lighting: as all the rooms may be warmed, through the arch, by a furnace connected with it, and lighted by lamps suspended from the arch; by which arrangement, danger from fire, and expense would be greatly diminished. These advantages, however, are secondary in comparison with the moral effect.

Here a youth, if he is disposed to study, read, and reflect, or in any way improve his time, without interruption, may do it; and here the idle, profane and vicious youth is effectually prevented from corrupting his fellows, during those hours of darkness, in which there is the greatest danger. We believe, that few persons are fully aware of the effect of such a building, under an attentive supervision, in producing order, sobriety, gentleness, docility, and attention to duty—to say nothing of higher moral and religious impressions. Thus an important division of time, viz. the latter hours of the evening, the hours of the night, and of early light, are secured from the external and injurious influence of temptation, by the construction of the dormitories.

Another division of time is into hours for receiving food; and for this period of time there is such a thing as construction adapted to morals. The form of the room, the form and position of the tables, the position of the seats, and the position of the officer who presides, are worthy of particular attention. The room should be large, having no partitions or alcoves to intercept the sight; and narrow tables, having persons seated only on one side of the table, are found most conducive to order, in a common hall, where a large number of persons, whose principles and habits are not established, assemble to take their food. The reasons of this are obvious: narrow tables admit the attendants to pass, on the side where no persons are seated, without passing the food over the heads and shoulders of the guests. Thus the provocation, inconvenience and delay are avoided, which arise from looking first over one shoulder and then over the other, to find the waiter; of getting and returning the dishes after he is found; or of having the food dropped upon the persons of those over whose heads and shoulders it must be passed.

Again—narrow tables are the best, because they greatly facilitate the operations of the waiters; and much of the ill-will in common halls arises from their tardy movements. Besides, the narrow tables can be placed in successive rows, or in a hollow square, so as to admit of a more perfect supervision from the eye of the presiding officer. To correspond with narrow tables, the seats should be single and permanent, which prevents the jostling on benches, or the inconvenience of moving them after several persons are seated, and also prevents the noise and confusion of chairs. To finish the arrangement of tables and seats in the common hall, the presiding officer's seat and table should be at the end of the hall, a little elevated, and manifestly facing the other tables. Whether to secure the most perfect supervision and easiest control, the seats at the other tables should be placed on the side of them towards the presiding officer, or on the opposite side, might be decided by experiment; our opinion is, that they should be placed on the side towards the presiding officer, so as to face the opposite end of the hall.

These suggestions, which may prove conducive to order in large institutions, in that division of time which is allotted to eating, will not be deemed unimportant by those who have witnessed the disorder, dissatisfaction, and ill manners, which are often generated in a common hall.

Another division of time, for which architecture must adapt a place, is the period allotted to labour. This, at present, is no period of time at all in regard to many public institutions; but the time is approaching, we believe, when it will not to the same extent as it is now, be deemed wise and proper to make no provision whatever for the useful application of that period of time, which must necessarily be occupied in giving health and activity to the body by some form of bodily exercise. Already there are institutions springing up, in which the time and strength formerly wasted are to be usefully employed. In the houses of refuge for juvenile delinquents; in the new prisons, and alms-houses, and some literary institutions, there are not only hours, but places, for labor. In other institutions of great importance, there are no places, or no proper places, for labor, and therefore no hours for labor, and consequently an immense expense for their support. To obviate the evil, there should be convenient places of labour provided. If in the construction of buildings for a public institution, there are no such places provided, there will be ordinarily no labor. In the alms-house in New-York, for instance, where have been confined, during the last winter, 2400 souls, there is no adequate provision of places for the labor of such a population, and consequently an expense to the city, has been, during the year, about \$10,000 for the support of the

institution. If in the same institution there had been, as in the prison at Auburn, several thousand feet of work-shops, of convenient construction, admitting of an easy supervision, and appropriated exclusively to labor, the waste strength of this corrupt and corrupting population might greatly diminish the expense of its support. It is obviously important, therefore, that there should be work-shops convenient, appropriate, and abundant. The form of these shops, perhaps, cannot be more convenient and economical, than those in the prison at Auburn, which are one story buildings, not frequently broken by partition walls (for this intercepts the supervision) extending around the premises on three sides, forming a hollow square, and making a part of the external inclosure, and leaving the intermediate space between the principal building and the shops perfectly free from all obstacles to the most free and easy supervision.

Another mode of building work-shops would be in one story buildings, on the radiating plan, like the arches between the dormitories in the new prison in Philadelphia, which would admit of a perfect inspection of all the persons employed in them from the centre.

Another mode still would be circular shops, having recesses for labor, arranged on the circumference, admitting of perfect inspection from the centre, while the laborers face the circumference.

Another mode still, is a larger enclosure, covered with a roof, and unbroken by partitions. In all the above plans of building, the great object is to preserve the space unbroken by partitions, which intercept the supervision, and make hiding places for idleness and mischief.

We have thus given some general rules concerning architecture, as adapted to morals, for three periods of time, viz. the hours of retirement, hours for eating, and hours for labor. There remains another period, i. e. hours for instruction. The most important of these are those of the morning and evening devotions, the day school and evening school, and the Sabbath. For the first and latter hours, a chapel seems indispensable; though there are many public institutions in this country, where there are none; and where there is no chapel, there is generally found little or nothing which would adorn one. A pure and holy religion is no more likely, in public institutions, than elsewhere, to perform its morning and evening devotions in kitchens, work-shops, and night rooms. In general, therefore, where there is no chapel there is scarcely the form of religion. There are some exceptions to this remark, where an unusual zeal has carried Christians and ministers into work-shops, kitchens, and even dungeons, to perform their vows; but this kind of religious instruction is occasional, irregular, and inefficient, and is no better in a public institution, in producing reformation, than in the new country, or infant colony. The moment the desert begins to blossom as the rose, a convenient place for public worship, in the form of a church, chapel, or commodious and pleasant apartment, will be provided; or rather, perhaps, in the order of time, the place of worship precedes joy and gladness. Why it should have been expected, that reformation in prisons should precede the ordinary means of grace, or why so many should be found despairing of reformation, while places for the use of these means in many extensive establishments are not thought of, in the construction, is not very strange, while the general laws of cause and effect remain in operation. If it be admitted, that there should be chapels or places of worship, it is not to be supposed, in this age, that those evils in construction will be permitted which were common a few years since, in places of worship, viz. seats in which the hearers shall face every way, and stair-cases in the body of the house and in sight of the congregation; nor deep galleries, in the rear of which shall be large square pews, in which vicious persons may be concealed in their amusements from all those who would be disposed to prevent them. The modern and improved style of building, so that every hearer may see the speaker, and may be pleasantly seated facing the minister, needs no arguments to show its importance. It needs no proof, that there is a close connexion in chapels between morals and architecture; and a retrograde movement, here, in reference to architecture, as conducive to morals, would be as painful, as an advance in the science would be pleasing, in all extensive establishments, with reference to those periods of time allotted to other purposes.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]