

gested that course, in consequence of the urgency of the Surgeon for their removal, as expressed in his letters to them, and their disinclination to take upon themselves decidedly to go contra to his recommendations, while, at the same time, they did not feel that they would be justified in applying for their pardon and removal as he desired. The Board were, however, not insensible to the difficulties pointed out by you "attending a conclusive opinion on the sanity or unsoundness of mind of these Convicts, to be pronounced by strangers on contradictory evidence;" difficulties to which every inquest *delunatico inquerendo* is necessarily subjected.

You will perceive, in taking these steps—which they have done in regard to the Convicts Reveille and Brown—the Board have anticipated His Excellency's desire, that "means should be found within the Prison for treating them as Lunatic Patients, under the Surgeon's directions, exposed to no punishment, and subject only to the necessary restraints used in cases of persons of unsound mind;" they, however, beg to point out that the whole of the medical arrangements of the Institution, as well as the plans of the Hospital, and the accommodations for the sick, have been prepared or approved of by the Surgeon himself; and that no provision has in them been made for the management of insane patients, whose permanent treatment in the Institution the Surgeon has never contemplated, and whose immediate removal he has at all times urged.

Indeed, the Surgeon has always contended, that the Penitentiary being a Prison for those subject to punishment, insane patients ought not to be kept there, and he accordingly did not attend them, unless when labouring under bodily sickness, until the present Board especially directed him to do so; and desired that the names of all Convicts reported to be insane should be kept on the sick list, with a view of their receiving his continued attention, and to his having an opportunity of at once directing any alteration in their treatment which any change in their state ——— mental ——— might in his opinion render expedient.

The Governor General will thus perceive, that while the Board coincide with His Excellency's opinion, that the arrangements in the Penitentiary are incomplete, unless Convicts who may happen to become lunatics, can be treated within the walls for insanity, as well as any other disease to which they may be subject—such has not formerly been the case, nor does it seem to have been contemplated either by the former Boards, by the Surgeon, or indeed by the Law itself—and that while the present Board have done all which is in their power in anticipating His Excellency's desires, an alteration in the Law will be requisite to carry those desires into operation to the full extent which would be expedient.

It is, therefore, to be hoped that the Commissioners of Inquiry may be enabled to suggest such an

alteration in the law as may enable Lunatic Convicts to be treated within the walls as advantageously as in institutions for the care of the insane, unless it should be deemed more expedient to alter the law in such a manner as to grant the power of temporarily removing them to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, without the necessity of granting them pardons, and subject to their re-transmission to the Penitentiary, in case of their being cured before the expiring of their sentences.

The Board have further to state, in reference to your remark, as to their having thought fit to make application to the Keeper of the Montreal Gaol, regarding the former conduct of Convict Reveille, that this was in accordance with the practice of the Institution in all cases where imposition is imputed, and that it has led to most beneficial results in assisting in its detection; of which the Board may state a very recent instance in the case of a Convict who feigned to be deaf and dumb, and to be afflicted with epilepsy, in consequence of which he was, by desire of the Surgeon, confined to his cell, and afterwards kept in the hospital for upwards of twelve months, thereby escaping from that part of his sentence, imposing hard labour, and creating doubts of his sanity in the minds of the Board; but who, through information received from the authorities of the Gore District, and the vigilance of the Hospital-keeper, was at last detected, confessed his deception, and is now, and has been for the last six months, at hard labour like the other prisoners.

The Board have only, in conclusion, to state their unqualified satisfaction, at learning that their reiterated wishes are about to be complied with, in the appointment, by His Excellency, of Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of the Institution; when they have no doubt that all matters relating to it, now before Government, will receive a strict and impartial investigation; and when every opportunity will be afforded to all persons having or pretending to have charges respecting individuals holding office in the Prison, of substantiating them; and when it is also to be hoped that those charged with the inquiry may be enabled to suggest further improvements, tending to make the establishment still more efficient than it now is, either by the framing of new regulations under the existing law, or by the improvement of the law itself; in the furtherance of which desirable object His Excellency may rest assured of the cordial assistance and co-operation of the Board, both collectively and individually.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed,) THOMAS A. CORBETT,  
President of the Board of Inspectors,  
Provincial Penitentiary.