

come to the point at which it loses its name and nature in the complete separation of individuals. We come then, to the conclusion that each convict is to be separated from his fellows."

"No classification whatever except absolute separation from other criminals, can obviate the intrinsic evil of association. That high authority on the question, the Rev. John Clay, observes 'I Believe it to be beyond human power safely to classify prisoners. I dare not trust even six or eight prisoners in any class or association which leaves conversation free.'"

In 1872, shortly before his decease, Suringar, the John Howard of Holland, recorded as the result of half a century of special opportunities of observation at home and abroad: "I have become firmly convinced that whatever experiment may be made in the classification of prisoners, or in the use of all other means, the separate system of our country, though decidedly not perfect, is the best as compared with other systems; and that it must be adopted."

Rev. John Clay for many years chaplain of Preston Jail, says: Without separation and non-intercourse, a chaplain's efforts would be comparatively fruitless. But on the other hand, separation and silence, unrelieved by the benign influence of religion, are worse than fruitless—positively injurious."

The Howard Association in 1886, places itself on record as follows: "The Committee remain unshaken in their conviction that the fundamental principle of all prison efficiency consists in the utmost practicable amount of separation from evil companionship, with the provision of as many good influences, both by official and non-official visitation as possible."

In 1886, the chief administrator of English Prisons, Sir E. F. Du Cane, in a letter to the Secretary of the Howard Association, respecting the Local Jails, wrote as follows:—"The Separate System never was more uniformly and universally carried out than now, and never stood in higher repute. All our (Local) prisons are on the Separate System; and if any are torn down, a fate to which between fifty and sixty have been consigned during the last eight years, it is, so far as prison systems and management affect the matter at all, a sign of the efficiency of the Separate System."

TESTIMONY OF DR. M. LAVELL, LATE WARDEN KINGSTON
PENITENTIARY.

The recommendations suggested regarding the isolation of prisoners in gaols and prisons, and classification of first offenders, are worthy of most careful consideration. Carrying out these recommendations will go a long way in helping to solve problems, now so perplexing to penologists of the humane type. I have long been of the opinion, that if reformation of the prisoner is to be kept in view, it must be along the lines of the proposed changes. These proposed changes in Toronto gaol would involve expenditure somewhat in advance of present methods, but it is worth testing, particularly where it is proposed to begin, as