

more, the people are so accustomed to see the government act according to its good pleasure, that public opinion exercises no control over the treatment of offenders when they have been put into prison. In England every newspaper reader knows pretty well what is the *régime* of convicts under sentence of penal servitude, and of prisoners in ordinary gaols, and it would surprise the public considerably to hear that such and such a man, owing to his having influential friends, was being treated with exceptional favor. In France such a thing would cause no surprise. Count d'Haussonville's report recommended that prisoners of rank or fortune should be treated exactly like humble culprits; but though this was agreed to in principle, it has been but little carried out in practice. Revolutions and other political changes produce so many misdemeanors in high life, cause so many fraudulent bankruptcies, bring into gaols so many men of high standing who have dabbled in bubble companies, that the stigma of imprisonment is not felt as it is in England. The courts sentence an ex-cabinet minister to imprisonment for swindling, but the very term *escroquerie* is smoothed down in his case into *abus de confiance*, and the authorities connive with prison governors in making the lot of the interesting victim as easy to bear as possible. He is not made to serve out his whole sentence. Sometimes he does not serve out any portion of it. After his sentence he is informed that the public prosecutor will send him a summons to surrender after his appeal has been made; but the public prosecutor omits to send that summons. He sends a friend instead, who advises the well-connected delinquent to leave for a few months or years, as the case may be, and the public, who know very little of what goes on in the gaols, are none the wiser. Those who know shrug their shoulders: "*C'est tout naturel*," they say, "*il est riche: il a le bras long*."

One may therefore premise that in the treatment of prisoners within French prisons, *maisons centrales* (penitentiaries), and convict establishments, the one thing lacking is uniformity.

II.

Readers of French law reports will notice that the judges of correctional courts often inflict sentences of *thirteen months'* imprisonment. It makes all the difference to a prisoner whether

he gets twelve or thirteen months, for in the former case he may serve out his time in the local house of detention and correction; whereas in the latter event he is consigned to a *maison centrale* or penitentiary. What is more, if, being sentenced to twelve months, he likes to undergo his punishment in cellular confinement, one quarter of it will be remitted; so that in many cases a sentence of twelve months means one of nine only.

Prisoners sent to the *maisons centrales* have no option as to the manner in which they shall serve their terms, as they are made to work under the associated silent system.

In Paris there are five prisons for male offenders, one for boys, the *Petite Roquette*, and one for women, *St. Lazare*. The chief of the male prisons, *La Grand Roquette*, is only used as a *dépôt* for convicts under sentence of transportation or *réclusion*; and the prison in the *Rue du Cherche-Midi* is for soldiers. *Mazas* is the house of detention for prisoners awaiting trial, but it also contains about eight hundred prisoners undergoing sentences of not more than one year's duration. *Ste. Pélagie* and *La Santé* are houses of correction where the associated system mostly prevails, and the latter is at the same time, a general infirmary. All convicted prisoners who are diseased, infirm, and who require continual medical attendance, are sent to the *Santé*.

It rests with the public prosecutor and not with the judges to determine in what prison a delinquent sentenced by the correctional courts shall be confined. Herein favoritism comes largely into play. A prisoner of the lower orders, having no respectable connections, will not get the option of serving his time in solitary confinement and thereby earning a remittance. If he petitions for this favor, he will be told that there are no cells vacant, and he will be removed to *Ste. Pélagie* or the *Santé*, where he will sleep in a dormitory and work in an associated *atelier*. If he be a shoemaker or tailor, he will work at his own trade; if not, he will be employed in making brass chains, card-board boxes, paper bags, toys or knick-knacks for vendors of those thousand trifles which are comprised under the designation *articles de Paris*. Being paid by the piece, he will have every inducement to work hard. Of his earnings government will retain one-third towards the expenses of his keep: one-third will