

Visitation at the gaol has been confined altogether to the cases of those whose friends have requested us to do so, all access to the prisoners as a whole being still withheld. At least a dozen ex-convicts from the Penitentiary of St. Vincent de Paul have sought advice, sympathy and help as their sentences expired. The conduct of some of these young men has been altogether satisfactory since they were set at liberty, and a bond of grateful friendship has been established in more than one instance where they have gone to a distance, as shown by their interesting correspondence. In the case of three convicts whose sentences were exceptionally severe, the Government were petitioned to grant a reprieve, and in each case the response was favorable. Two of these were mere lads, 18 years of age, when doomed to a four years' punishment in the penitentiary. Almost on landing from the steamer which brought them from England, they, when under the influence of drink, stole a free ride in a buggy which they found unattended, were charged with stealing the horse, and, being undefended, got this severe sentence. One has sailed to rejoin friends in Australia; the other, a wiser if a sadder man, has been taught a lesson as to the ruinous character of strong drink he will not soon forget. He obtained a good situation immediately, which he has filled to his employer's entire satisfaction, and is saving money fast.

These are but a moiety of the instances that might be adduced of what has been done during the past year to "rescue the perishing, care for the dying;" at the same time, private visitation has not been overlooked or neglected where opportunity offered or a request came that it would be acceptable. One young gentleman whose acquaintance was thus made, at what at the time seemed his deathbed, regularly writes from the Pacific Slope where his delicate health obliges him to live, full of gratitude and affection, though it is not likely we will ever see "him face to face" again in this world.

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