

For myself I do not hesitate to avow, that while I am totally opposed to the false and mistaken humanity which seeks to make the condition of the criminal in gaol an object of envy to the honest laborer outside ; while I am prepared to advocate a stern and severe prison discipline, a discipline calculated to teach the lesson "that the way of transgressors is hard"—while I am desirous to see "*penal labor*" part of the ordinary sentence of every prisoner in the *central* gaols, where the proper machinery for the purpose might be established, and the necessary supervision exercised—yet I am fully persuaded that it is wrong in principle and unwise in practice to make any *industrial occupation* part of a prisoner's punishment. Our efforts should be directed rather to conquer than to increase that dislike to labor which, in all probability, has mainly contributed to bring the man to prison. Make ordinary labor part of the prisoner's punishment, and his aversion to labor cannot fail to be intensified. If, on the contrary, the discipline of our prisons could be so organized (as I believe it might be in the proposed central prisons), that the prisoners should come to regard the permission to work as an indulgence and a boon, something would be done to diminish the man's distaste for labor, if not to give him a positive liking for it. "Make your prisoners industrious," said Howard the philanthropist, "and you make them virtuous." Which system is the more likely to make men industrious, that which makes labor a punishment, or that which makes labor a reward ?

I do not, however, deem it necessary here to do more than allude to this objection to making industrial labor the sole or principal part of the punishment of the prisoners in our gaols, because, as I have already stated, however anxious we might be to do so, it would be practically impossible to carry out such a sentence.

As a matter of fact, then, we cannot enforce "hard labor," whether "*penal*" or "*industrial*" in our common gaols. But is there anything to prevent us from enforcing what I propose to substitute in its stead—"solitary confinement?" None whatever. All experience proves that the deterrent influence of "solitary punishment" is incomparably greater than that of hard labour, however severe the latter may be. There is no part of prison discipline