

As to jails, prison reform declares that the county jail system as administered in the United States is a disgrace to civilization, and that the administration of justice cannot be freed from the charge of maintaining training-schools of crime, until the construction and management of these places are radically changed, so that their inmates shall be separately confined, and all contaminating intercourse rendered impossible. The county jail should secure such separation that no prisoner shall be allowed to associate with any other prisoner.—*Ex-President Rutherford B. Hayes.*

“Wherever there is an effective prison system, a separate cell is assigned to each prisoner.”

“Separation can be carried out without any injury to the mental or bodily health, it is more deterrent, affords greater opportunities for the working of reformatory influences and a smaller staff of officers is required to maintain order and discipline.”—*Sir Edmund F. DuCane.*

A select committee of the House of Lords in 1863, recommended that the Separation of prisoners should be the rule in all prisons. The Prison Act of 1865 makes the separation of prisoners (both by night and by day) compulsory.—*Sir Edmund F. DuCane.*

[The following are excerpts from “Penology and Preventive Principles” by Wm. Tallack, Secretary of the Howard Association.]

“The separation of prisoners (from each other only) and for duly limited periods, is a first essential of good discipline, and an indispensable condition of success in penal treatment, whether intended as deterrent or reformatory. It is also the best, if not the only efficient basis for classification. It is the safest and ultimately, though not immediately, the cheapest arrangement for adoption in criminal institutions.”

“One of the principal advantages of the cellular plan is its very great ultimate economy to the State. The immediate and first expense of the system, in the cell construction, is more costly than that of associated prisons. But the ultimate expense is very much less.”

“To the above remarks it may be added, that the associated intercourse of prisoners is a *concentrated* form of evil. Even in the worst conditions of free society, there is some considerable admixture of persons who are more or less respectable and virtuous; but the jail population is exclusively composed of offenders.”

“It has been proved again and again that no system of supervision, however careful, can obviate the corrupting tendencies of the association of criminals.”

“Every association of convicts that can be formed, will in a greater or less degree, corrupt, but will never reform those of which it is composed, and we are brought to the irresistible conclusion that classification once admitted to be useful, it is so in an inverse proportion to the numbers of which each class is composed; and it is not perfect until we