

SEPARATE REPORT
OF
MR. E. A. MEREDITH.
FOR 1866.

During the year 1866, I visited and inspected the Gaols enumerated below :—

In Upper Canada.

Belleville,
Brockville,
Cobourg,
Hamilton,
L'Orignal,

Napanee,
Ottawa,
Perth,
Picton.

In Lower Canada.

Aylmer.

A brief report of these visits is subjoined.

UPPER CANADA.

BELLEVILLE.

(County of Hastings.)

I visited this Gaol on the 22nd September. There were three males and two females then in prison, of the latter, one was a lunatic.

I was much surprised to find the addition to the Gaol far advanced towards completion. The addition, which is virtually a new Gaol with 18 separate night cells, appears to be very substantially built. The contractors informed me that it would be ready for the reception of prisoners within two or three months.

The building operations had necessitated the removal of the wooden enclosure of the old Gaol. The new enclosing wall was built, but the gate into the main yard had not been hung. The consequence was that one side of the old Gaol, the side on which the male prisoners are confined, was quite open to the public.

I called the attention of the authorities to this very dangerous and objectionable state of things, and recommended that, if the permanent gate could not be put up at once, some temporary gate should be provided in the meantime which should be closed daily after the workmen left.

The local authorities still neglect to supply the prisoners with the Gaol clothing prescribed by the Rules. It is hoped that, before the transfer of the prisoners to the new Gaol, the clothing will be supplied, as also the bedsteads and other articles of cell furniture which the Rules direct.

It is fortunately not necessary to refer to the old Gaol further than to congratulate the County of Hastings on the early prospect of abandoning it.