

*Mr. Attorney General*, from the Committee to whom was referred His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's Message, with the copy of a Despatch from the Right Honorable Lord Glenelg, suggesting several amendments to the Act passed in the Session of 1838, "for the regulation of the several Jails within this Island, and establishing Prison discipline therein," presented to the House the Report of the said Committee, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered it to the Clerk, who read the same, as follows:

Your Committee, to whom was referred the Message of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, on the subject of the Act of this Island, passed in the Session of 1838, "for the regulation of the several Jails within this Island, and establishing Prison Discipline therein," and the various documents accompanying said Message, beg leave to report as follows: They recommend the adoption of that part of the Imperial Statute, which requires the Keeper or other Officer visiting Female prisoners, to be accompanied by the Matron, if one be appointed; but as there is no permanent appointment yet made of a Matron for Prince and King's County Jails, your Committee recommend that it be part of the clause, that in such case the Keeper, or other Officer should be accompanied by some female, leaving the selection of such female, in the case of said two Jails, to the discretion of the Keeper or Visiting Justices. Your Committee also recommend that that part of the Sixth Rule of the Imperial Statute, which relates to the classification of Prisoners, be adopted, as also the proviso of that rule, which authorises the Visiting Justices to employ prisoners in menial offices within the prison and its precincts. Your Committee also recommend the adoption of the 14th Rule of the Imperial Act, which allows prisoners confined for Debt, or before trial for any supposed crime, and not receiving any Jail allowance, to procure for themselves, or receive articles of food, bedding and clothing, and other necessities, subject to such rules and regulations as the Visiting Justices may deem necessary; and also that part of the 17th Rule of said Act, which requires a Surgeon to examine a prisoner when committed; and that part of same rule, which prohibits the discharge of any prisoner whilst labouring under acute disease, unless at his own desire. Your Committee also recommend the adoption of the 18th Rule of the Imperial Act, relating to the bedding of Prisoners, and the numbers confined in each cell; also that part of the 19th Rule of said Act which relates to the providing of soap, towels and combs; also, that part of section 12, of same Act, which requires the Rules of the prison to be exhibited in conspicuous places within it; also, the 23d Rule of the same Act, which prohibits Garnish money; and also, the 40th section of said Act, which impowers the Justices to inflict punishment on persons convicted of introducing, or attempting to introduce spirituous or fermented Liquors within prisons. The above recommendations appear to your Committee to meet all the objections taken by my Lord Glenelg, to the Island Statute, with the exception of objection 3, 5 and 6; the third is, that "provision should be made for the regular employment of convicted and other persons;" the fifth, that "provision should be made for the performance of religious services, by a Chaplain, or other appointed officer;" and the sixth, "that the means of instruction ought to be afforded to the prisoners, and enforced;" and to the third objection, your Committee beg respectfully to remark, that by an Act of the General Assembly of this Island, of the 5th Will. 4, cap. 2, there appears sufficient power given to the Justices appointed under that Act, for the employment of convicted criminals, which Act could not have been adverted to by my Lord Glenelg. With regard to the fifth objection, your Committee beg to observe, that from the small number of criminals confined in our Jails, and from the multiplicity of creeds professed by the people of this Island, it appears to your Committee that the appointment of a Clergyman of any one denomination, would entail an expense upon the Colony, without benefiting any other criminals but those few that might chance to profess the creed of