

social questions which have not, in my opinion, received adequate attention from the thinking and educated men in the community. It is mainly with the hope of awakening, in some degree, a personal interest in these great social problems among the members of this society, and through them in the public generally, that I have been induced to address you on the present subject. No important changes in our prison system are likely to be effected until those changes are demanded and supported by public opinion, and the first step towards creating this public opinion is to excite a personal interest in these questions among thinking men. It is the sum of personal interest, felt and expressed on such subjects by the intelligent minds of the community, which, in every free country, forms and moulds the character of public opinion; and it is this public opinion which ordains and shapes the laws and institutions of the land.