

matter fair consideration, the plan could easily be carried out; the number of prisoners from the five would, in all probability, be sufficient to create a great amount of valuable articles, and if properly and energetically carried out, would bring in a large income, and I believe, under proper management, would materially lessen the annual charge, at present incurred by every County, under the head of Administration of Justice. Before I close this subject, let me request one moment's attention to your own Gaol. The unfortunate individuals placed there, have not the least means of instruction, no books, not even a Bible, except that on some occasions one may be left by the officer in charge; and I believe with a visit now and again from that worthy man, your Treasurer, and another humane gentleman, a Merchant in the town, not a single Clergyman of any denomination pays the least attention to the Prison, or to the wants, temporal or spiritual, of the inmates. Great exertions have been made, and are being made by the different Congregations in this Town, and especially by the ladies, for the furtherance of missionary, and other good objects; but let me ask, is it in accordance with the high and holy calling of these Reverend Gentlemen to pass by in silence, this abode of misery and woe, as unworthy of their slightest attention? How can they reconcile it with the doctrine which it is their duty to preach, and not only to preach, but at all events in some degree to practice. These Reverend Gentlemen, and I wish the remark to apply to all, ought to recollect, that whilst it is their duty to send the glad tidings to distant lands, it is most decidedly imperative on them to look at home; and when ignorance, misery and vice are at their own door, there first to apply their good offices, to relieve the distressed, and to hold out the means of improvement to their wretched brothers. When men preach, gentlemen, I should like to see some little practice, and I cannot help saying, that the neglect of the Prison by the clergy of all creeds, is in the highest degree improper. I shall say no more on this subject.

I am afraid Gentlemen I have detained you longer than you may approve of; but the evils of the present system, if system it can be called, are so great, and the advantages of the proposed system so apparent, that I thought it my duty thus to trespass on your time. I would recommend your appointing a Committee to take this subject into consideration, and if you approve of it, authorize them, or me to communicate with other Counties on the matter. I have no doubt of vast good being done by pressing on the Public mind the necessity of some change. I leave the matter with you,—you can deal with it as you think proper.

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