

TO show him honour, it was resolved upon, that he should have the power of pardoning and liberating one man out of the convicts who were suffering for their crimes. He asked the history of each from his own lips. One said that he was unjustly sentenced; that the witnesses were foresworn. Another, that he would never have been there but for the fault of his associates, whom he blamed for his lot. Another told him that his parents were to blame. Again, another and another; each laying the blame on friends, circumstances, associates, early training, senseless juries, or a prejudiced judge. All these the great man passed by. At length, a broken-hearted prisoner entered. His history was enquired about, and his reply was simple and upright in the extreme. He said he was there for his crimes, for which no excuse could be made. He had gone on in spite of every entreaty, every warning, every effort for his reclamation, and at his own door lay all the blame. He was justly accused and justly condemned. He was punished less than he deserved. He was unworthy of the smallest mitigation of what he endured.

"This," said the Prince, "is the man to be set free. This man has fulfilled the conditions I desired to find; he will go forth a true man!" The others had hoped to gain their reprieve by every condition than that which he sought for. They had thus failed to obtain what they desired, but this self-judged soul, deeply feeling the sense of its self-ruin, obtained what they had lost.