

Auburn system was exempt from inconveniences. Hence sprang up the idea of the conditional discharge of the prisoner toward the close of his confinement, a discharge always revocable in case of bad conduct. This new feature recognized three degrees in temporary punishment—cellular isolation, work in common, and conditional discharge. In American prisons generally, solitary confinement was used only as a punishment for insubordination or violation of the prison rules, while the parole system now carried much further in some of the prisons of the United States than it has yet been carried in England, is a development of the ticket-of-leave system first tried in the Australian settlements.

The prison system was still deemed imperfect, and less than forty years ago, owing to the prevailing disorder caused by this last innovation, the necessity of an intermediate period of transition between that of work in common and of conditional discharge was sorely felt. The English government tried the experiment in Ireland, and it proved in every way so satisfactory that it is now generally adopted throughout the British empire. It provides a period of isolation, where by exclusive contact with reformatory influences the attempt is made to arouse the conscience of the criminal, after which he passes to a second period of life and labor in common with other criminals separated into different classes according to their conduct, and lastly come the intermediate establishments where the convict puts off the prison garb, follows the calling to which he is most suited, and begins to have contact with persons outside in order that he may more readily find work when his sentence has expired. Then follows his conditional discharge. In this system everything is made to depend on the good conduct of the prisoner. It is made to individualize as far as possible the application of the punishment adapted to each convict, and to prepare every one, little by little, for a free, industrious, and honest life. For this purpose, literary instruction is carefully attended to in several of the American prisons, which continues during the whole period of imprisonment, or until

the prisoner has acquired a fair common school education, though in England it is given only during the nine months of solitary confinement. In this way, if perhaps overdone in some particulars, the system admirably responds to human nature and to the purpose of punishment, *i.e.*, the safeguard of public security, returning to freedom men only capable of, and disposed to labor, and of good conduct.

Nay, this principle has been extended even further. In some states of the Union the condemned only undergoes punishment for his offence after a second conviction; while the judges both in America and in England invariably make a distinction between a first and second offence. In order to prevent contamination of the less hardened convicts by old and habitual offenders, a separate class formed of convicts against whom no previous conviction of any kind is known to have been recorded, is recognised by both countries, and is called "the star class" in England, a scarlet star being worn by the convict on his prison clothing. The States of New York and Massachusetts, and afterwards other states, established separate prisons for first offenders, with the reformation of the criminals almost solely in view. The reformatory at Elmira, N. Y., is the best known and in many respects the most remarkable of American institutions of this class, its most important feature being the classification of prisoners according to their crimes, *viz*: Males to the exclusion of females; felons to the exclusion of misdemeanants and men supposed to be first offenders in felony, although they may have been in a house of refuge, or guilty of a misdemeanor. After careful enquiry is made into the natural adaptation of each man for some particular place in the world's work, the prisoner proceeds upon a formulated outline, each trade having several subdivisions and a number of lessons assigned to each. A complete system of scientific renovation is pursued with all physically defective prisoners as a vehicle for instinctive moral impulse, while an intellectual task is assigned to every inmate intended to carry forward his intellectual development to the utmost. But the standard of reforma-