

Appendix
(G.)

No. 2.

Report of the Chaplain.

31st March.

To the Board of Inspectors of the Provincial Penitentiary.

GENTLEMEN,

It becomes my duty, at the close of another year, to present the Chaplain's Report.

In doing so, my task is little else than respectfully urging on your attention the several particulars mentioned in the similar documents of the years 1843 and 1844, since the conviction of their importance has increased with increased experience.

In the latter Report, the hope was expressed that the Protestant Convicts would be no longer debarred the privilege of a suitable place of Worship, as the Dining Hall offers no accommodation for the administration of the Sacraments, and but very imperfect even for the celebration of Public Worship. The Chaplain cannot but express his deep regret, that, although much labour and expense have been incurred for other objects, this, which yields to none in importance, remains unprovided for. He dare not withhold the expression of his fear, that attention to the coercive character of the Penitentiary, has been, at the expense of its being considered a School of Reform.

I would respectfully ask, is it this prevailing feeling on the part of the Governors of the Institution which has led to the reduction of the Chaplain's salary, at a time, when the demand for his services had so greatly increased, and when, in consequence of much additional labour; both of mind and body, every other officer had received increased remuneration?

The request for more time for the Convict School, and increased accommodation for Teaching, as well as the appointment of a Master, has not been thought deserving attention.

The boys, and youths of a tender age, are still subject to the same discipline as the more mature Convict; and the Chaplain would here observe on the extraordinary fact of a Convict having been lately introduced into the Penitentiary, only eight years of age; and, further, that, at the present moment, three Convicts are under twelve, and twelve under sixteen years old.

In speaking of "discipline being relaxed and indulgence introduced," a late writer on Prison Discipline says,—“One thing is sure, this can never be done here (Sing Sing) to the extent the Superior Officers and Inspectors desire, which society hopes and asks till the prisons, and the prisoners in these two establishments, are subdivided, and much additional provision made for their moral instruction, and well-directed religious teaching.”—*Dix.*

Again,—In speaking of a prison, remarkable for the thorough neatness, and good arrangement of every part and department,—he adds, “The chief defect is, the too little time given to moral instruction; and the too little time to the prisoners for reading and self-improvement.” He continues—“This is a defect common to every prison on the silent or Auburn system.”—*Dix. p. 22.*

The Military are still among us.

Our Library remains dependant on private benevolence, only, for its existence; though if greatly increased, it might be rendered a very useful assistant in the moral education of the prisoner.

The view which I am desirous of humbly, though earnestly, submitting, cannot be set forth in stronger language than in that of the writer already referred to:—“Moralists and Philosophers, with Pietists and Philanthropists, have urged upon communities the truer course of employing early preventive measures, rather than of extending the energies, at a late period in futile attempts, to govern and lead, by correct and virtuous habits, the long-time criminal, and the life-long indolent and ignorant. The great benefactors of individuals and communities are the enlightened *Educators*, the wise-teaching mental and moral *Instructors* and *Exemplars* of our times. These are they, who working effectively and effectually, reduce the crowded cells and apartments of our prisons and almshouses, and raise impregnable defences against the inroads of idleness and vice, poverty and crime. Men need knowledge in order to overpower their passions, and master their prejudices.”

My sincere thanks, to the Board, are here tendered, for having acceded to the Chaplain's wish for excluding visitors from the Female Department.

Whilst giving to the present Officials all that is their due, except I were to record my conviction—that the class of mind, needed for superintendence, should be of a higher grade, I should be unworthy of the confidence imposed in me. My full impression is, that the Female Superintendent should bear a relative position to the Warden himself, since much must necessarily depend on her, in which, even that superior Officer cannot, with propriety, be consulted. The Female Superintendent, according to my opinion, should, both in moral and social deportment, and in religious and secular education, be raised to such an eminence, as that the unhappy convict may look up to her as an example; and command obedience by moral influence, rather than physical force.

In addition to what has been done for the females, if a similar exclusion from the male convicts, of *idle visitors, and visitors merely from curiosity*, could be effected, I am persuaded the best consequences would follow to the discipline and moral well-being of the convict. The Board will pardon my again reminding them of the sad condition of the liberated convict—respectfully requesting their perusal of my recorded sentiments in 1843. Had it not been for the kindness of the Captains of several steamboats, many a convict could not have left Kingston on the allowance made at his dismissal from confinement. To Captain Colclough I beg to tender my best thanks for frequent aid of this kind during the past summer. I would respectfully suggest whether some arrangement could not be entered into with the Trustees of the General Hospital, for a part of that building for the use of such females, and boys, of a tender age, whose previous good conduct would lead those best acquainted with them, to the hope that such a place of refuge would, not only be valued, but, with God's blessing, prove a protection from the seducer, till the moral and religious senses had become so exercised and strengthened as to enable them to resist any further seduction to sin. Should this suggestion meet with the approval of the Board, it would give me much pleasure to submit a plan, for its conduct, based on those of similar benevolent Institutions in Great Britain.

Allow me to submit,

THE REPORT OF THE PENITENTIARY SCHOOL, for the year ending September 30, 1845:—

Average attendance, whites, 80; coloured, 21.	Total 101.
Ages from 8 to 57, whites, 14 to 40, coloured.	
Reading the Testament, 43	Total 101.
Learning to read ... 58	
Number who have learned to read during the year, 36.	

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31st March.