

## REPORT OF THE PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN.

Some people have said : « What is the use of holding religious services and visiting people pastorally in a mad house ? » In reply to this I should say :—Evidently the idea of such enquiries about the inmates of a retreat for those afflicted in their mental powers is not a correct one. They have jumped to the conclusion that they are all « as mad as can be ». They have not learn that there are stages of mental alienation very different the one from the other. One person may be growing worse, another getting better, while a third is on the eve of recovery. To these last, as the light of reason gradually dawns upon them and shines clearer and yet more clearly week by week, what more cheering thought than that they have at hand a man whose very office constitutes him their friend. It is something to them to feel, just when they can value it, the moral support so very valuable to one in distress and weakness of another who is strong and not in similar trouble, whose sympathies are sure to be with them. Such a feeling must be soothing and sustaining, and therefore by so much it must be curative.

And as the discharge of a convalescent patient is wisely delayed for some time to justify his discharge, and protect society from the results of any injudicious loosening of the bonds of necessary restraint where the mind grows impatient and the heart grows sick with hope deferred, where threats of escape by breaking parole are entertained ; who so much relied on, so implicitly trusted as he urges patience

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