

over, resulting from the immediate adoption of the proposed system of "solitary confinement" with shortened sentences in the gaols where the construction would allow of its being introduced, that the great economy of the new system as compared with the old would at once be made apparent, and municipal councils and other public bodies who cannot be persuaded to make the necessary alterations in their gaols from motives of humanity or morality might yet be induced to make them from motives of economy.

It is not necessary to discuss here at any length the question, which is merely one of detail, as to the time and manner of making the proposed change in our prison system. I shall merely remark in passing that it appears to me the change might be at once introduced into all those gaols which should be certified by the Board to the Government to be adapted for it, and that the remaining prisons might be from time to time proclaimed in the official Gazette as coming within the meaning of the Act, on its being duly certified to the Government by the Board that the necessary alterations had been made in them to adapt them to the purpose.

The system thus strongly recommended by the Committee of the House of Lords has indeed already been partially tried in England, and with the most satisfactory results. In 1839 an Act was passed (2 and 3 Vic., cap. 56) authorizing the separate confinement of prisoners during the whole or any part of their imprisonment in gaol. The following extract from the Report of the Inspector of Prisons for the Southern District of England, for the year 1862, shows how well the Act has worked :

"It is very satisfactory to refer to the great and manifold improvements that have taken place in the construction and discipline in the prisons of England and Wales since the enactment of the Statute 2 and 3 Victoria, cap. 56, by which the separate confinement of prisoners, as contra-distinguished from solitary confinement, was first sanctioned by law. In the year 1843, when I had the honor to be appointed to my present office, there were two prisons only in the part of the country now comprised in the Southern District, in which advantage had been taken of the provisions of that Act. \* \* \* \* These prisons, at the time