

system to serve their purpose more fully than the present gaol system."

The remedy is a radical one, but unfortunately, also, rather expensive, namely, to adopt the system inaugurated in all the local prisons and gaols of Great Britain, some fifteen years ago, and with most gratifying results.

In this system each prisoner is furnished with a room or cell large enough to sleep and work in and he is kept absolutely separate from all other prisoners. There is no association with or contamination from other prisoners. The system was not introduced, however, until the Home Office took the entire management of the gaols. Previous to this all possible means were used to induce the local authorities to make the necessary changes, but without avail. In the case of the Ontario gaols, we trust it may not be necessary for the Provincial Government to resort to such an extreme measure. Our County Councillors are surely amenable to reason, and to the dictates of duty in a case such as this, where the good of the entire community is involved.

In the meantime the classification of prisoners in gaols could be improved, firstly, by removing the simply destitute prisoners to poor-houses, making separate provision for the custody of children, and, thirdly, by providing one or more reformatories in the Province for the habitual drunkard.

The establishment of a reformatory or reformatories for the inebriate was recommended by the Ontario Prison Reform Commission, and if

the County Councils should petition the Government to this effect, the matter would doubtless be taken up at an early date. The establishment of poor-houses is in the hands of the County Councils, and as an encouragement to the counties, the Ontario Government has offered a bonus of \$4,000 for the erection of every such poor-house. We are very sorry to learn that in many of our rich counties the gaols are used as poor-houses, and that the aged destitute poor, however respectable, are compelled to end their days in association with the degraded, the vicious, and the criminal. This is out of harmony with the spirit of the age, with common humanity, and with the dictates of religion.

Referring to this blot upon our county municipal system, the Inspector of Prisons for Ontario, in his annual report for 1891, makes use of the following vigorous language, which, to our mind, is not at all too severe:

"It is a disgrace to the people of this Province to allow their aged poor, who have committed no crime against the laws of the land, to be incarcerated within prison walls, clothed in the distinguishing garb of prison criminals. In most cases these people have lived honest and respectable lives, and, perhaps, have reared and educated large families, but from circumstances over which they had no control, have lost children, property and health. It is inhuman, un-Christian, and unpatriotic, and should be prevented by most stringent legislation, if not immediately remedied by the authorities of the various counties."

### "IN HIS KEEPING."

"In His keeping:" once again  
Thrills my soul the sweet refrain,  
Soothing sorrow, care and pain.

While I know my Saviour near,  
Life's steep path, obscure and drear,  
I may tread without a fear.

Close enfolded by His wing,  
TORONTO.

Though I suffer I can sing  
Of the joy His love doth bring.

He will be my guide and stay,  
Till, at last, the shadowed way  
Brightens into perfect day.

Then, from all time's trials free,  
Kept by Him I still shall be  
Through a glad eternity.

—Amy Parkinson.