

# A LIFE IN A PRISON

CONVICT OF 25 YEARS' EXPERIENCE TELLS THE AWFUL STORY.

A Plain, Unvarnished Account of Its Terrible Brutality—The Various Stages of a Convict's Penal Progress in England Vividly Described—The Dietary Scale for Convicted Criminals—Penal Servitude.

A writer in London Tit-Bits tells this story of the awful brutality of life in a prison:

To have had twenty-five years' experience of prison life is not a matter upon which any properly constructed mind can offer or accept complimentary observations. Much less can one chant the hymn of triumph over such a circumstance, but, as Mr. Kettle once justly observed: "The man who has lived many years under peculiar circumstances may be under the same public obligation to describe his experience as the explorer who explores unknown regions is under to describe the countries through which he has passed."

It is in this spirit that I sit down to write the story of my prison life—a life which commenced when, as a youth of nineteen summers, I was condemned to seven years' penal servitude and seven years' police supervision, through what has since been publicly admitted to be a miscarriage of justice. From that date, July 7th, 1873, down to the third of August last, a period of twenty-eight years, most of my time has been spent within the walls of one or other of Her Majesty's prisons.

On the 7th of July, 1873, I was led down from the Assize Court at Manchester to the cells beneath that building, and, when I had recovered somewhat from the shock given to a naturally sensitive mind by what was admitted, on all hands, to be an excessively severe sentence, I found myself sitting on a low table, with my head in my hands, vainly striving to bolster up my mind with the illusive hope that my case would be taken up by the press and a reconsideration of the case made imperative.

"Ah, the poor, delusive fancy! Ah, the wretched make-believe!"

Within three hours of that maddening moment, I was led with thirteen other prisoners (all under sentence of penal servitude) to the county jail, situated at the rear of the courts, where I was ordered to strip off all clothing, etc., sent into a long, stony corridor fitted up with cells on each side, and subjected to a bodily scrutiny which can only be described to a man of my somewhat delicate instincts as most degrading and inhuman.

The modus operandi was simply this: A principal warder, with three subordinate officers, entered the cell and commenced to question me as to my family and personal history. One of the warders then ordered me to stand straight against the wall of the cell and throw up both my arms. I was at this time stripped of all my clothes, and could not, for the life of me, conceive the aim and object of the hypercritical examination instituted by those official inquisitors. The following is a verbatim note, made within a week of the occurrence, and whilst a sense of the indignity imposed was still fresh in my mind:

"Warder Williams first made me stand against the whitewashed wall, and whilst thus pilloried, with absolutely nothing on, I was ordered to throw up my arms above my head, then to 'turn round,' lift up the right leg, 'now the left,' 'now open your mouth,' 'now stoop down and rest on your hands,' etc.

Thus the whole demoralizing process went on until, stung by what I then took (and still take) to be an unnecessary and cruel infliction, I protested in the interests of common fair play against it. The warder in charge (an ordinary humane man) informed me that if I had any complaints to make I could 'see the governor next day,' and this I then resolved upon doing.

## A Clear Skin and A Bright Eye

Usually Indicate Health.

## Wheeler's Botanic Bitters

Insures good health by Cleansing the Blood, Stomach and Liver. Cures Constipation, Dyspepsia, Bloating, Headache, Dizziness, Kidney Troubles, and all Irregularities.

A GENUINE VEGETABLE SPRING MEDICINE AND REGULATOR.

PRICE 25 CENTS

AT ALL DEALERS, And wholesale by all Wholesale Druggists.

Accordingly, on the following morning, when my cell door was first opened, I asked permission to see the governor, and at mid-day had an interview with that gentleman. He spoke very civilly to me, but gave me to understand that, however objectionable the thing might be in itself, the characters of those forming the bulk of a prison population made such a course necessary. "For," said he, "some prisoners make a practice of concealing money and tobacco upon their persons, and this is the only means we have of preventing such practices."

Many years later (1897), when a similar incident elicited a similar protest at H. M. Prison, Parkhurst, the honored governor of that establishment made a statement to the writer of this article which put the mere concealment of money and tobacco altogether in the background.

In reply to my appeal against the degrading experience necessitated by the fortnightly "search," the amiable Lieut.-Col Plummer used these words:

"I am afraid that all you or others may urge against this practice will not carry much weight at Whitehall; and, if consulted on the matter, I could not honestly recommend its discontinuance, as I have known cases in which men have concealed dangerous weapons about their bodies."

But, to resume the narrative, I was in a month when an order came to remove a batch of convicts to London, and after an uneventful ride from London Road to Euston I was, in the company of nine other prisoners, brought to the "Model Prison," as Pentonville was then called.

In those days Pentonville was the first stage in the convict's penal progress, the place where all male prisoners spent the "probationary" period of nine months which (before the passing of the last Prison Act, 1898) all convicts were foredoomed to spend in "strict solitary confinement."

On arriving at "The Villa" we were all rigged out in the knickerbocker suit of grey, liberally bedaubed with what was originally the outward and visible insignia of all Government "stores," but has since become a badge of infamy—the broad arrow.

After all necessary formalities had been gone through (such as bathing, shearing, weighing, measuring, and passing the medical officer's seal) we were located in "number seven" cell on the basement of "C" hall, and when the card bearing my penal name and address" (872) and other items of information (for the guidance of the officials) had been hoisted on the outer wall of the cell, I was regaled with a pint of gruel and an 8-ounce loaf, and told that I could make my bed down and get to sleep as soon as I liked.

To make my bed down was an easy matter, but going to sleep was quite another story.

Were I to live for a hundred years the memories of my suffering on that first night in a convict prison would remain as vivid as they are now, when nearly thirty years stand between the event and this brief history of it.

My poor mother, old home-ties, all the dear associations of that child and boy-life from which I was then cut off forever, haunted my mind (and I fancy I hear) throughout the whole of that dreadful night; and when at 6 on the following morning, the deep, sepulchral notes of the great bell at the front gate rang out, I was conscious of having passed the night without having had one minute's sleep!

But, fagged and "washed-out" as I was, I felt it as a welcome relief to be up and doing something; and when breakfast (2 1/2 of good cocoa and 8 ounces of white bread) had been served, and we all had eaten it, the chief warder (Mr. Casgrove), who gave us some sound fatherly advice as to the advisability of conforming to the "rules and regulations" (a copy of which was hung upon the walls of every cell in the prison), were led in single file to the fine old chapel where for so many years the Gospel of free grace was so ably preached by the venerable Ambrose Sherwin.

Apocryphal of the religious services at Pentonville, one would like to point out to the authorities who last year expressed a willingness to consider any suggestions I would submit to them, the advantage connected with the musical part of the daily services at that prison.

I have known more than a dozen prisoners with whom I rubbed shoulders in the early days of the "eighties" who attributed their success in after-life not to the penal element in the prison regimen, but to the influence of the fine organ recital with which Mr. Hoare (the prison organist, in those days) generally concluded the morning services at Pentonville; and were instrumental in the musical part of the daily services at that prison.

Although there were workshops at Pentonville in those, as there are in these, days, most of the inmates were employed in their cells, where, for nine months, each man spent twenty-two out of the twenty-four daily.

Here is a copy of the prison dietary scale, one of which is supplied to every prisoner, so that each may know the quantity and quality of the rations to which he is by law entitled:

Breakfast, 2 pint cocoa, 8 ounces bread.  
Dinner, Monday, 4 ounces beef, 8 ounces potatoes, and bread; Tuesday, 1 pint shin of beef soup, 8 ounces potatoes, and bread; Wednesday, 4 ounces potatoes, and bread; Thursday, 12 ounces pudding, 8 ounces potatoes, and bread; Friday, same as on Tuesday.

day: Saturday, same as on Monday; Sunday, 4 ounces cheese, 12 ounces bread.  
Supper, 1 pint gruel, 8 ounces bread.

It will complete the description of the prison fare at Pentonville in those days to state that the only other diet known to and allowed by the powers that were (outside the infirmary, for which, of course, no "regulation" menu was issued) was that invariably imposed by the then governor (Captain Lewis) for breaches, or alleged breaches, of prison discipline, to wit:

No. 1. Punishment diet—One pound of bread per diem.  
No. 2. Punishment diet—One and one-half pints of strabuton and 12 ounces of bread per diem.

### THE PUNISH BOYS.

Old Pauline gave her worthless and best—the mottle of her pastures none dare.

Nobly they've stood grim-visaged war's Fighting they fell that bloody April morn.

Drawn from the plough and labelled "raw recruits,"  
To active service stammered; to duty went; In Peace they'd garnered of her humble.

In War 'twas victory or a gory bed.  
Charge after charge; "Stand steady, Squadron!"  
The brunt of the battle it is yours to bear.  
"Thrice thrice done!" through dimming eyes they see  
The gleam of Beers and join the British cheer.

And Clyde is now in bitter sorrow steeped—  
And thoughts are of the brave hearts  
Far away—  
The home who to the Empire's summons leaped.

For hardships ready, anxious for the fray,  
Old Pauline to the God of Battles kneels,  
Up from her springing verdure goes a prayer—  
For mother's grief kind heaven a pity feels—  
And asks that He their precious lives may spare.

J.P.D., in Guelph Herald.

### \$1,200 AN HOUR.

Entertaining Prince and Princess 18 Hours Cost New Brunswick \$22,273.37.

A return submitted to the New Brunswick Legislature recently shows that the Provincial Government of that Province spent \$22,273.37 in entertaining the Prince and Princess of Wales and members of their suite who spent about eighteen hours there in November last. So well pleased were their Royal Highnesses with the entertainment provided, particularly with the catering, that they authorized J. J. McCafferty, manager of the Hotel Dufferin, who had charge of the arrangements to use on his hotel paper the term "caterers to their Royal Highnesses May and George."

It may be stated in passing that this was an honor and distinction not given in any other Canadian city visited by the Royal guests, and it is some measure compensated for the failure to make any money from among the dispossessed sons of this province. Two houses were placed at the disposal of the Royal visitors. One was occupied by the Duke and Duchess, the other by the Governor-General and Lady Minto. Only a few personal attendants accompanied the visitors. Other members of their staff remained on the Royal trains. The official return presented to the Legislature shows why the catering was so satisfactory. Their Royal Highnesses reached the city about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and left again the morning after.

They had two meals, dinner and breakfast. The outlay for these appears to have been \$1,927.95. This included the cost of the manager of the hotel for his personal services, and of \$645.96 paid to Mr. A. Finn for wines. It is also exclusive of expenditures for hire of silver, china, cut glass, etc., as well as for flowers, amounting in all to \$807.92, also of \$15 paid for vegetables. Adding these items together it will be seen that the two meals cost \$3,696.83. These figures are exclusive of a further sum of \$3,619.28 paid for painting and decorating, renting furniture, etc. The proportion of this that was spent in the dining rooms is not possible to state, but it would probably be at least \$4,000. No wonder the Prince and Princess were pleased with the banquet.

### There's Nothing Like Leather.

"We have called," said the head of the department of Tuxedo citizens, "to protest against the street car service you are giving us. Why, some of us cannot even get a strap to hang on by."

"Very well, gentlemen, I shall at once increase the service," said the affable magnate, while the hearts of the department leaped with joy, "by putting in more straps."

### Eczema's Itch Is Torture

Mrs. Ann McDonald, Kingsville, Ont., writes: "For about three years I was a dreadful sufferer from eczema. At times the patches of raw, flaming flesh would extend from my waist to my neck and from the knees to the ankles. The intense itching almost drove me crazy and though I tried all the local physicians, they could not even relieve the suffering. The flesh would crack open, and I don't believe any one ever suffered more."

"I was told of Dr. Chase's Ointment but did not believe that it could help me. After the fifth application of this preparation, I began to feel the benefit of its soothing, healing effects, and now attribute my cure to the persistent use of this wonderful remedy. It is truly worth its weight in gold and I never tire of recommending it to my Mother sufferers."

Besides being a thorough cure for eczema and salt rheum, Dr. Chase's Ointment comes useful in a hundred ways. Every home for every form of skin eruption, chapped skin, chilblains, 50 cents a box, at all drug stores, or by mail, 50 cents a box, at Dr. Chase's, Boston, Mass.

Dr. Chase's

## DO NOT NEGLECT THE LITTLE ILLS OF LIFE

### PAINE'S CELERY COMPOUND.

Will Eradicate From the Blood and System the Seeds of Disease.

As grains of sands make our lofty mountains, drops of water the mighty ocean, and as our massive buildings are made of one brick piled upon another, so do the little ills of life contribute to the building up of deadly diseases in the body.

Experienced medical men claim that fully three-fourths of our men and women enter the summer season with little ills and symptoms of disease, which must develop into serious and fatal troubles if not banished at once.

We hear our friends complaining daily of rheumatic tendencies, sharp and darting neuralgic pains, dyspepsia, pains in the side and back, nervousness and sleeplessness; and we see with our own eyes the effects of impure blood in facial blotches, eruptions and sores. The little ills and pains of to-day build up the alarming and fatal diseases that follow days and weeks of neglect.

Wise and intelligent people who have looked into the claims of Paine's Celery Compound and followed its remarkable cure of relatives, friends and neighbors, use it themselves with faith and confidence, to banish their systems of coming troubles, to cleanse the blood, to reestablish nerve force, energy and bodily strength, so that they will be in condition to withstand the enervating effects of the coming hot weather.

In every community where Paine's Celery Compound has been used at this season to banish disease, it is regarded as a godsend. Workers in offices, shops, factories, and weary and run-down wives and mothers in their homes have thanked Heaven for Dr. Phelps' marvellous prescription, because it made them well. Try a bottle or two, you who are ailing and sick; it will give you what you most stand in need of—health and new life.

Some people go to church more for style than to hear what the preacher says.

### Wonderful Home-Helpers.

The Ablest Analytical Chemists Say They are the Best.

The ablest and best analytical chemists in the world affirm without hesitation that Diamond Dyes are the purest and best dyestuffs for home dyeing. All the colors are guaranteed fast to light and washing with soap; they color more goods, package for package, than any other dye in the world.

As there are imitations of the popular Diamond Dyes, ladies should be careful of dealers who attempt to recommend the cheap makes. It should be remembered that these imitative dyes are made up of poisonous and dangerous adulterations, and the hands are often injured by them. Diamond Dyes are so easy to use that a child can work with them successfully. See that your dealer supplies you with the "Diamond" refuse all others.

If you are interested in home dye and rug making, send your address to The Wells & Richardson Co., Limited, 200 Mountain St., Montreal, P. Q., and you will receive free of cost new designs to select from.

### COMPLETELY FAGGED OUT.

The world is full of sickly, dependent, tired, overworked people, all hoping to be well some-day. The surest road to health is along the way of taking Ferrozone after meals. Ferrozone is a great appetizer and enables one to eat plenty of wholesome food without fear of indigestion or dyspepsia. This results in the rapid formation of an abundance of red, vitalizing blood, which will restore the nerves, increase flesh and vigor, and nourish and feed every organ of the body. Ferrozone is an ideal restorative and invigorant. It is a tonic of unequalled merit that anyone can use with benefit. Price 50c. per box, or six boxes for \$2.50, at Druggists, or N. C. Wells & Co., Kingston, Ont. Sold by A. E. Shaw.

A girl may pretend to be surprised when she receives a proposal, when she is really wondering why the young man waited so long.

### CRAMPS ARE LIKELY ENGLARS

They come unexpectedly when least welcome. Be sure you have a minute cure in a bottle of Dr. Chase's Ointment. It cures cramps in five minutes. It cures all the pains of the line in five minutes. It cures all the pains of the line in five minutes.

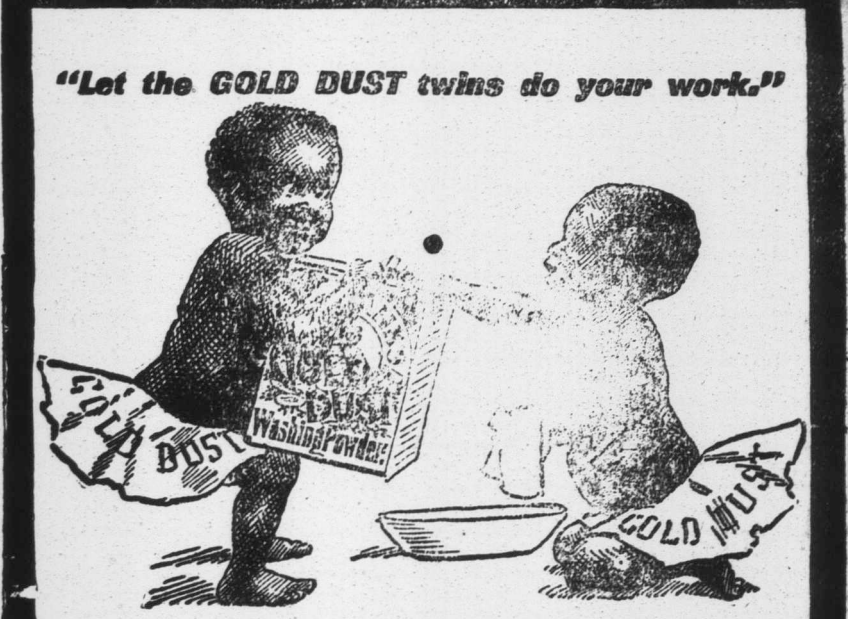
Dr. Chase's

## ARE YOU DEAF? ANY HEAD NOISES?

ALL CASES OF DEAFNESS OR HARD HEARING ARE NOW CURABLE by our new invention. Only those born deaf are incurable. HEAD NOISES CEASE IMMEDIATELY.

F. A. WERMAN, OF BALTIMORE, SAYS: "I was entirely cured of deafness, thanks to your treatment. I will now give you a full history of my case, to be used at your discretion. About five years ago my right ear began to ring, and this kept on getting worse, until I lost my hearing in this ear entirely. I underwent a treatment for catarrh, for three months, without any success, consulted a number of physicians, among others, the most eminent ear specialist of this city, who told me that only an operation could help me, and even that only temporarily, that the head noises would then cease, but the hearing in the affected ear would be lost forever. Then saw your advertisement accidentally in a New York paper, and ordered your treatment. After I had used it only a few days according to your directions, the noises ceased, and to-day, after five weeks, my hearing in the diseased ear has been entirely restored. I thank you heartily and beg to remain Very truly yours, F. A. WERMAN, 730 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.

Our treatment does not interfere with your usual occupation. Examination and advice free. YOU CAN CURE YOURSELF AT HOME as a nominal cost. INTERNATIONAL AURAL CLINIC, 596 LA SALLE AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.



No Soap, Borax, Soda or Ammonia is needed with GOLD DUST

With little water and less effort you can clean anything about the house better, easier and cheaper than with Soap or any other cleanser. Once try it, you'll always buy it.

Made only by THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Chicago, New York, Boston, St. Louis, Montreal.

## PATENTS GUARANTEED

Our fee returned if we fail. Any one sending sketch and description of any invention will promptly receive our opinion free concerning the patentability of same. "How to obtain a patent" sent upon request. Patents secured through us advertised for sale at our expense.

Patents taken out through us receive special notice, without charge, in THE PATENT RECORD, an illustrated and widely circulated journal, consulted by Manufacturers and Investors.

Send for sample copy FREE. Address, VICTOR J. EVANS & CO., (Patent Attorneys), Evans Building, - WASHINGTON, D. C.

## HONEST AND TRUE



all that can be said of the Brantford bicycle. No wheel is made that will wear longer or run easier than the Brantford. The 1902 models are fitted with the HYGENIC CUSHION FRAMES and other improvements. Do not buy until you have seen this wheel and asked our price. Buy the right bicycle at the right price.

JOHN MORRISEY, NEWCASTLE CASTLE STREET

## AT McLEOD'S

Fashionable Tailoring Establishment. Is where you will find all the best lines of Black and Blue Beavers, fancy suitings in all shades, Tyke and Clay Beavers and fancy Trousers. All of which we make in styles and at as low a figure as consistent with good fits, always guaranteed. Parties patronizing us we do the cutting free. Tailoring and dress making carried on in the shop for yourself

McLEOD.