

themselves as proper recipients of the hospitalities of our gaols !

Mr. Charles Dudley Warner, in his address delivered before the Saratoga Congress in 1884, says : " It is the right and the duty of the State, in the interest, not only of society at large, but in the true interest of the criminals themselves, to subject them to a lengthened sentence of imprisonment in some institution (central prison or otherwise), where their labours will pay for their keep, and where, under proper discipline, they will have an opportunity and an incentive to the formation of habits of industry, of self-dependence and self-respect ; and further, that they should remain there until, by their conduct, they have shown that they will be self-supporting, law-abiding members of society. This method of treatment implies that the State has the power of passing indeterminate sentences of imprisonment ; in other words, of sentencing a prisoner to confinement until, in the opinion of some constituted tribunal, he can with safety to society be discharged.

"When a man shows by his conduct a fixed determination to be a criminal, and to prey upon society, society is in its right in saying : ' We will not allow you to carry out your plan of life ; we

will put you in a place where you cannot victimize or terrorize society, where you will be compelled to earn your own living, and at the same time have every chance afforded you of reforming and acquiring habits of industry and self-respect ; and there we will keep you until, by your conduct, you give us reason to believe that, if allowed to return to the world, you will prove a law-abiding, self-supporting member of the community."

The cost of this mode of dealing with incorrigibles is, as Mr. Warner says, infinitely less than the cost of watching, catching, trying, and imprisoning them, on shorter or longer sentences, over and over again, to say nothing of the cost of their depredations.

It may, I think, be taken as established, that society will consult its best interests by sentencing incorrigibles, or confirmed criminals, to indeterminate imprisonment in central prisons or other institutions, where a judicious system of discipline is steadily enforced.

In conclusion, I would solemnly ask that each one here present should consider what criminals we ourselves are ; how much we have been forgiven ; and, in this same spirit of love and forgiveness, proceed to do our best for other criminals in our land.

