

The Editor thinks it well to state that the preceding details are copied from the Digest and Summary of information respecting Prisons in the Colonies, presented to the British Parliament in 1867.

In the summary there given of the principal conclusions arrived at in the *construction* of Prisons the document from which these details are taken states under the head "Construction" :

"Details of the « Dry Earth system » in the place of liquid sewerage « are given in the Appendix. This system is in use in all the Prisons « of India, some of them containing as many as 2,000 prisoners, and « in the Hulsdorp prison at Colombo in Ceylon. The Inspector General of Prisons in Bengal states that, when proper care is taken, « this system is perfectly successful and is inexpensive."

Up to the present time the sewage question has been not only the *opprobrium* and bug-bear of Sanitary Reformers generally, but the especial *bête noire* of Prison Architects and Prison Inspectors. To all who have any thing to do with Gaols whether as Inmates or Inspectors, the present discovery cannot fail to prove an inestimable blessing, a wonderful saving of health, money and temper.

The subjoined letter from one of our most experienced Jail Architects in Canada, is to the purpose :

« Ottawa, 23rd October, 1868.

« E. A. MEREDITH, Esquire,

« Under Secretary.

« Sir,

« I have perused with interest the pamphlets on Earth Closets « you were kind enough to send me; the system in my opinion « has only to become known to be adopted in our Prisons, Asylums « and other Institutions. Having as Architect erected several Jails « in Ontario, I can state that water closets in them are found to be « a source of great annoyance and expense, so much so indeed that « of late they have been omitted in these buildings altogether. « I am glad to see that in the dry earth system you propose to « introduce the difficulties connected with Water Closets do not « exist and (to say nothing of the value of the soil as a manure) « much expense will be saved by the simplicity of its working. « I expect to see it generally adopted.

« I have the honor to be,

« Sir,

« Your obedient servant,

« H. H. HORSEY,

« Architect. »