

In their Annual Report for 1875 the Directors say :—" In accordance with the joint resolution passed by the General Assembly, authorizing the Board to appoint a Committee to visit some of the prisons of other States, the Board appointed a Committee of its own number, including the Warden and Physician, to make such examination. The said Committee visited the principal prisons of the Eastern States and made minute and critical examinations into everything pertaining to the various modes of operation in use in the conduct of said institutions, as well as to the style of architecture. Special attention was given to the construction and ventilation of cells, the general discipline of such institutions, everything pertaining to their sanitary condition, furnishing supplies, systems of accountability, and all else pertaining to the inner workings of prison life. While we saw many things which commended themselves to our judgment, and of the benefits of which advantage will be taken, yet candour compels us to say that we saw no prison, taken as a whole, that in all its details of construction and internal police regulations, equalled that of Ohio. In the construction and ventilation of cells we received some valuable information, of which we can avail ourselves in the construction of the new and remodelling of the old cells. The result has been to confirm us more and more in the general opinion prevailing that the Ohio Penitentiary is unequalled by any similar institution in the United States—true especially of the hospital department, which, for capaciousness, light and ventilation, as also for modern appliances in the art of caring for the sick, bathing facilities, dietetics, its *regime*, etc., excels by far anything in this direction offered by Eastern institutions of this class."

An examination into the operations of the Ohio Penitentiary would be most advantageous to the Inspector or the Warden of either of our principal Penitentiaries.

I paid two regular visits, pursuant to the provision of the Act, to each of the Penitentiaries of Kingston, St. Vincent de Paul, St. John and Halifax in the course of the year. I also inspected, twice, Rockwood Asylum; I made, besides, a special visit to Kingston Penitentiary, to hold an enquiry consequent upon the escape of a convict.

In returning from Halifax, last March, I staid over at Dorchester, N. B., as you directed, in order to examine and report upon the site and surroundings, where it had been contemplated to erect the new Penitentiary for the Maritime Provinces. I went over the ground carefully and leisurely, and the examination led me to conclude that the place is well adapted for the purpose. An elevated plateau offers a commanding and salubrious position for the Penitentiary. The land is suitable for agricultural labour. There appears to be an abundant supply of gray freestone, most suitable, on account of its dryness and capabilities of resisting the influences of time and the weather, for building. Water can be procured in great plenty, either by constructing a reservoir, at the north base of the table-land, and directing into it the several little streams which flow between the ridges, to be forced up to the buildings, or by sinking wells. A large quantity of timber which will suit for some of the manufactures now carried on in St. John Penitentiary is growing on the land. The Intercolonial Railway passes quite close to the place selected for the new Penitentiary, thus affording easy means of obtaining all the necessary supplies. Preparations for the building of the Penitentiary are being made, and it is anticipated that a building suitable to accommodate the convicts now confined in the Penitentiaries of St. John and Halifax, will be completed within reasonable time.

I visited Boston, during the same journey, to obtain all the information possible regarding the new State Prison for the State of Massachusetts, now in course of construction at Concord, and to procure, if practicable, copies of the plans and specifications, in order to embody any improvement approved of in the plans of the Dorchester Penitentiary. I have to express my deep sense of obligation to the Hon. T. L. Wakefield, Chairman of the Board of Prison Commissioners for the State of Massachusetts, and to George Ropes, Esq., the architect, whose plan for the new State Prison had been accepted, for the courtesy and attention which I received at their hands. Both these gentlemen did all in their power to promote the object which I had been instructed to carry out. If all were not accomplished that had been hoped for, the shortcoming