

through the bars; and when it is considered that it is through a grating only thirty-six inches in width, that every communication with the rest of the world must be held by all the prisoners in each ward, and that only when it pleases the gaoler or his assistants, to leave the outer wooden doors unlocked; and that in term-time, six, eight, ten, or more, are pressing at a time from the inside, to see and converse with as many on the outside; wives, children, relations, friends, lawyers, one head peering over another, and one shoulder shouldering another; some conception can be formed of the unjustifiable hardships to which the prisoners are exposed." "This grievance might be easily removed by the admittance into the wards, at seasonable times, of the friends and families of the prisoners, for the refusal of which, excepting as relates to convicted felons confined under sentence of imprisonment, it is conceived, there is no law, authority, or pretext, than the *sic volo sic jubeo* of the gaoler and the sheriff. (15)"

This grievance is then particularly exemplified in the instance of the gentleman who drew up the representation, (myself) who was confined, for six weeks, with one companion alone, and for six weeks longer entirely by himself, and was refused permission even for his servantman to be admitted to attend upon him in his ward, nay not even to sweep it once, being compelled therefore to perform every menial office himself, to clean, sweep, wash, cook, stack his own wood,

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(15) It will scarcely obtain belief elsewhere, that such a system of exclusion of the friends and families of the prisoners prevails in any prison. Such an Algerine practice must stamp every country where it is permitted, as barbarous and uncivilized.