

have the benefit of the experience of the mother country, and of the eminent men who had made that experience their study, for the purpose of effecting any amendments which may be needed in the prisons and system of prison discipline in use in Canada."

In urging the adoption of the separate system in Canada, they add: "You will bear in mind that no ordinary difficulties, nor indeed any difficulties, should be allowed to stand in the way of the establishment of the system."

The Inspector of Prisons in the southern district of England, in 1882, referring to the then recent introduction of the separate system into certain of the prisons in England, speaks of the growing conviction of the advantages which have attended the adoption of separate confinement, and adds that the number of commitments to the prisons altered (so as to make them suitable for the separate system) rapidly decreased, and that in many gaols it had been reduced to one-half of what it had been ten years before.

At the International Prison Congress, held in London in 1872, the only countries that declared themselves satisfied with their prison systems were Belgium, Germany, and Russia, these being the only countries which had adopted the cellular or separate system; and these three countries, in their official answers to the questions submitted to them, stated that they were satisfied with their prison system so far as it was cellular or separate, and no farther. The Prussian Government, in particular, while speaking in high terms of praise of the general organization of their prisons, added that there was one thing yet lacking. "We need the application of cellular (or separate) imprisonment in all cases of preventive detention and of short sentences;" in other

words, the application of the separate system to their common gaols and houses of detention.

One of the interrogatories put to the convict on his arrival at the penitentiary was as to the effect upon him of his first imprisonment in gaol. The response in almost every case was substantially the same: "I left it worse than when I entered it."

In the common gaols, this Satanic work of inoculating the young with vice and crime, this work of manufacturing criminals, this work of discouraging morality and virtue, all this is done under the aegis of the law, with the co-operation of judges, sheriffs, and other legal functionaries, and with the implied sanction and approval of society at large.

If there are no reformatories, or, better still, "homes" or "refuges" to which they can be sent, with a reasonable hope of their being brought under wise discipline and wholesome moral influences, it would be better, infinitely better, (in the case at least of boys), that they should be brought at once before a special magistrate appointed for the purpose, and, if found guilty, soundly flogged and dismissed; infinitely better this, than that they should be consigned, as they now are, to our common gaols, to enter upon their apprenticeship to crime, to start, as it were, upon what Bulwer truly designates "the law's royal road to the gallows."

After a few experiences of the mode of life in gaol, they come to regard it, not as a place of punishment, to be carefully shunned, but as a club or hotel, where they are comfortably housed, clothed, and fed, at the public expense. Little wonder that, under these circumstances, our habitual offenders are frequently found to have recourse to various ingenious devices to fit

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