

No. 5.

*Report of the Board of Inspectors.*Appendix
(G. G.)
5th November.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, Bart., G. C. B., Governor General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

The Board of Inspectors have the honor to submit to Your Excellency their Report of the transactions of the Provincial Penitentiary for the year ending the 1st instant. The Board trust that the full statements made to them by the Warden, of the affairs of the Institution for the past year will be found explicit and satisfactory. The Board, however, cannot refrain from expressing that their expectations in regard to the building of the wall, and other works of the establishment, have been fully realized.

When the Union of the Provinces was effected, the Board immediately turned their attention to the means of providing proper accommodation for the celebration of Divine Service at the Penitentiary according to the rites and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, and for this purpose they directed the Warden to prepare a Chapel in the North wing which has been some time completed, but has not yet been used, as the law only authorizes the employment of one Chaplain who has already been appointed. However desirous the Board may have been to carry fully into effect their intentions of providing every facility for the religious services of the Roman Catholic Convicts, as they had no authority to engage a Clergyman of that denomination, they have hitherto been unable to make a proper classification of the prisoners for the purpose of Divine Worship. The Board of Inspectors therefore respectfully leave this matter in Your Excellency's hands to be laid before the Legislature, or to be dealt with in such other manner as Your Excellency may see fit.

The Inspectors entirely coincide in opinion with the Warden that the present allowance made to Convicts to defray their travelling expenses on their discharge from the Penitentiary is altogether insufficient, and they respectfully suggest that an increase of the same should be allowed by Legislative enactment. The effect produced by the present very limited allowance to discharged Convicts for this purpose, occasions many of them to remain in the vicinity of the Penitentiary, whereby they are unable to procure employment, and some of them too frequently become again inmates of the Prison.

The Board at their last meeting directed the Warden to prepare Estimates for the support of the Penitentiary from 1st January, 1843, to the 31st December, 1844. This it appears by the Report of that Officer has been accordingly done, but he has since been directed to submit the Estimate for one year only. The Board beg to observe that respecting the supplies for defraying the unavoidable expenses of the Institution, they submitted their views to the Government in their Report for the year 1841, to which they would respectfully refer for their opinion on this subject, which remains unchanged. For the support of the Establishment during the present year only £1250 sterling (being the estimated expenditure for three months) have been received from the Government, but the Warden has nevertheless been able to carry on the affairs of the establishment by the sale of articles manufactured at the Penitentiary, and from other sources which will appear on reference to the annual statement of receipts and disbursements accompanying his Report.

The Board would respectfully press this matter upon Your Excellency's consideration, as they are desirous of avoiding in future the personal responsibility under which they labored in the years 1840 and 1841.

Appendix
(G. G.)
8th November.

In submitting to Your Excellency the several Reports of the Warden, Surgeon, and Chaplain, the Board have again to record their sense of the efficiency with which their respective duties have been performed:

All which is most respectfully submitted.

THO. KIRKPATRICK.

President of the Board of Inspectors of the Provincial Penitentiary of Canada.

Kingston, 31st October, 1843.

No. 6.

Report of the Chaplain.

GENTLEMEN,

Having only been in the discharge of the office of Chaplain since June last, it will not allow me to report beyond that period.

Since then the usual duties of my office have been attended to. Public worship at 9 o'clock, A. M., each Sunday—visiting the Prison during the week as frequently as other duties permitted—superintending the School—lecturing to the assembled convicts from some part of the Bible once a week—private conversation, both at the door of each cell on Sunday, and in my room as often as the Prisoners desired such an interview, or as I thought it serviceable to them. In a word, endeavouring to exercise the Pastoral office among them in every way in which their peculiar situation permitted, both in season and out of season, reproving, rebuking, exhorting. What measure of success has followed cannot be decided on.

Moral and religious culture, unlike physical or natural, does not soon appear—nay, often is never witnessed by man. But to suppose that this great moral machinery accomplishes nothing is to question the Divine promises.

Testimony, however, of the most unexceptionable kind is not wanting as a reward for the past, and encouragement for the future.

Many a Convict on his last interview with the Chaplain, previously to regaining his liberty, has expressed his thanks for the privileges of the Penitentiary.

I copy from the Chaplain's Journal, without looking for special cases.

One expresses himself thus:—"The first few months of my imprisonment I had hard thoughts, arising from a feeling of unjust punishment. Latterly have seen the folly of such thoughts. Would rather stay than be liberated, if I could not enjoy more real happiness than I possessed before."

Another says:—"I have learnt to read since I have been here. Hope hereafter to attend a place of worship regularly, as I know that by being religious is the only way of keeping from this place."