

sane. The title given to it will recall the celebrated establishment for the same benevolent purpose at York. At Hartford, however, the moral treatment, and the system of gentleness, are carried even still farther, as I understand, than in England.

Many persons approach this subject with disgust—some with apprehension—and all, or nearly all, when they first come into actual contact with it, with feelings of great uneasiness. A little resolute practice, however, soon banishes these unworthy considerations, or it reduces them within all the control that is necessary for any useful investigation of the subject. At least so I found it in America, for though I could never bring myself to examine such places at home, the difficulty vanished when the trial was actually made as a matter of duty. But I speak upon this, and upon many other points in these American inquiries, with much and sincere distrust of my own conclusions. The mere wish to see and to represent faithfully is not enough. It is not very easy, in the first place, to get at every thing we ought to examine in such places, in order to form a right judgment upon the question in hand. We have often not time, and still more frequently have not sufficient preparatory knowledge, to make the proper inquiries. And even when in presence of the things we have been seeking for, how difficult is it to look at them aright! It will not unfrequently happen, too, that a casual misconception of a fact, sends us away with more error than knowledge; and I have sometimes seen people of good sense, visit the same institution on the same day, and even in the same company, and yet leave it impressed with very opposite opinions.

Dr. Todd, the eminent and kind physician in charge of the retreat, gladly communicated his plans, and showed us over every part of this noble establishment,—a model, I venture to say, from which any country might take instruction. The institutions at Hartford, which, indeed, are not to be excelled any where, not only do high honour to this part of the union, but are every way creditable to the nation generally.

Dr. Todd's method is to treat every insane patient as if he were a reasonable being. This would be useless, of course, as applied to idiocy, or that class which bears the terrible name of *Mania Ferox*; but even with them he observes the same principle as much as possible. When a patient is brought to the retreat, the physician converses with him freely; and, without attempting to deceive, states all that is known of his case, explains that he is brought there for the purpose of being cured of a disease which happens to affect

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