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# R E M A R K S

ON

## *PRISONS.*

By STEVENSON MACGILL, D. D.

MINISTER OF THE TRONE CHURCH

OF GLASGOW.

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“ I was in *Prison*, and ye came unto me.”

**Glasgow:**

*Printed by J. Hedderwick & Co.*

SOLD BY THE PRINCIPAL BOOKSELLERS IN GLASGOW AND  
EDINBURGH; BY LONGMAN, HURST, REES, AND  
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1810.

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G L A S G O W

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L O N D O N

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE author of this small tract, presumes not to think that he shall present new ideas to those who have given serious attention to the subject of prisons; especially, if they have considered it under the direction of that information which has been communicated by the admirable Howard. But, he believes that many have not reflected on it with that care which it merits, to whom some short remarks may be useful; that it is often important to call the attention of men to what they already know; to present even ordinary truths in a collected form, and to enforce them by their proper considerations. Should, however, what he has written, be of no farther use than to lead even one wise and benevolent man, who has the power of doing good, only to *think* on this important subject; he will not consider that he has written in vain.



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ON

*P R I S O N S.*

**I**N considering the objects to which a community should attend, in the erection and management of prisons, it is of importance for us to fix precisely in our minds, the proper ends to which prisons should be destined, among the public establishments of a country.

**T**HE justifiable ends of a prison, seem, to me, to be the following: to keep in custody the accused, till the period of their trial; to keep in custody the condemned, till the sentence of the law be executed; and, lastly, to punish by confinement, particular offences.

To imprison a fellow-creature, on the mere accusation of guilt, can be only justified from necessity. Accordingly, in the case of lesser crimes, other means are employed, to secure the appearance of the accused on the day of trial. But, in the case of great crimes, the

punishment of which would be more severe, than the forfeiture of any obligation which could be given, nothing can be done to secure the ends of justice, but to confine the person of the accused. This, however, it is never to be forgotten, is a grievous hardship. It affects the character, the estate, the present comfort, and future welfare of a person who is not found guilty, and may be innocent. It must never, therefore, be inflicted, until the necessity be legally ascertained; and, when inflicted, no unnecessary evils should be permitted to augment it. The evil should be softened, as far as is consistent with the public safety, and the necessary regulations of a general place of confinement. Such accommodations as are consistent with these objects, should be afforded. If not held innocent, these prisoners are, at least, not to be held guilty. They are, on no account, to be placed on the same level with condemned criminals, to be doomed to the same treatment, or to be forced into their society.

THE imprisonment of persons condemned, is obviously necessary, till their sentence be carried into execution. Persons of this description, have not only forfeited their liberty for a period, but may justly receive such farther marks of degradation and displeasure, as may declare the nature of that state to which, by their crimes, they have sunk, and operate as useful means to deter others from similar guilt. Such circumstances of degradation, and even of personal hardship, during their confinement, may be justly rendered a part of that punishment which

their crimes have incurred. It is obvious, however, that even with respect to such persons, justice and humanity require, that no evils be added, which are not implied in the design of their imprisonment, and the nature of their sentence.

THESE observations apply, with equal force, to the case of persons, the direct punishment of whose crimes is imprisonment. The law may connect such circumstances of hardship with privation of liberty, as their crimes have merited, and the interests of the community may require. But what these circumstances are, the sentence of the Judge should pronounce. Such evils as the law did not contemplate in the punishment of their crimes, whether they arise from the harshness and caprice of superintendants, a bad establishment, or careless management, are equally contrary to equity, humanity, and good government.

THE confinement of persons for debt, is a case which still remains to be considered. The just causes for imprisonment, on account of debt, seem, to me, to be chiefly the following: to prevent the debtor from leaving the country, before a fair account of his estate has been given, and his conduct been fully investigated; or, as a punishment of negligence, profligacy, fraud, obstinacy, dishonest schemes, or any criminal actions, which the debtor has committed.

THE first of these is similar to the case of imprisonment on the accusation of crimes, till the period of trial: The second is of the same nature with imprisonment as a punishment for crimes.

It is obviously right, and for the general interests of society, that creditors should be able, by some method, to secure the person of a debtor, till his conduct, and the state of his affairs have been investigated. Yet, when cautionary security can be procured, sufficient for the personal appearance of the debtor, or when no presumption of flight, or just grounds of suspicion are apparent, confinement should not, in the first instance, be employed. When confinement seems necessary for the security of the creditor; such accommodation as is consistent with security, and the general police of a prison, should be afforded. For, it is ever to be remembered, that the debtor is only suspected; he may be honest, and only unfortunate. Punishment should not be inflicted where guilt has not been proved, nor additional evils added, without necessity, to him who may be already bowed down with misfortunes. It appears to me also, that after a debtor has made a fair surrender of his estate, his creditors should have no longer any power over his person. A negligent, profligate, or fraudulent bankrupt should be punished; but, he should be punished after a trial by impartial men, and according to the sentence of a judge. Thus, while the unfortunate would be protected from the caprice and cruelty of irritated and

disappointed men; the gambling speculator with other men's property, the profligate spendthrift, the unprincipled swindler, and betrayer of confidence, would be held up to just opprobrium, nor confounded, as they often are at present, with the honest and unfortunate. The creditor also, would enjoy a greater probability of payment from the future labour and exertions of his debtor; credit would, in the ordinary pursuits of active life, receive equal security; and the public would enjoy the benefit of the industry and talents of many able though unfortunate citizens, who are, at present, kept languishing in a jail, useless to themselves, their families, and society.

IF the unfortunate, however, may be thus, at the will of every creditor, imprisoned; care, it is evident, should be employed, not to confound them with the guilty.

THESE observations, lead us to consider prisons as destined principally to two objects: Confinement for Security, and Confinement for Punishment. In many places, these two leading objects are united: where distinct houses are erected for them, the latter are denominated Bridewells and Houses of Correction. Many views are applicable equally to both; nevertheless, their objects being different, they should be separately considered. The thoughts which follow, are chiefly directed to prisons of the first description.

I. THE first object, without doubt, presented to the attention, in considering the erection and management of prisons, is the means necessary to secure the person, and prevent the escape of the prisoners.

ATTENTION to this object must pervade every part of the building, and every rule appointed for its internal regulation. It is a spurious humanity, often the effect of affectation, which raises complaints against those hardships, which the very object of a prison renders unavoidable. Every plan of alleviation, must always be rendered consistent with the design for which prisons are erected, nor must we indulge even the most amiable feelings, at the expense of the general interests. It is pleasing, however, to observe, that the humanity of the present times, joined to their superior skill, has abolished many of those means, such as the dark and deep sunk dungeon, which former times employed. Many other means are now much seldomer employed, or deemed necessary. Iron chains and bolts, rivetting often prisoners to the ground, are now used less frequently. By a proper plan of building, such means become unnecessary. In many of the prisons both at home and abroad, irons, in no form, are employed, except when prisoners are riotous. They occasion, at all times, great inconvenience, and often pain, to the prisoner; and, therefore, unless when rendered necessary, should never be employed as a mean of security; but to put in irons persons who have

not been condemned, is peculiarly cruel, and contrary to the spirit of our laws\*.

II. THE HEALTH of the prisoners should be carefully attended to, in the erection and management of prisons.

IMPRISONMENT, of itself, from its natural effect on the spirits, will, in many cases, injure the constitution. This circumstance should render the community more anxious to provide such means of health, as the nature of a place of confinement will permit; and still more to guard against practices and customs which must be directly pernicious. It is no part of the punishment designed for prisoners of any description, that they should be given up to rheumatisms, scurvy, dropsies, fevers, and consumptions; that their strength should be wasted with sickness, their constitution undermined, and their lives

\* It must be gratifying to every humane person, who has visited prisoners after condemnation, to learn, that in the plan of the prison proposed to be erected in Glasgow, the use of irons, as a mean of security, will be rendered unnecessary. In the present prison, the criminal, after sentence of death, is taken to what is called the condemned cell. Here a blacksmith fixes an iron strap to his leg, which is connected with an iron goad, rivetted down to the stone floor. In this situation, the wretched criminal is confined, during a period of six weeks often, till the execution of his sentence. Such means, by the excellent arrangement of the proposed new prison, will be wholly abolished; and, while superior security is provided against escape, the prisoner will enjoy the free use of his limbs, and some degree of exercise. I cannot help taking this opportunity of paying my tribute of respect to those humane and public spirited men, under whose auspices a prison of so excellent a structure, is soon to be erected.



embittered with excruciating pains, with debility of body and of mind, and their necessary consequence, poverty and wretchedness. Yet, in such an unfortunate manner, have many of our prisons been constructed and managed, that often the unhappy prisoners have been punished, not only with confinement according to their sentence, but with sufferings, and even death, of the most direful kind; or, when death has been protracted, with a long train of diseases and afflictions, during the few years which they dragged out of their miserable existence. If justice and humanity revolt at such treatment, even of the guilty; with what feelings should we think that it may be possibly the fate of the innocent and unfortunate! Every consideration which the human heart should feel, imperiously demand that such evils should be remedied; and that both in the situation, the arrangement, and management of prisons, the most careful attention should be paid to the air, exercise, cleanliness, and diet of the prisoners.

THE Situation selected for a prison, should be airy and dry. Nor is it enough, in judging of it, that the inhabitants in its neighbourhood are healthy. The state of persons who are moving and changing their place in the course of every hour, is vastly different from that of those who are in a state of confinement. Security should be also had, that the situation which is at present good, should not be afterwards injured by adjoining buildings, or neighbouring nuisances. It is of import-

ance, in the choice of a situation, to attend even to the most frequent current of the winds. As prisons will be commonly in the neighbourhood of great towns, a situation should be chosen, from which the air of the city will be generally blown away. Grounds which afford either a damp foundation, or which are exposed to fogs, should be avoided. The excellent Howard, for obvious reasons, prefers a spot which is near a river or brook. “But, he observes, I must annex this caution; that it be not so near, as that either the house or yard shall be within the reach of floods. This circumstance was so little thought of at Appleby in Westmoreland, when their new goal was built, that I saw the walls marked from nine inches to three feet high by floods.” In general, perhaps, it would be prudent to consult medical men of knowledge and judgement, on a subject of so much moment to the health of our fellow-creatures.

A PRISON should be so constructed, as to allow to the prisoners, the benefit of fresh and wholesome air. To secure fresh and wholesome air, should be a great object of attention, in the erection of every building which is to be inhabited. But it is of particular importance in a prison. Inhabitants of other houses, are as frequently in the streets and fields, as in their own dwellings. The prisoner is confined to his dreary habitation, and cannot seek the relief of a free respiration, by a change of place. That, therefore, which is of importance to every man, is especially important to him. This is necessary, not only

to the preservation of the health and comfort of individuals, but to the recovery of those who are sick, and to check the tendency to infection. To secure this important object, in the erection of a prison, the rooms assigned for the prisoners, should be placed on the second floor, rising higher than the surrounding walls. The dimensions of every room should be such, as will admit a quantity of air sufficient for the free respiration of the prisoner; and a sleeping-room should be allotted to each person. By the operation of well known laws in nature, the most fatal effects attend confinement in places too small for the inhabitants. Of this, the well known fact which took place in the hole at Calcutta, affords a melancholy proof. "In 1756, out of one hundred and seventy persons, who were confined during one night, one hundred and fifty-four were taken out dead. The few survivors ascribed the mortality to their want of fresh air." Besides giving attention to the dimensions of the rooms, and assigning a sleeping-room to each person, it is of the utmost importance, to provide for every room, and every corner of a prison, the means of free ventilation. For this purpose, the window of each room should, if possible, look to the open fields; and the house should, in general, be single, with a passage running the whole length of the building, so that every room might occasionally have air from each side. In a parish with which I am acquainted, are two villages. One of them may contain above one thousand inhabitants; the other only about two hundred. In the

large village, the houses are of one story, a passage runs through the middle, and opens generally, by what is called the back-door, into a small garden. Each house has one or two families. In the small village, the houses are of two and three stories, they are double, and may contain, on each floor, two or four families; no passage runs through them, nor can a free ventilation be enjoyed. The populous village is healthy; the small village is so sickly, that, during many years of my observation, it had, of itself, more diseases among its few inhabitants, than existed among the extensive population of the other. While on this subject, will I not be pardoned, for expressing my ardent wishes, that those who may be able to remedy the evil, would give attention to the condition of those wretched hovels, which the labouring classes in great towns, are obliged frequently to inhabit. Pent up in the narrowest and dirtiest lanes, in houses, damp, confined, airless, crowded and huddled together, more like places for cattle than for men; they breathe a foul and putrid air, and lose all spirit and desire for cleanliness, decency, and order. The effect of such circumstances, not only on the health and comfort, but morals and character of the people, is great. Those habits of decent neatness, so important, not only to comfort, but to dignity of mind, and a maintenance of character, are lost; because the opportunity of forming or maintaining them, is not given. The woman loses the desire to please, and sinks into a slattern. Home affords few inducements to the husband, after the labours

of the day. His family presents a scene of filth and disorder; spiritless and unhappy, he is tempted to seek abroad, the comfort which his own dwelling cannot give; and habits of drinking, not unfrequently complete the wretchedness of his condition. If such be the effect on the parents, need I enlarge on what must be the state and character of the children! Can it be inconsistent with the liberty of the subject, or the rights of private property, to guard against such evils? To fix, for example, a certain width for the streets, and lanes, and passages of a town, within which they shall not be contracted; to oblige proprietors to set apart places for dunghills, and means for carrying off stagnant water, from the houses they let, according to their number and population; and to appoint rules for keeping clean, not only the larger streets, but the narrowest lanes and corners of the city. These might all be objects of public police; and few objects, I am persuaded, would produce a greater effect on the comfort, health, and manners of the people.

To have an opportunity, occasionally, of going into the open air, and enjoying the benefit of exercise, must also, it is obvious, be of great importance, not only to comfort, but to health. The example of many prisons, both in England and on the Continent, sufficiently shows, that this can be granted with the completest security of the prisoners. Courts, therefore, should be annexed to every prison, in which the prisoners, at convenient and stated hours, might have the opportunity of taking exercise in

the open air. These courts should correspond with the different wards of the prison, and the different classes of persons who are confined. In populous districts, where the prisoners will be, probably, numerous, a court should be appropriated exclusively for Females; another for Debtors; a third for the Accused; and a fourth for the Condemned. In the generality of prisons, where the number of prisoners is small, it might be thought hard, to provide courts of large dimensions for a few of each class. When circumstances do not permit a large appropriation of ground, a similar, though not equal advantage, might be obtained by fewer courts, if different periods of the day were allotted for different classes of prisoners. And, in general, perhaps, it might be more advantageous, to have a few large and airy courts for exercise, than a great number which were narrow and confined. In such cases, however, the strictest attention would be necessary to the right division and allotment of hours. Without this, not only the most hurtful effects would follow to the moral interests of the prisoners; but those of a better character being unwilling to mix with others, and be exposed to the rudeness of their manners and conversation, would be deprived of that benefit which was designed, and which the more worthless, by such means, would almost exclusively enjoy.

CLEANLINESS is of the first importance to health. It is particularly necessary to persons in a place of confinement. The air being more confined, is more easily

infected with putrid exhalations; nor are the noxious effects of uncleanness of person, counteracted by exercise, or fresh currents and changes of atmosphere. It is particularly necessary to be attended to in prisons also, on account of the low and regardless habits of the generality of prisoners. Besides, the feeling excited by confinement, leads to indolence and the neglect of their persons, even in men of a better order. Unless means be afforded, encouragement given, and rules steadily enforced, for the maintenance of cleanliness, both in their rooms, their clothes, and their persons; dirtiness, in its lowest forms, and with effects peculiarly hideous, will prevail. This important object must, without doubt, greatly depend on the internal economy and management of the house. But the best rules will be inefficient, unless such attention be paid, in the construction of the building, as may render good regulations not only practicable, but easily observed. For this purpose, the rooms and their furniture should be of such a kind, as may be kept clean without difficulty, and as may afford little harbour for dust or vermin. The prison should also, in convenient places, be abundantly supplied with water. Necessary closets should be provided for every floor, and wide and well constructed sewers should be connected with every side of the building. To each court, should be appropriated a pump-well and a bath. To these, a general wash-house and a boiler should be added. The state in which many persons are brought into prison, renders the bath highly useful; the boiler is

necessary for cleansing their clothes, both at entrance and during their imprisonment. Howard recommends that an oven should be also employed. "Nothing," says he, "so effectually destroys vermin on clothes and bedding, nor purifies them so thoroughly, when tainted with infection, as being a few hours in an oven moderately heated."

FOR the maintenance of health, it is also farther of importance, that to every prison should be attached a small infirmary for the sick. This is obviously proper, not only for the recovery of the diseased, but to prevent infection from extending its noxious influence among the healthy. The upper part of the prison will, in general, form, for this purpose, the safest and most commodious retreat, secure to the sick greater quietness, and a freer air, while it removes them to a distance from the great body of the prisoners. It is unnecessary to add, that where an infirmary is necessary, medical aid must also be provided.

THESE provisions will be of small effect, unless accompanied with corresponding regulations.

I SUPPOSE it to be the duty of every jailor, to inspect each morning, every quarter of the prison. In the course of this inspection, it is his duty to observe, that the windows of the sleeping-rooms be opened, for the admission of fresh air. Two hours, at least, each day, should



be allotted to each class of prisoners, for enjoying, in their different courts, the benefit of air and exercise. Inquiry should be made into the health of every prisoner on his admission, and a survey taken of the state of his clothing and his person. If required, let his clothes undergo a thorough cleansing, and his person be purified and sweetened by the bath. When unable to furnish what is necessary himself, the humanity of the public should provide coarse but decent cloathing, and bed-clothes suited to his condition. Let me not be thought too minute, when I add the following observations: Every prisoner should be obliged to keep his person clean, and his apparel as neat as his circumstances will permit: he should be obliged, if able, to sweep his own room each morning; when unable, other prisoners, for a small reward, should perform the office for him: once, at least, in the week, each room should be washed; and twice in the year, the walls should be white-washed with lime: when the beds are of straw, the straw should be frequently changed; the sheets of the prisoners should be shifted once in the month, their linens on every Sabbath: each court being provided with abundance of water, should be washed at least once, in the course of every day. Speaking of some of the prisons of Paris, Howard makes the following remark: "Most of the courts are paved, and they are washed three or four times a-day. One would hardly believe, how this freshens the air in the upper rooms. I felt this once and again, when I was in the chambers; and an Englishman, who had the mis-

fortune to be a prisoner, made the same remark." It is most truly observed, that the habit of cleanliness is not only conducive to health, but to decency, order, diligence, and good manners. This is confirmed by the remark of Captain Cook, who declared, "that such men as he could induce to be more cleanly than they were disposed to be of themselves, became, at the same time, more sober, more orderly, and more attentive to their duty."

How surprising is it, that amongst a people so just and humane as the British, those objects should have received so little public attention! The evils existing in our prisons, the benevolent Howard, many years ago, laid open, in plain and moderate language, yet in a manner fitted deeply to affect the mind. In many places, he excited attention, and great improvements were made. But in many places also, and in places where attention might chiefly have been expected, little has been done, and the most flagrant abuses continue to exist. In London, the seat of government, and where, from the number and character of the prisoners, it is of the first importance, not only to individuals, but to the nation, that the state of prisons should be made an object of regular and systematic attention, evils of the worst nature continue to prevail. Who could have thought, that, after all his labours, Howard should have had to record, in his last publication, such facts as the following? "Newgate—No alteration! In three or four rooms,

there were near one hundred and fifty women crowded together, many young creatures, with the old and hardened, some of whom had been confined upwards of two years; on the men's side, likewise, there were many boys of twelve or fourteen years of age, some almost naked. In the men's infirmary, there were only seven iron bedsteads; and, at my last visit, there being twenty sick, some of them naked, and with sores, in a miserable condition, lay on the floor, with only a rug. There were four sick in the infirmary for women, which is only fifteen feet and a half by twelve, has but one window, and no bedsteads, sewers offensive, prisons not white-washed." The Fleet, the King's Bench, and many others of the principal prisons, he marks, in like manner, with the emphatic words "no alteration!" I believe that several alterations have been made since that period; but how few are yet in that state which justice, humanity, religion, an enlightened policy, would dictate. At present, I consider the subject with a view to the Health of the prisoners; and is, even now, that object attended to in Newgate, for example, as might be expected in one of the first prisons of the capital of such a kingdom as Britain? Unless it be greatly changed since I had an opportunity of visiting it, about three years ago, the accommodation for debtors and for females, is deplorable. In the account given of it in the Picture of London, where mention is made of some important improvements, during the sheriffalty of Messrs. Smith and Phillips, we find still the following facts: "The rooms

(for debtors) are twenty-three feet by fifteen; the number of inhabitants, is from twelve to twenty in each room. The debtor's side contains, sometimes, three hundred; and, for this number, a court is provided of fifty by thirty-two feet. In four other yards, felons are lodged, and in another, women felons; a wretched place, in which, in three wards, are sometimes kept upwards of one hundred women!"

IF such be the state of prisons in London, what may be expected to be the general state of them throughout the kingdom? I fear that this object will never meet with that general attention which it deserves, while an interest to disregard it, exists among those to whom the charge of it belongs. Many good regulations have been made, respecting prisons, by Parliament; but of what avail are laws, if proper means are not employed to enforce them? By the excellent Act, 24th of George III. justices of peace are empowered to build and repair goals, when necessary, and to assess the counties for the expense. But let me not be thought illiberal, when I observe, that men often cease to be moved with evils to which they are accustomed, and which do not affect themselves; that individuals, considering the remedy of them not to be their special business, seldom will make it an object of their attention, and still less of their exertions; and, that still less will these exertions be generally made, when the object is likely to meet with opposition, and to *affect the purses of the very men who are*

*to carry the object into effect.* Evils which do not affect ourselves, are likely to subsist a considerable time, before the generality of men come forward to remedy them at their own expense, especially when that expense would be considerable. The justices are, in reality, parties in this question; and they ought not to be the sole judges and executors in a business, against which they have an individual interest. But these laws, with all the good regulations which they contain, for a reason with which I am unacquainted, do not extend to Scotland. That *British* statutes, on a subject of this nature, should not extend to Scotland, seems very extraordinary. Some reason, without doubt, must have induced a humane legislature to make the exception. At present, I am certain, neither the wealth nor the spirit of the country, would operate as an objection; and, that some regulations are necessary in this country, as well as in England, no man, who has attended to the state of prisons in Scotland, or the imperfect state of the law respecting them, can doubt for a moment.

THE FOOD of the prisoners, forms an important article under this head, which still remains to be considered.

IN England, the poor debtor is allowed, by law, two shillings and fourpence per week; convicts, two shillings and sixpence, for their maintenance. This incongruity seems to be remedied, by a statute of the most salutary nature, passed in the thirty-first year of his present

Majesty's reign. By this statute, it is provided; "it shall be lawful, for the justices of peace, at their general or quarter sessions, or any adjournment thereof, from time to time, to order such sum, or sums, of money, to be paid out of the county rate, towards assisting such prisoners, of *every* description, as, being confined within the said goals, or other places of confinement, are not able to work, or, being able, cannot procure employment sufficient to sustain themselves by their industry, or who may not be otherwise provided for, by virtue of any law, statute, or of any custom or order, *such food and raiment*, as the said justices shall, from time to time, think necessary for the support of *health*; and such money shall, accordingly, be applied in conformity to directions to be given by the said justices." By the same statute, justices are empowered to make bye-laws, for enforcing, among prisoners of *all* descriptions, *cleanliness, temperance, decent and orderly behaviour*.

IN Scotland, the statute expressly says, that the prisoners are to be kept at their "own expenses." But in the case of poor prisoners, who are criminally *convicted*, the statute ordains, "commissioners and justices, at their quarter-sessions, to rate every parish for a weekly proportion, for the entertainment of those poor prisoners, providing they do not exceed the sum of five shillings Scots money." By this statute, only persons *convicted* had a maintenance provided by the public. This defect was supplied by the general statute of George I, for

securing the peace of the country, by which it is provided, that certain assessments of counties shall be applied, “for defraying the charges of apprehending of criminals, and of *subsisting* them in prison, until prosecution.” No provision is made for debtors. But it is provided, that, on an oath of poverty being taken, the magistrate may require the creditor who imprisons, to aliment the debtor, at a rate not under threepence per day; if this be refused, after ten days, the debtor may be released.

THE allowance for food, is, I believe, with a few exceptions, and these of a partial kind, given to prisoners of every description, in *money*.

THIS practice is, in my judgement, the worst which could be followed, both for the prisoners and the public. The sums allowed for food, produce much less to the individuals, when given separately, than when united for their common maintenance. Such sums also, are frequently employed, by the unhappy prisoner, not in procuring wholesome food, but in ministering to his idle and vicious habits. They become also, the mean of bribing the under jailors to violate the most salutary regulations. Thus also, the upper jailor is tempted to sell to prisoners, those articles which they wish; and often, instead of restraining, to encourage their vices. And it affords plausible reasons, for introducing to the prison, at the hours of meals, the most disorderly persons;

who add their talents and exertions, to defeat the best plans, and keep up the spirit of disorder and profligacy.

I HAVE no hesitation, therefore, in maintaining, that no money should be given, by the public, to prisoners; and, that the maintenance allowed, should be distributed to them from a general Kitchen, according to a fixed rotation of plain and wholesome victuals. This kitchen might either form a part of the general building, or, with its appropriate cellars, a separate court, attached to the prison, and having with it an easy communication. It should be managed under an establishment of its own. The stores should be provided by the public, through the clerk of the prison, under the superintendance of an inspector. The preparation and distribution of the victuals, should be made under the direction of a respectable matron. And the whole of this, and every part of the system of the prison, should be so arranged, as that the jailor should have *no interest in defrauding the prisoner, or in violating any useful regulation.*

THAT such a plan may be easily carried into execution, appears from the example of our poor-houses, infirmaries, the bridewell of this city, and those of many other places. Among them, we find no complaints of the food; nor of the difficulty of excluding spirituous liquors, and their consequent disorders. If it should be thought hard, to confine individuals, who are able to maintain themselves, to the common allowance of the prison, the proposed



plan might, at least, be carried into effect with those prisoners who are supported at the expense of the public. Even with this limitation, it would produce much good, and prevent or diminish many great evils. I conceive, however, that no such limitation should be adopted; that every prisoner, whatever be his rank or his fortune, should receive his maintenance from the kitchen of the house, and, with the restrictions to be afterwards mentioned, from the ordinary allowance of plain and wholesome food, appointed by the public.

To remove, as much as possible, every objection, I would allow of a distinction to be made into two kinds of diet. For the richer, I will not say better, kind of food, let the prisoners make a weekly payment; and, in some cases, this may operate as an incitement to industry. Let this sum be paid to the clerk of the prison, and carried wholly to the account of the public; but, on no consideration, let a sale of victuals be permitted to the jailor, or any individual. If this be permitted, an interest will immediately be created, to minister to the vices and depraved habits of the prisoners. I would also allow a difference of food to be made, when the medical superintendant of the prison, should declare a particular diet to be necessary for the health of individuals. But, with these restrictions, a general plan of diet, provided from the common kitchen, should extend to all the prisoners.

IF you allow partial indulgences to be purchased by money, at the pleasure of every individual, you will not be able to check abuses, prevent vice, and preserve good order, either among the prisoners or the jailors; you will render the system of the prison too complex and difficult for proper superintendance; bribery will be more easily accomplished; opportunities of evading the rules of sobriety and good order, will be continually afforded; and the hope of profit, by the expenses of the prisoners, will operate on the jailor, as a temptation, not only to make improper distinctions, but to encourage extravagance and vice. Is it not also contrary to the public interest, to connect the idea of a prison with luxurious entertainments? Does it not diminish the fear of a jail, and, consequently, the motive to avoid those dangerous circumstances which lead to such a conclusion? And are there not many idle and profligate persons, who will consider confinement with indifference, if, in company like themselves, they can wallow in all their accustomed indulgences? The waste, extravagance, and luxury, which have been sometimes seen in prisons, manifest a spirit insensible to shame, and setting disgrace at defiance; they are offensive to public decency; are galling to the feelings of the honest and industrious, whose property is wasted; and are injurious to those principles of honour and justice, which every wise state should cherish and consecrate in the minds of its subjects.

NOR will individuals suffer by such restraints. The

generality of persons who enter the walls of a prison, would be the better both in body and mind, for being confined to a course of sober diet; and even those of a better description, for whose sake we might be willing to grant a relaxation, will not suffer by a temporary change. Rules, necessary for the general good, must be submitted to by individuals, for whom they might not be wanted. But it is no disadvantage to any man, to know how his fellow-creatures ordinarily live, and to partake, on some occasions, of the safe and hardy nourishment of the poor. It will promote sober thought, and favour the growth of manly habits. The period cannot be long; the temporary inconvenience, if such it should be felt, is trifling, and will be attended with no lasting evil. With those who would feel it as a great grievance, I cannot sympathise. The sooner, in such a case, their habits are broken, the better for themselves. They are sinking under a disease, for which the regimen of simple life, will prove a safe and salutary remedy. Nor ought it to be regretted, either by themselves or their friends, though they should be obliged to learn a better taste, some strength and health of mind, and even how "to endure hardness," in the necessary discipline and restraints of that house, to which misfortune or misconduct has brought them.

I ATTEMPT not to ascertain, what articles of diet should be adopted. These must be different, according to the circumstances and customs of the country in

which the prison is erected. We may, however, venture to affirm, that such food as is the general fare of the sober and industrious peasantry of Scotland, is salutary and pleasant; while it is simple and easily furnished. I lived once in the neighbourhood of a labourer, who was distinguished for strength and cheerful activity, and whose family possessed all the marks of health and contentment. I had the curiosity to inquire into the nature of their diet. It consisted generally, of porridge and milk for breakfast; milk and potatoes, beaten with cabbage and a little butter, for dinner; potatoes and salt for supper. They used butcher-meat seldom in summer, more frequently in winter; never had in their humble dwelling, porter or beer; nor, except on some great occasion, was the curse of Scotland tasted. The diet of this contented and happy family, may seem too poor for a labouring man. On this, I presume not to give a positive opinion. But it may be observed in general, that such quantities of butcher-meat as are commonly used by the English people, are, by no means, necessary to health and comfort; that the Scotch peasantry are as hardy and active, and fully as happy as those of England; and, that their food, so far from being coarse, is nutritious and pleasant, and often chosen, when ceremony allows of a choice, in preference to the richest dishes, by families of the first rank and affluence in the kingdom.

IT may not be improper, to mention a few particulars, respecting the diet of some of the public institutions of this city.

THE diet of the Bridewell, is as follows: for breakfast porridge and milk, or beer: for dinner, broth, made of vegetables; generally on the Sabbath, cow-head, or other coarse pieces of meat are added; and, at times, in place of barley-broth, potatoe-soup is made: for supper, bread and milk, or beer; in severe weather, potatoes or porridge, in place of bread. When sick, the prisoners are conveyed to the sick-room, and get such food and other articles, as the Physician prescribes. The prisoners, in this bridewell, are remarked for good health, and for the favourable change which takes place in their appearance, after they have been sometime confined in it. They also, it should be added, defray, by their own industry, the whole expense of their maintenance.

IN the Poor-house of this city, the diet is as follows: for breakfast, porridge and milk, or beer: for dinner, broth, made of vegetables; joined with bread and butter, cheese, or salt herrings, alternately; beef once in the week: for supper, porridge and milk, or beer. Persons who are sickly, are allowed tea in the morning, and wine, or a little spirits and water, when these are thought useful. The children, in this excellently conducted institution, are very healthy, when the circumstances under which they enter, are considered. And the health of the aged and infirm, is, I believe, equal to that of persons of the same description, in any other house. The expense of the maintenance of each person, was, in 1807, only *4l. 9s. 2d.* per annum. And, including clothing, coal

and candles, household charges, salaries of clerk, mistress, teacher, surgeon, drugs, spirits and ale, premiums, the average expense of each individual, did not amount to more than 7*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* per annum. In consequence of a considerable increase of price, on the various articles of food, the average expense of maintenance was, in 1809, 4*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* for each individual, but in this is included washing materials.

SOME years ago, when, from the high price of provisions, and want of employment, multitudes in this country were reduced to great distress; exertions were made in this city, as in other parts of the kingdom, for the relief of the necessitous. Soup-kitchens were established in various parts of the town. In one, with which, along with several gentlemen, I was connected, four hundred persons received a quart of strong soup, made of vegetables and butcher-meat, boiled to pieces in it, at the expense of about 9*l.* 10*s.* per week. In this sum, is included the expense of servants, vegetables, barley and pease, meat, coals. Each person thus received what was esteemed a good and wholesome dinner, a quart of soup, made of meat and vegetables, barley and pease, at the small expense of about three-farthings. This calculation, it is also to be observed, has reference to a year of uncommon scarcity.

By these observations, I mean not to recommend, that any of these kinds of diet should be exclusively adopted.

But I mean to show, that the plan of a general kitchen for every prison, may be easily carried into effect; and that good and wholesome food may be provided for every prisoner, greatly to the advantage of his health, morals, and fortune, *without any additional expense to the public.*

III. IN the construction and management of prisons, the deepest attention should be paid to the habits, character, moral and religious interests of the prisoners.

WHEN we contemplate prisons under this view, the CLASSIFICATION of prisoners, according to their state and circumstances, naturally presents itself among the particulars of first importance.

IT is evident, that prisoners must be of very different characters and degrees of guilt. Some are confined upon suspicion, and may be innocent: others are convicted, and are confined till the execution of their sentence: some, again, are convicted of misdemeanours, and others, of more heinous crimes: some are young, and unhackneyed in vice; others are grey, and hardened in iniquity. Justice requires, that a distinction should be made, in the treatment of these persons. The same treatment is unjust in itself, and it inflicts a severer doom on the comparatively innocent, than on the more guilty, by placing them on a level, and obliging them to associate with the worthless and criminal. But these considerations, important as they are, almost dis-

appear from my apprehension, when I think on the dreadful consequences of such an association, upon the principles and future conduct of the unfortunate prisoners.

EVERY good government should seek, in all its public institutions, to promote the virtue of its subjects; and to guard or reclaim them from vice. But, at least, it should see, that its institutions become not the means of corruption, the nurseries of that profligacy which they were designed to oppose and to destroy. Now, I would ask any person, acquainted with human nature, if the indiscriminate association of persons of all descriptions, often in the same sleeping-rooms and the same beds, has not the most direct tendency, both to encourage the vicious in their abandoned courses, and to render more deeply corrupt, the young and unhackneyed transgressors. The very circumstance of degrading them to a level with the most abandoned, tends to deprave their character. It destroys the small feeling of reputation and self-respect which remains. But what must be the effect of witnessing the conduct, becoming accustomed to the habits, hearing the conversation, learning the principles and the practices, and being exposed to all the seducing arts of the regardless profligate, and often the ingenious villain? Such society, must not only ruin the young and less guilty, but must tend to harden the more criminal. They encourage, by their conversation, one another in their vices, and invite to the commission of new enor-



mities. Better feelings and resolutions are prevented from rising and taking possession of their hearts; and passions are excited or are kept alive, which might otherwise have subsided. Thus, their dispositions become more corrupt, their minds more determined on vice, and every good principle is more deeply buried beneath an overwhelming load of depravity.

IT is distressing to think, how little attention has been paid to this important object, even in prisons which are supposed to be well regulated. In the prisons of London, crowds, particularly of females, are huddled together in the same room, without order or discrimination. Amongst the unhappy persons, thus thrown indiscriminately together, are there not many of different characters, ages, and degrees of guilt; of different conditions in life, accused or convicted of different crimes, with very different habits and feelings? Are there not some, even among those who have been convicted of crimes, of whom some hopes of repentance and reformation might be formed; who have only commenced the career of vice, feel the compunctions of returning principle, and, with some encouragement, and in favourable circumstances, might be induced to fly the fatal paths of the destroyer? But, alas! they are abandoned to the society of the most profligate; where every virtuous and religious principle is laughed to scorn, where their minds are polluted with indecency, new arts of iniquity and wickedness are taught them, and new temptations continually forced upon their thoughts.

In such a situation, surrounded only with vice, their reputation gone, their hopes in life blasted, no good sentiment awakened or encouraged, they give themselves up headlong, to the direction of the abandoned; and issue from prison, a thousand-fold more depraved than when they entered its fatal walls.

BUT is it necessary to visit the capital for examples of this kind?

IN Scotland, justly distinguished for the purity of its principles, and the excellence of its public institutions, still less attention has been paid to the condition of unhappy prisoners than in England. In a prison belonging to this country, a friend of mine informed me, he saw, during the last year, ten women confined in one room, where were only two beds. Among these women, was one of a respectable character, confined for debt. The rest were generally of a profligate description, and one was a criminal, condemned to transportation, but remaining in prison, on account of a loathsome disease. Here there was a woman, comparatively respectable, compelled not only to associate with profligate characters, but to sleep with four in the same bed, one of them a convicted criminal, whose body was almost in a state of putrefaction!

IN a prison, not distinguished for negligence, I have myself seen three boys, the oldest not more than fourteen.

years of age, confined, for a long period, in the same room with two hackneyed criminals, who had been tried, convicted, and sentenced to transportation. What rendered the case of these children more afflicting, they had not been found guilty of any offence, they were only waiting for their trial. I ask you to consider, what would be the probable effect of such society, and in such circumstances, on the principles, characters, and future fate of these young persons. Justice requires, that persons merely accused, should not be placed on the same footing with persons convicted and condemned; that distinctions should be made also, according to the degrees of guilt; and, that the young and inexperienced, should not be ranked among old and hardened transgressors. But does not the public interest, religion, compassion, every good principle in the soul of man, plead farther; that they should not be exposed to the contagion of greater vice, nor be doomed to a condition, which must almost inevitably lead to ruin? Nay, does not every good principle call upon us, to employ means for preventing even persons of a similar character, from injuring one another, by their society and conversation; and by such a judicious arrangement of time, place, employment, intermixture of superintendance and authority, to endeavour to divert their ideas into channels, which might be innocent and improving?

IN considering the best mode of effecting these objects, the first idea which arises, is the necessity of erecting

prisons of such dimensions, as will render possible a classification of prisoners. The want of accommodation suited to the number imprisoned, is, indeed, the great excuse for the evils which we have mentioned. But should such an excuse, in a country like this, be permitted to have a foundation? Should an excuse for injustice, cruelty, the encouragement of vice, be permitted to remain in the kingdom of Britain? The rights and the well-being, the character and morals, of every class of subjects, are the care of a good government, and the concern of an enlightened, humane, and religious people. If any county or city will not do their duty, the laws and government of their country should interpose. The evil is not to be remedied by the partial exertions of humane individuals.

SUPPOSING that the building is of adequate dimensions, five great divisions, at least, should be made. Separate divisions should be made for males and females; for the accused and the convicted; and, while the law continues as it is, a separate ward should be allotted for debtors. These divisions, with a little consideration, might be easily subdivided, according to the probable condition and character of individuals. Even if no other allotment and means were employed, considerable advantage would be obtained. Still, however, in each of these divisions, many worthless persons must be supposed to be associated, disposed and fitted to corrupt one another, and those of a better description, who are confined to their

society. The means of preventing this, are next to be considered.

THE following means are submitted for consideration. Every prisoner ought to have a sleeping-room allotted for himself, to which he might, during the day, at all times retire. Persons imprisoned for a short period, on account of misdemeanours, should be confined entirely to their own rooms; while they might be allowed better accommodation, according to the nature of their guilt, and the character which they sustain. This would both preserve them from the general infection of the prison, and, by a short seclusion from society, dispose them to sober thought. I observe farther, that every prisoner, at his first imprisonment, should be confined entirely, for some period, to the room allotted for him. This would enable the jailor and superintendant of the prison, to form some estimate of his condition, and to determine with propriety, the class to which he should be assigned. It would remove, also, the criminal for a period, from the corrupting influence of his companions in vice. The silence and retirement of his cell, would dispose him to serious reflection, and afford leisure and opportunity for indulging it. At such a season, and in such circumstances, he might recall the events of his life, and the consequences of his crimes; compare his days of peace with his present fallen state; carry forward his views to the future consequences of sin; remember the invitation to the chief of sinners; and, with a full and overflowing

heart, "arise," like the returning prodigal, "to go unto his father." Such have been the effects of seasonable correction, joined to the silence and retirement of solitude, and why may they not also be felt in silence and retirement, by the lonely prisoner?

BUT confinement in solitude, when long, stupifies and debilitates the mind, and produces either habitual gloom and dejection, or sullenness and malignity. The next consideration, therefore, should be, in what manner the society of prisoners with one another should be regulated.

PERSONS of a more sober character, might be permitted to meet in their own apartments, or in some common room, at stated hours. But the generality of prisoners, I would permit to associate only in two places; in the room allotted for employment, and in the court allotted for exercise. The hope of meeting, and sometimes conversing together, would render the thought of labour pleasant, and prove an incitement to industry. It would be easy to superintend them. In these places, one of the jailors, of a good and prudent mind, might always be present. His presence would check disorder, and promote the general security of the prison. "In most of the prisons at Paris," we are informed by Howard, "there are five or six turnkeys, two or three at the gates, *one walking in the yard*, to prevent conferring and plotting; a circumstance to which French jailors are very atten-

tive." I add, that to the female ward should be assigned some respectable woman, to superintend the general economy of that part of the establishment, to direct and encourage the industry of the prisoners, and assist, by her prudent counsel and good example, in promoting their reformation.

PRISONS should be also constructed and managed in such a manner, as to afford opportunities for EMPLOYMENT, and encouragement to INDUSTRY.

THE importance of employment to all classes of men, is too obvious for illustration. But, without this be a special object of consideration, in the construction and management of prisons, it is plainly rendered impossible to the prisoner, from the nature of his condition. Unless, therefore, some provision is made, to enable him to labour, you not only deprive him of liberty, with its attendant advantages, but you reduce him and his family to the lowest state of indigence; and you expose him to all the moral evils which arise from a life of idleness, spent among the idle. His family, in various ways, must greatly suffer. The public also, are injured; they not only lose the benefit of his industry, but they must afford maintenance to his family, who are deprived of the means of support. These reasons should lead us to provide, as far as possible, the means of employment to prisoners of every description; but they are especially powerful, when applied to the case of debtors, or

of prisoners who have not been convicted of crimes. Many other reasons combine, to enforce this object. Employment would render the management of the prison more easy and safe. It would direct the thoughts of active spirits from dangerous caballing; it would prevent that disorder and tendency to riot, which is, at all times, the fruit of idleness, but which must particularly arise among persons, whose habits are disorderly, and whose thoughts will, probably, take the course of mischief and of profligacy. This leads me to observe the importance of employment, to the habits and moral interests of the prisoners.

It is the duty, we have observed, of a well regulated society, so to order its public institutions, that they become not the means of corruption, and nurseries of profligacy. And does not idleness naturally lead to vices and to crimes? Must it not be particularly dangerous among those, whose habits already lead them to disorder and profligacy? By not furnishing prisoners with the means of employment, you increase the tendency to idleness, disorder, and vice, among the corrupt, and you place those of a better description, in circumstances of the greatest danger. But as a community, professing the character of humanity, and acknowledging the infinite importance of virtue and religion, both to states and individuals, should we not have in view, not merely to preserve individuals from increasing wretchedness, but to employ such means as we possess, and are



consistent with general principles, to check the progress of corruption, to recover from wretchedness, to encourage new habits, to reclaim and to reform? With such views, employment should not only be permitted, but should receive every encouragement. Its importance, in this view, is great, if it did nothing more than give exercise to the minds of prisoners, change the current of their thoughts and desires, lead them to fix their attention and employ their talents on useful objects. And is it not also of importance, as beginning and aiding the formation of the most important habits? Are not idle habits among the most common causes of disorder and profligacy? And is it not, therefore, of the first importance, to lessen their power, if not wholly to burst their ignominious fetters? Nay, has not industry a direct tendency not merely to preserve from vice, but to improve the human mind; to exercise its faculties, to give an useful direction to the thoughts, and, as the fulfilment of a duty incumbent on every human being, to strengthen the principle of rectitude, exercise and cherish the domestic affections, and prepare the mind for engaging in a course of active virtue?

SUCH views, show the importance of furnishing prisoners with the means of employment, and engaging them in a course of industry, by such methods as are suited to their condition. In every prison, therefore, working-rooms should be provided, and the implements of labour necessary to the most common professions, furnished, or

permitted to be introduced. Men not accustomed to manual labour, may be furnished often with a variety of employments, especially in commercial towns, which they can easily carry on in the day-rooms allotted to their ward. To find them employment, dispose of the produce, and manage their pecuniary concerns, should be the business of the jailor, or clerk of the prison. Of all these transactions, a regular account should be kept in the name of every prisoner, to which he should have occasional access; and which a committee, to be afterwards mentioned, should regularly inspect, and compare with the vouchers.

THE great incitement to industry, is the prospect of profit in proportion to exertion. Let the fruit of his labours, therefore, be given wholly to the prisoner. Inattention to this, renders the system which is followed in almost all the Bridewells of the kingdom, extremely defective. A small portion of time is appointed for labour, and the produce, instead of being appropriated to each individual, according to his exertions, is put into a common fund, for the general maintenance of the establishment. What is the effect? The prisoners labour only at the periods fixed by the public; they labour reluctantly, and from fear, because they are to reap no personal advantage from their exertions. Thus also, the idle and industrious receive the same encouragement; the proper habit of industry is not formed; and what is particularly to be remarked, the public lose by this

appropriation to itself of the whole profit of the prisoners. In such bridewells, it will be generally found, that though the whole of the profits are taken by the public, the criminals are far from maintaining themselves. The cause is obvious; the proper stimulating principle to industry is not employed. In the summer of the year 1807, I had an opportunity of visiting the Cold-bath-fields prison. It is a house of a very superior order, and calculated greatly to promote the health and comfort of the prisoners. I made, however, the following remarks: "Prisoners are allowed to associate too indiscriminately; no means are employed to instruct ignorant criminals, nor are useful books sufficiently furnished to those who can read. The labour of the criminals is too small; it is not sufficiently diversified, and seems to consist almost entirely in picking oakum; no inducement is given to voluntary exertions, nor proper attention to the formation of industrious habits; finally, and very much in consequence of these latter circumstances, the establishment is too expensive to the country."—Let us now consider, what would be the effect of a very simple change in the system which is generally pursued. Appropriate to the criminals, the same hours of labour which a sober workman voluntarily assigns to himself. Be at pains to find those kinds of work, which are both profitable and suited to the skill of individuals; and where skill in useful arts is wanting, let it be taught. Open an account for every criminal, and let him know, that, after deducting the expense of his maintenance, *the whole profits of his labour*

*are his own.* Finally, let every convicted criminal know, that he must remain in confinement, till he has paid, by his labour, the expense of his maintenance. By such means, the most powerful inducements to industry are presented, inducements of a rational kind, and similar to those which are presented in ordinary life; the hope of gain, the inconvenience of debt, the certainty of advantage proportioned to present exertions. Thus labour is voluntarily and cheerfully performed, habits of industry are encouraged, and expense to the public is saved; while some wealth is acquired, and the sweets of sober industry, are experienced by the criminals. This is not mere theory; it has been fully tried, and with very happy effects, in the bridewell of this city. Besides paying the expense of their maintenance and clothing, prisoners, on leaving the house, very frequently receive considerable sums, as the price of their labours. The general expense of the whole establishment becomes thus very small to the public.—The following ideas, in addition to this excellent plan, may deserve attention. The prisoners feel not sufficiently, in the time of labour, the good effects of their industry; they receive the fruit of their whole labours at once, at the time of their liberation, and in the moment of greatest danger; and they are not taught by previous use, the wise and virtuous method of spending the little which they gain. Some rewards of industry might be given, and some of its comforts permitted to be experienced, during confinement. As a farther incitement, show once in the month,

to every prisoner, the state of his account, and encourage him, by a view of the progress of his gains. Allow him a partial use of what he hath acquired, point out to him the advantage of a wise and virtuous expenditure, and direct him, by your counsel, to the choice of what is profitable and necessary. Thus he would experience, in the mean time, some of the advantages of diligence; learn the right method of expending his money; and, at least, acquire some articles which are comfortable, and of which, on leaving the house, he would know the value. Large sums, given to such persons, at the moment of liberation, prove often, it is to be feared, temptations to extravagance and vice; some money, however, it is of importance they should possess, to enable them to live with honesty, till they meet with regular employment.

THESE observations, though directed chiefly to bridewells, are, in a great degree, applicable also to ordinary prisons. The means of enforcing diligence, must be different, employment must be more voluntary, and the kind and degree of it be determined, in a great measure, by the choice of the prisoners. Still, however, in prisons, similar facilities might be given, and the *same encouragement* to individual exertions, might be afforded. Some rewards, suited to the nature of a prison, might also be conferred on the industrious. They might be permitted to purchase, by their industry, a participation in the diet of the first class; and to acquire for themselves, addi-

tional articles of accommodation. Rooms of a better order might be assigned them, by the superintendants and inspector; particular care might be used, to procure for them articles of employment, which were less painful and more profitable; attentions of a friendly nature might be paid them, and the prospect of certificates of character, and some interest in their future welfare, might be presented. Above all, endeavours should be made, to encourage and reward their industry, through the medium of their families. Connect their industry, as much as possible, with the advantage and happiness of their children. Draw forth and keep alive, their domestic affections; let the parent see his offspring occasionally, benefiting in the fruits of that employment which you encourage; and convey to his family, with regular attention, that assistance which his labour has been enabled to procure. You will thus soften and humanise his heart; you will inspire or keep alive those strong affections, which form the most powerful incitements to exertion and diligence. His gratitude for the attentions which you pay to those who are dear to him, will increase your influence, and give new force to your counsels. And he will experience inward satisfaction, from the consciousness that he has been enabled, in the midst of all the evils of his condition, to discharge, in some degree, the part of a parent, and to alleviate those distresses which his misconduct or misfortunes have occasioned to those objects, who looked up to him for protection. Domestic affections, very hardened persons are often observed

occasionally to feel. And though sensuality and profligacy tend to deaden and destroy them, yet, sometimes in the season of reflection and retirement, and particularly in situations where vicious habits cannot be indulged, the strong feelings of a parent have been seen, when scarcely any other sentiment seemed capable of moving him, to overpower almost wholly the wretched criminal.

ANOTHER particular, of great importance to the present comfort and future well-being of prisoners, is, the EXCLUSION of the means of VICE and DISORDER.

ONE of the chief causes of that disorder and profligacy which so frequently prevails in prisons, is Drunkenness. This renders every good regulation nugatory; every attempt at order, industry, reflection, reformation, vain; produces noise, quarreling, and fighting; destroys the peace and comfort of respectable prisoners, and not unfrequently presents temptations too well suited to their unhappy situations; while, at the same time, it destroys the present health and comfort of the licentious, encourages all their wretched habits of idleness and profligacy, engages them in new crimes, and sinks them in deeper ruin.

THE character and situation of prisoners, render it particularly necessary to guard against this fatal vice. If the history of the generality of prisoners were examined, the cause of their present condition, would be found to

be frequent intoxication. Accustomed to extravagance and excess, fond of the high, though temporary, state of spirits which drinking occasions, perhaps, habitually addicted to drunkenness, with little self-government, and feeble principles of virtue and religion; intoxicating liquors are sought with an avidity, which sets at nought every consideration of interest and duty, and leads to the grossest excesses. The depression of spirits, and the melancholy feelings which their condition tends naturally to produce, excite a disposition even in more sober prisoners, to this fatal indulgence, and render them little capable of resisting temptation. This is increased by the injudicious kindness of friends, who press upon the prisoners this dangerous remedy; by which care is forgotten, and a temporary elation of mind is excited, but at the expense of a succeeding depression, still lower and deeper, alas! perhaps, of present vice, and an after life of habitual degradation and licentiousness. The numbers, too, which are collected in prisons, the vacant time, and the disposition to idleness, which so frequently prevails, lead to those meetings, of which drinking is always the fatal attendant, and riot and excess the almost constant termination.

IN such circumstances, it might have been expected, that no unnecessary temptations would be placed before unfortunate prisoners, and that the management of prisons, if it did not counteract, would, at least, not have increased the evil. Instead of this, prisons are



generally turned into taverns, where all the fatal habits of the prisoners are gratified with ease, and temptations are presented in every form, and almost in every quarter. The men even whose duty it is to restrain, have an interest in encouraging excesses. In proportion to the sale of liquors, is the profit of the jailor. He is an host who makes rich, by the extravagance and drunkenness of his guests. In some prisons, spirituous liquors are forbidden; but, notwithstanding the prohibition, they seem to be with little difficulty procured, and the disorderly mirth of men rioting over the midnight bowl, is not unfrequently heard sounding along the walls which confine them. But what if the prohibition was successful? Can men not get drunk with ale and strong beer? Will the sale of these not enrich the jailor, when it is frequent and great; especially when aided by exorbitant prices for wretched materials, extorted from his dependant prisoners?

SUCH practices are particularly inexcusable, because they are directly in opposition to the spirit and intention of the statutes passed on this subject. By the Act respecting goals, passed in the twenty-fourth year of his present Majesty's reign, justices of the peace are empowered to prevent jailors from selling any liquors, or deriving any profit from the sale of liquors; and, if they shall see cause, to appoint salaries in lieu of the profit. And it is farther enacted, "that from and after the 24th day of June, 1785, no jailor shall suffer

tippling or gaming in *such* prison; or shall sell, or permit to be sold, or be capable of being licensed to sell any wine, beer, ale, or other liquors, or have any beneficial interest, or concern whatever, in the sale of any liquors of any kind, or in any tap-house, tap-room, or tap, under the penalty of 10*l.* for every such offence." The spirit and intention of this statute is obvious; but unfortunately, it only empowers, and does not enjoin, the justices to carry its excellent ideas into execution. And though it, with great propriety, discourages the sale of liquors by the jailor in prison, it points to no means to prevent or regulate the purchase or introduction of them from other quarters. It is also, such as it is, confined in its extent, to England and Wales.

THAT we may perceive the inefficacy of the law, the extent to which the evil has been carried, and, above all, the remedy which alone will be effectual, it may be useful to present a few facts, most of which will be found in different parts of the journal of the "State of Prisons," published by the truly benevolent Howard.

IRELAND, 1788, Fourcourt Marshalsea prison: "In most of the lower rooms, the debtors sell whisky; one is a pawn-broker's shop. On the night preceding one of my visits, many had been gambling, drinking, and fighting. Mr. Dexter, the marshal, told me, that when his prison was full, a hogshead of whisky was sold in the

week, in a clandestine manner, besides what was sold from his own tap."

CITY Marshalsea prison: "Here also, there had been a scene of confusion and riot, the night before. The wives and children of the debtors, living with them, bring in spirits, and this makes most of the lower rooms gin-shops; to which may be added, that the prisoners themselves are quite idle. The garnish is two bottles of whisky. Dr. Scott, physician to the Marshalseas, informed me, in June, 1787, that he had just lost three men out of four, by excessive drinking, in the City Marshalsea. They had, one morning, drunk twelve shillings worth of brandy, in punch, beside porter and other liquors."

FLEET prison, London, 1777, having mentioned the tap-room and coffee-room, it is added, "On Monday night, there is a wine club; on Thursday night, a beer club; each lasting till one or two in the morning. I need not say how much riot these occasion, and how the sober prisoners are annoyed by them."

IN 1788, of the Fleet, it is observed, "No alteration. Liquors sold as usual, notwithstanding the late *Act*\*,

\* This excellent man seems a little to have misunderstood the Act. It does not prohibit, but empowers justices, if they shall see cause, to prohibit, and appoint a salary. When, after the prohibition of the justices, and appointment of a suitable salary to the jailor, it becomes unlawful in *that* prison.

which prohibits keepers from selling liquors, or having any interest or concern therein." It is long since this account of Mr. Howard was published; yet, in 1809, the following is still the statement which is made of it: "The first floor contains two tap-rooms; the second floor consists of a coffee-room," &c.

NEW Ludgate, 1778: "On conversing with the keeper, he observed to me, 'now *prisoners* keep taps.' One advantage which was expected from the abolition of taps in goals, was, preventing the comrades of criminals from associating with them; but, by the unrestrained visits of their friends, and the permission of beer, wine, &c. to be brought to them from *certain* public-houses, this intended advantage is, in a great measure, frustrated."

IN the accounts of other prisons, we meet with the following occasional remarks: "As liquors are introduced by visitors, and through the windows which are towards the street, most of these prisoners think their confinement little or no punishment." "Through the windows of two damp cells, both men and women freely converse with idle people on the street, who supply them with spirituous liquors, till they are quite intoxicated." "One of the regulations is, to admit no visitors on Sunday, which is too generally a day of confusion and intoxication." "A publican, with cans of beer, was waiting, on Sunday, in the inside, to serve the prisoners." "Many of the windows of this prison, are towards the

street, and opposite to the prison-gate, are *three adjoining ale-houses.*” “The keeper sells beer, and there is company as at a common ale-house.” “In my various tours, I have often heard of the death of one or more prisoners, by *intoxication* and *quarrels* in prisons. Here one had lately been unhappily killed.” “The late jailor killed himself by drinking; and I find, in my visits, that many others have died by this vice; the taps in the goals having been a very strong temptation to them.” “The good old surgeon, constantly refuses the debtors’ applications for spirituous liquors, as he well knows the quarrels, riot, and confusion, such an admission has frequently caused in goals.” “In what prison in London, is there a proper separation of criminals, the old from the young, convicts from the untried? Where are the night-rooms for solitary confinement and reflection? Where is any proper attention paid to sick or dying prisoners? Where are the rules and orders of magistrates, for the direction of jailors, and the management of prisoners? In what goal are not the ears shocked with the profaneness, both of prisoners and turnkeys? Where is any regard paid to the Lord’s day? Where is not the afternoon of that day, a time of greater concourse of visitants, than at any other? And, though the jailor’s taps are abolished, yet, are not publicans *continually* waiting, to serve the prisoners and their company? Is not beer now sold by the debtors? And do not turnkeys keep *shops* in the goals?”

IF some of these abuses be rectified in some prisons, in others, many and great, of a similar nature, continue in their worst forms. In a great number of prisons in the three kingdoms, taps, kept by jailors, continue; and where they are abolished, spirituous liquors, beer, and ale, with little restraint, are introduced from the neighbouring ale-houses; often, it is to be feared, under the connivance, and with the encouragement, of the jailors, who may have, privately, an interest in the consumption. The effects of these practices, are perceived, not only by those whose duty leads them to superintend the conduct of prisoners, but by every casual visitant. Many prisoners are to be seen intoxicated before mid-day; while the bloated heavy look of stupefaction, marks out others to pass their nights in riot, or their days in habitual tippling. The immediate confusion and disorder, disease and waste, which such practices produce, are not the worst of their effects. The profligate are confirmed in their habits of drunkenness, and tempted, for their gratification, to the commission of new crimes; and men, who entered prisons industrious and sober, come out from them, the sottish feeble slaves of idleness and intemperance.

SUCH melancholy facts, while they show us the evil, point also to the remedy.

THE prohibition to sell liquors in prison, by jailors, should not depend on the pleasure of the justices, and their appointment of a salary; it should be made absolute

and universal by law; a suitable salary should be appointed, according to a general rule; and means be appointed and employed, to carry the law into effect. This, if nothing more was done, would certainly produce some advantage. Still, it would remedy very imperfectly the evil. It is essential that regulations should be made, respecting the introduction of liquors from other quarters. Without such regulations, the evil may still prevail to a great extent; nay, the jailor, by a secret understanding with convenient publicans, may have the same interest in encouraging abuses, as when he openly vended from his own tap-room. Some regulations, limiting the quantity, and fixing stated times for the admission, of liquors, joined to a constant and strict superintendance of prisoners, jailors, and turnkeys, might, in some degree, lessen the extent and number of the abuses. But, when I consider the temptations, the characters of prisoners, the opportunities and excuses for evasion, the complicated and troublesome superintendance, required in such a plan, I am convinced, that no method can be adopted, which will prove effectual, and promote, at the same time, the interests of individuals and the public, but an ENTIRE and TOTAL prohibition of all liquors; excepting such as may be distributed by the appointment, and at the expense, of the public, to each individual with his *food*. This prohibition ought not be considered as severe, by any sober man; but if it should be so felt, let him consider, that privations must be submitted to, occasionally, for the general good; and, that here they are not only

necessary for the sake of others, but, in his peculiar circumstances, are of importance to his own safety and well-being. By this system, the management becomes simple and easy; every opportunity and excuse for abuse, is taken away, both from jailors and prisoners; and abuses, when they take place, can be easily detected, rectified, and punished. The hopelessness of success, will lead every party to cease attempting deception, and dispose them soon to proceed in a quiet and regular course of conduct. While the office of jailor, no longer connected with such a traffic, and the irksome and degrading circumstances which it produces, will rise to that respectability which every consideration of private and public interest most powerfully recommend.

LET the introduction of liquors, then, into prisons, be entirely and universally prohibited by the laws of the realm, excepting such as may be assigned by the public, with the food of the prisoners. Let no individual have an interest in the quantity and distribution; and let the liquors be provided by the public, and distributed from the kitchen at meals, in the same manner, and on the same terms, as are fixed for the articles of diet. Thus, will the fatal evils we have stated, be prevented effectually and with ease; and thus also, perhaps, may the beginning of a happy change be produced on some of those, who, though far misled, have not yet entirely sunk under the almost hopeless habit of intemperance. Those who have contemplated seriously the progress and condition of the



unhappy drunkard, know how difficult is his case. But they also know, that the rare instances of recovery which have been sometimes presented, generally have been produced through severe misfortunes, accompanied with removal from the scene of temptation, and the opportunity of vicious indulgence. The disease, also, is of various degrees of inveteracy; and may we not hope, that, amongst the numbers who are confined in the many prisons of this extensive empire, there may be found many in those stages which, through the Divine blessing, may permit the heart-touching hope of recovery to be cherished.

WITH the prevention of intemperance, should be joined that of Gaming.

AN excessive fondness for amusement, leading to idleness, extravagance, and indisposition to every useful pursuit, is a very frequent cause of that misconduct which terminates in a prison. But no amusement, if it can receive the name, has led such numbers, and so directly to ruin and a goal, as that of gaming. The character of the generality of prisoners, may, therefore, lead us to suppose, that when they meet together without restraint, they will devote their hours to this fatal employment. Its stimulating effects on the spirits, the exercise of mind, and the temporary diversion of the thoughts from serious, often painful subjects, which it affords, renders it a strong temptation to men of a better order. It may

be, therefore, considered as certain, that, unless judiciously regulated, gaming will become the common employment of a prison, and be carried to the greatest excess. Such, accordingly, every man who has attended to the state of prisons, knows to be the melancholy fact. Hence, another source of that general disorder, and personal wretchedness which pervade them; and of that idleness and depravity which they are found to produce and to nourish. Besides these fatal effects, it must directly counteract that encouragement to useful employment, which ought to be a leading object in the institutions of every country. The idle and the dissipated, if allowed to devote their days and nights to gaming, will not think of labour; to which, in other circumstances, they might, from mere weariness, be disposed. It must also tend to destroy that reflecting frame, and sober thought, through which misfortunes often lead to reformation; and which, therefore, the system of every prison should carefully encourage.

THE chief difficulty is, how to prevent this fatal practice, without also preventing that degree of amusement which may be salutary both to the body and mind of the prisoners. While many are giddy and unprincipled, some require to be roused and preserved from dejection. And any innocent satisfaction, which can be granted to prisoners, consistently with the nature of their situation, general order, and their own good, every man must wish to allow. But what is the kind and the degree of amuse-

ment, which may be permitted, consistently with the design of a prison, and the rules necessary for the general good; and how this permission is to be regulated, so as to prevent gambling, and to destroy its pernicious influence, are subjects of serious consideration. In general, I conceive, it to be necessary, to prohibit entirely those games which the habits of prisoners will render them most prone to abuse. Recreations which are permitted, should be limited to certain periods of the day; the remainder of the time, should be supposed, by the regulations of the house, to be passed in useful employments. This will prove some check to idleness, direct their minds to the right use of time, and encourage them to engage in worthy pursuits. The recreations permitted, should be chiefly of such a kind, as lead to exercise of body in the open air. Persons who pervert these to the purposes of gaming, may be punished, by depriving them of that amusement which they have abused; or by obliging them to deposit, for the future welfare of themselves and their families, that money which, in a well regulated prison, they cannot want, and which they employ in violation of the rules of the community, to the injury of themselves and of others. Coarse and noisy mirth should be discouraged. When long and frequent, it is the effect of a disorderly mind, injures real cheerfulness, and unfits for rational intercourse; leads often to the forgetfulness of mutual respect, and ends not unfrequently in disputes and ill humour. Beside, what may be convenient among a few individuals, may be extremely

inconvenient among great numbers, of different dispositions, and without selection, assembled in one place. Nor does it seem very suitable to the condition of men in prison, or to that state of mind which, on many accounts, should be encouraged. There is too great a tendency in men, to confound noisy mirth with cheerfulness and comfort; to seek pleasure in mere giddiness of spirits; to banish reflection, and encourage that habitual thoughtlessness of disposition which hardens the heart, and prevents the softening influence of misfortune. That state of mind which bears some correspondence of character with our circumstances, is, if judiciously moderated, the most profitable. Sadness is often useful; nor is it always unpleasant. When circumstances are unfortunate, it is right we should feel; indulge in grave reflection, and a thoughtful frame. Nor, I conceive, will the benefits of misfortune ever be experienced by him, who, in the midst of circumstances calculated to affect the mind, plunges into the madness of mirth, and seeks his solace in thoughtlessness and folly.

**PRISONERS** should be furnished with the means of enjoying the blessing of **DIVINE ORDINANCES** and **RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION**.

It were cruelty to deprive unhappy men of the benefits of those blessed institutions, which men of all ranks, ages, and characters, in this state of weakness and de-

pravity, require for present duty and comfort, personal improvement, and preparation for future happiness. And as it were cruelty to individuals, so it were most injurious to the public interest, to deprive men of those means through which are taught, impressed, and continually maintained, those great principles, obligations, and motives, by which the best interests of every community, from the least to the greatest, are upheld and promoted. But in the case of prisoners, there are additional motives for the exercise of such duties, and the employment of such means. They, of all classes of men, require the benefit of religious ordinances and instruction, whether you view them as unfortunate or criminal; as involved in calamity, or as under the power of ignorance, error, and depravity. The ignorant require to be instructed; the erring and depraved to be reclaimed; the unfortunate to be comforted; the wisest and best to be aided, directed, and built up, in the time of trial and temptation. The best instructed Christians feel, that, even in the ordinary course of life, they need to be reminded of their duties and their dangers; to have the great objects of their faith frequently presented before their minds, and impressed upon their hearts; to have their consciences and intentions purified, the deceits of the mind unfolded, their purposes strengthened, their affections kept alive, directed and raised to heaven—by sacred admonition and affectionate address, society in the exercises of devotion, the incitement and the sympathy of pious example. If such be the case of the wise and good, what must be the

necessities of the ignorant, the thoughtless, and the corrupt; especially in places and in seasons of peculiar danger or distress! Men who confine their views merely to this world, might be expected to feel the desire of communicating to such persons, the means of improvement and consolation. What then should be the views, the desires, and the conduct of Christians? of Christians, who, of all men, should feel the power of benevolence and compassion, especially where the diseases of the mind are concerned; who consider the relation of man to an eternal world, and estimate the value of the salvation or loss of the soul, by the views which are given in the gospel of Christ? When we consider the temporal evils of a state of ignorance and depravity, the importance of religion and virtue to the present happiness of individuals and of nations, we may perceive strong motives for spreading and maintaining among men of every class, the knowledge and the power of the gospel. But when we look forward to eternity; consider the future consequences of sin, the salvation provided by God, and by means of such infinite magnitude, the accumulated evil which may be incurred, the perfection and the bliss which may be obtained; and with these consider, the spirit and the character required in the followers of Him who came to save the lost, and call sinners to repentance; we must feel the obligation of furnishing to unfortunate prisoners, the blessings of religious ordinances and instruction, to be of the first importance, enforced by every consideration which is most sacred in the estimation of Christians.

IMPRESSED with such views, in the year 1773, and the thirteenth of his present Majesty's reign, the legislature of the United Kingdom passed an Act, "for the appointment of proper ministers, to officiate in the several county goals, within that part of Great Britain called England, and the Principality of Wales." By this Act, the justices of the peace, assembled at the quarter-sessions, "are authorised and empowered to settle and ascertain how many clergymen shall be deemed necessary for the several goals within their respective jurisdictions, to settle and ascertain what duty shall be performed, and what salary shall be paid to each clergyman, not exceeding 50*l.* in the year." To the credit of the justices of England, this Act has been carried very universally into execution. But, like the other beneficial Acts which we have noticed, respecting prisons, it does not extend to Scotland. Nor is sufficient provision made to obtain ministers possessing qualifications, suited to the successful discharge of duties which are, in many respects, peculiar and difficult. To the general qualifications of his office, the minister of such a charge, would seem to require a considerable share of experience and knowledge of mankind; much patience, prudence, and tenderness of mind; an ardent zeal for promoting the moral and spiritual interests of the prisoners; talent fitted to command attention and respect, joined with a facility in accommodating himself to the state and apprehensions of the weak and the ignorant. That the benefit of such persons may be generally enjoyed, it is necessary that a considerable field of selection should

be possessed; a probability of their continuance secured; leisure from other duties, and opportunities of usefulness afforded. But is this to be expected from the provision made by the Act? Will not ministers of experience and talents, naturally seek other spheres of usefulness? Will they frequently accept or continue in an office, by which they cannot have even a personal subsistence? The probability, therefore, is, that little power of selection will be possessed; and that the chaplains of prisons will generally be taken from young or inferior persons, or persons already residing on the spot, burdened with other avocations. On the other hand, a full provision for the maintenance of a minister, is not to be generally expected; as in many places, the number of prisoners will be small, and the duties not deemed sufficient to furnish entire occupation for a minister's talents and exertions. In such circumstances, it becomes a matter of inquiry, how prisons shall be furnished with ministers, suited to the situation, yet the public not be burdened with an expense, which may seem to be more than equal to the labour. The following ideas are suggested for consideration.

In populous towns, where the number of inhabitants frequently exceed the accommodation of the churches, let a house of worship be connected with the prison, in which an appropriate situation is appointed for the prisoners, while the remainder is fitted for the general accommodation of the people. With this let a parish of



small extent be joined; and let a regular minister be set apart to the duty of the whole, having a stipend equal to the other ministers of the city. Or, where a parish church would not be adviseable, let the chapel of the prison be built of such dimensions, and with such access, that part of it may be rented in seats, for such families as may require them; and let the rental be made part of a fund for the maintenance of the chaplain. In situations where no farther accommodation for the people is required, or where circumstances render such a plan not eligible, chaplains must be appointed as at present in England. But in such circumstances, it should be understood, and expressed as the public wish, that the prison be considered as also the care of the minister or ministers, within the bounds of whose parish it is placed; and that they join their counsel and their labours, in friendly union and co-operation with him, to whom the spiritual interests of the prisoners are more especially committed.

IN selecting men for this important trust, no qualities seem to be of more importance than prudence, gentleness, condescending and unwearying zeal. These ought much more to be the objects of attention, than distinguished talents. But when talents are united with such qualities of character, what happy effects might we not anticipate? It is scarcely possible to suppose, that the labours of such a man would be vain; instructing the ignorant, calling the thoughtless to consideration, alarming the regardless and secure, touching the springs of affection, and soften-

ing the hearts of the hardened, showing the fatal consequences of a life of sin, and, at the same time, the merciful provision made through our Redeemer, for the safety and happiness of returning sinners. The most profligate would consider him as a friend interested in their wellfare. The contrast betwixt his compassionate attentions, and the severity of the world, would affect their hearts. They would listen with respect and affection to his instructions, and, perhaps, in some happy moment, lay open their minds to the awful, yet gracious and deeply affecting views of the gospel.

BUT, a minister of the gospel, to be generally and lastingly useful to such persons, must not satisfy himself with the public exercises and instructions of religion, however affectionately and earnestly administered. He must descend to particular cases; he must acquaint himself with every individual, and give instruction, counsel, and admonition, suited to their circumstances, character, and capacity. With these he should frequently join familiar and friendly conversation, fitted to gain their confidence, and improved to the purpose of introducing such topics and views, as their different cases rendered suitable. They would thus insensibly give him their confidence; lay open to him their hearts; and afford to him many additional opportunities of usefulness.

MANY of these prisoners, however, are placed almost beyond the means of ministerial instruction, by the gross

ignorance in which they are found; by an entire want of ideas, as well as impressions of religion, a want almost of capacity to comprehend the plainest instructions; arising from the total neglect of early culture, information, and good example, joined to the stupifying effects of depravity and vice. This total ignorance, and almost brutality of state, the degree of which will scarcely be credited by those who have not had the opportunity of observation, is the cause of numberless crimes, and must prevent the means of reformation. In such circumstances, it is of the greatest importance, to improve the advantage which confinement affords, and to provide for the ignorant a teacher, who should devote a portion of each day to their instruction in the principles of reading; and with these, to the communication, in simple and impressive forms, of some ideas of the first truths and obligations of religion. By such means, the ground would be broken and softened, the dormant faculties would be awakened, and the conscience exercised to discern good and evil. The seed then sown by the sower, might be seen beginning to bud; and the grounds considered as stony places, and waste, might bring forth their fruit, "some an hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty." Nor are your labours always lost, though, for a long time, the effects of them may not be perceived. The truths you have instilled, the lessons you have taught, the ideas and the feelings you have awakened, may be overwhelmed and long neglected; yet, though dormant, they are not always dead; circumstances may

arise, which may again warm and cherish them into life, and, perhaps, inspire the sigh and awaken the feeling of repentance.

To these means of instruction and reformation, should be added, a judicious selection of such books as are suited to the general situation of prisoners. Every room of the prisoners should be furnished with a Bible. With the Scriptures might be joined such tracts as are calculated, at the same time, to interest and inform their minds. With many of these we are happily furnished, beyond most other nations; through the pious and benevolent labours of persons, distinguished for literature and talents, but who have not thought it an unworthy employment of their powers, to condescend, like their great Master, to the instruction of the humble. Such are many of the works of Baxter, of Watts, and of Doddridge. Such also, are some of the works of many excellent persons, in the present day. The works of Miss More, in this view, ought particularly to be mentioned; who, in that valuable collection, called the Cheap Repository, has blended instruction with entertainment; and in such a manner, as is intelligible and interesting to the poor and illiterate, yet, may please and improve the most enlightened and refined.

I CONCLUDE this head, with observing, that a prison should be conducted with a careful attention to ORDER, and equitable DISCIPLINE, directed by wise and known regulations.

ORDER is of great importance in the conduct of human affairs; but it is particularly necessary, where a society is numerous, and the objects of attention various and complicated. By attention to order alone, the rules necessary for the general interest, and the health, comfort, and moral welfare of individuals, will be noticed and observed. It is necessary also, to be strictly enforced, for the sake of the habits of the prisoners. Disorder and confusion, are among the first causes which lead to ruin; order and regularity are among the most important means of recovery and future well-doing. "If you look abroad into the world, you may be satisfied, at the first glance, that a vicious and libertine life, is always a life of confusion. Thence it is natural to infer, that order is friendly to religion. As the neglect of it coincides with vice, so the preservation of it must assist virtue. By the appointment of Providence, it is indispensably requisite to worldly prosperity. Hence arises a presumption, that it is connected also with spiritual improvement \*."

LAWs also, respecting the manners of the prisoners, and their conduct to one another, should, in every prison, be fixed and made known; and, as is necessary in the government of every society, enforced by equitable sanctions, and a suitable authority. The power should be mildly, but steadily and strictly exercised; and, it is almost unnecessary to add, with an impartiality unbiassed

\* Blair.

by favour, influence, or rank. The most unprincipled quickly discern equitable conduct, and easily submit to it. “ Many such are shrewd and sensible. Let them be managed with calmness, yet with steadiness: show them that you have humanity, and that you aim to make them useful members of society: and let them see and hear the rules and orders of the prison. When they are sick, let them be treated with tenderness. Such conduct would prevent mutiny in prisons, and attempts to escape; which, I am fully persuaded, are often owing to prisoners being made desperate, by the profaneness, inhumanity, and ill usage of their keepers \*.”

IN addition to those remarks which have been already made, with a reference to the internal order and government of prisons, I beg leave to transcribe the following regulations from the Rules of the county goals of Lancaster and Berks.

“ THAT no garnish or other exactions, at entrance, be permitted to be taken by the jailor, or suffered to be paid by one prisoner to another.—That no abuse, ill treatment, affray, or profane or indecent language, be suffered between the prisoners. If any such should happen, the offenders to be punished by reduced allowance, on the order of a justice of the peace, or by close confinement, at the discretion of the jailor: such closer confinement not to be continued longer than forty-eight hours, with-

\* Howard.

out the special order of a justice of the peace.—No wives or children of any kind, to be permitted to sleep in goal, nor lodgers of any kind.—The jailor is not allowed to take any indulgence money, upon any consideration whatever, from any of his prisoners, on pain of being immediately removed from his office.—The allowances of provision, to be given out every morning to the prisoners, as soon as the rooms shall be made clean; but to be entirely withheld from all who shall not have their hands and faces clean washed, and their persons clean and neat.—The chaplain shall read prayers, and preach a sermon, every Sunday morning, and read prayers in the afternoon; and also read prayers every Wednesday and Friday, at eleven o'clock\*; and that the chaplain be empowered to purchase, at the expense of the county, Bibles and Common Prayer Books, for the religious instruction of the poor prisoners, at his discretion.—At divine service, all prisoners in the goal are to attend, to appear clean, and behave with becoming decency. As an encouragement to industry, cleanliness, and good order, and a due attendance on religious worship, an extra allowance shall be made on every Sunday, to every prisoner who shall have behaved well, during the preceding week; but all allowances and indulgences to be kept back from such prisoners who shall not attend divine

\* In Scotland, the simple but affecting service of family-worship, should be performed every morning, immediately after breakfast, by the chaplain; which consists of reading a portion of Scripture, singing some verses of a psalm, and prayer.

service, according to the rules of the prison.—The jailor shall, every day, visit every part of the prison, and also attend at divine service, whenever the chaplain may officiate.—The jailor shall keep a book, in which he shall write down the names of every prisoner, who shall behave ill, specifying his offence, &c. and he shall also insert the names of those who shall observe these rules, regularly attend public worship, and behave in a peaceable orderly manner. And he shall regularly produce these books to the visiting justices, and at the assizes and quarter-sessions.—The surgeon shall personally visit the prisoners, whenever required; and once a-week, or oftener, at other times.—These rules, orders, and regulations, together with a table of donations and legacies, and the three prohibiting clauses of 24th Geo. II. chap. 40, shall be hung up in the most conspicuous part of the prison, and a sufficient number of them shall be printed for the use of the prisoners; and they shall be distinctly read over by the chaplain, on the first Sunday in every month, after divine service.”

To these should be added, rules respecting the hours of opening the cells and locking up; of beginning meals; of meeting for divine service; all of which might be marked out by the ringing of a bell. In the goals of Lancaster and Berks, some of these particulars are fixed a little differently; and a difference must be proper, according to the climate, and, likewise, according to the other internal regulations. Rules also ought to be made,



respecting ~~visitors~~; who, it appears, are often, especially on the Sabbath, great causes of disorder and riot, as well as of attempts at escape.

#### IV. PRISONS require a constant and vigilant SUPERINTENDANCE.

ALL plans and regulations are unavailing, unless they are faithfully and judiciously executed. And in proportion to the importance of the object; to the difficulty of its accomplishment; the temptations to neglect and unfaithfulness, should care be employed to adopt such means, as may secure a wise, faithful, and active execution of the rules and duties of every department.

UPON the choice of a head-jailor and his servants, the right management of every prison must essentially depend. It is foolish to expect, that the rules necessary for such a house, should be observed, and the designs of it accomplished, without a strict attention to the character of those who are to superintend and carry them into effect. The superintendance and vigilance of a magistrate, are of much importance; but opportunities of eluding his vigilance, are continually occurring, and the letter of rules may be often fulfilled, while the spirit of them is disregarded. Much also must necessarily be trusted to such persons; and opportunities of doing good must frequently arise, which a good man will improve, but which no general rule can embrace. The importance of the choice

of such persons, will also appear, if we consider the nature of the duties which, to such men, must be committed. The very example of a good man, his *manner*, silent but impressive, is calculated to affect the heart of the most hardened.

THESE are views which seem too little to have engaged the attention of the public, even in those institutions which are designed directly for reformation. Surrounded by persons harsh and ferocious in their deportment and manners, prisoners become hardened against the means employed for their benefit, and feel only sullen indignation and disgust. The means of promoting good are checked, and difficulties thrown in the way of their execution; vicious practices are secretly encouraged; and examples of profanity and licentiousness are given by those very men, to whom was committed the charge of restraining vice, and promoting reformation. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that only such persons should be selected for the keeping of prisons, who are of sober characters, and possess integrity, fortitude, prudence, and intelligence, joined to a humane and religious spirit. Attention to character, should extend to the choice of every servant necessary for the duties of such a house. To secure the choice of such persons, and encourage them to a faithful and honourable discharge of their duties, the odium attached to the keepers of prisons should be removed. For this purpose, whatever in the public imagination, is connected with degrading

ideas, should be separated from their office. All the servants of the house should be held up as of high importance, and their duties as connected with a very sacred trust. Even the name of jailor should be changed, and in place of it should be given, the master or governor of the prison. The salaries should be such, as would encourage persons of respectability to accept of the different offices. The master of the prison should have the entire direction and disposal of the inferior officers; but I think it necessary, in order to remove the temptation of hiring men unfit for their situation, that the salary should be fixed and paid by the public. Fees of every kind from prisoners, should be abolished. Debtors are unable to pay them; persons acquitted, must be considered as innocent, and, consequently, as having suffered a grievous hardship from imprisonment. Fees are also a troublesome and painful mode of remuneration to public servants; and they are often a source of long confinement and cruel vexation to prisoners. By adequate salaries, you will at once secure the poor and unhappy from cruel usage, and increase the respectability and comfort of the men, to whom you commit a most important charge.

THE number of officers and servants, must vary according to the probable number of the prisoners. In general, beside the master of the prison, one officer would be necessary, to the superintendance of the wards for debtors, and persons accused; and one for the super-

intendance of the ward for the condemned. A female, I have already observed, should be allotted to the ward for women. A clerk is also requisite, and a woman for the kitchen. To assist in some of these duties, prisoners of a better character might generally be found, who would, for a small remuneration, perform many necessary labours. The duties of every man should be fixed, and also the time and manner of their performance. To the master of the prison must belong, in the first instance, the distribution of the prisoners; the superintendance of them and of the under jailors; and the charge of seeing executed all the rules appointed for securing the persons, yet promoting the health and improvement of those committed to his care. To accomplish these objects, a system of rules should be appointed him, suited to the nature of the prison, and the extent of his trust.

BUT no man, however respectable, is to be trusted with independent power. It is absolutely necessary, that a Superintendance of a Superior nature be provided, to prevent the abuses, and secure the good management of prisons. For want of this, very shocking circumstances have often occurred; even in the midst of thousands of benevolent and virtuous men, who might have prevented them without difficulty. This superintendance must be vigilant and regular. Without regularity and constant attention, it will attain imperfectly its object, and, at length, sink entirely into neglect and disuse.

IN a great city, where magistrates have so many objects to occupy their attention, the superintendance of the prisons should be made the object of a *peculiar* establishment. The plan which I would propose for this purpose, is very simple, but would be most effectual. Let the magistrates appoint an Inspector from the most respectable of the citizens, without a salary. Let his reward be the confidence of his fellow-subjects, and the opportunity afforded him of doing good. Let it be his duty, frequently, and without any fixed hour, to visit the prison; especially at the time when the food of the prisoners is distributed. Let him farther take a charge of directing, at stated periods, the purchase of the general stock of provisions; and let him inspect the books of the clerk, and the accounts of the establishment. Still farther, let a list of Visitors be appointed every year. Let these, in their turn, being duly warned, visit the prison *every day*, and in a book provided for the purpose, mark their report; and let them be so numerous, that a visit once in the month may be only required from each. Lastly, let the seven visitors for the week, meet with the inspector on every Saturday, as a Committee; to read over the daily reports, examine the books and accounts of the house, give such orders as circumstances require, and bring any uncommon case before the magistrates, for their opinion and interference. Adoption of this simple plan, would be productive of the most important effects. It would keep every depart-

ment alert, prevent abuses in their commencement, and give rise to such improvements, from time to time, as experience and the changing circumstances of human life might suggest. The trouble would be small to any person except to the inspector; and I am persuaded, that many most excellent men would be found in the counties and cities of Britain, both able and disposed with cheerfulness to undertake the duty. In this city, plans of a similar nature with that which we propose, are regularly carried on; nor have active and benevolent citizens ever been wanting, to accomplish them with ability and success.

A BUSINESS so important, however, should not be entirely trusted to local jurisdictions. It ought, I conceive, to be a National concern. With this view, it would be of great importance, to appoint annual reports to be made of the state of every prison in the kingdom; of the number of prisoners; of the accommodation which the prison affords, and its state of repair. For this purpose, once in the year, at least, the Lord Lieutenant of each county should visit every prison within his district; examine the books; inquire into its state; and certify the report. The reports should be laid before Parliament; and examined by a Committee. And an annual statement from them should be presented to the two houses, with such observations as seem to demand public attention.

THUS the benefits of both a general and local superintendance would be secured. The advantages arising from the experience of one part of the kingdom, would be made known and communicated to another. The subject would never be forgotten; nor would evils, shocking to humanity, be allowed by wise and good men to exist in their neighbourhood, without means being employed to remedy and remove them.

IT is vain to think, that any remedy will ever be adopted, which will be effectual or general, without the interference of the Legislature. The subject should be brought before parliament; and one great Act, comprehending what is valuable in former Acts, with the addition of those improvements which farther experience has suggested, should be formed. This Act should be rendered *universal* in its operation. The provisions of it should be not only authorised, but *commanded* to be carried into execution; and temporary commissioners should be appointed for every county, to enforce the orders of government, and to set the law in operation. The partial exertions of good men, in remedying local evils, will not only be confined in extent, but short in duration. The power of the nation alone has energy, to overturn and sweep away those inveterate abuses, which have so long and generally prevailed; to introduce a system worthy of a free and Christian country, to set it in operation, and to render it universally effectual. Let the exertions of the wise and benevolent be directed to this

GREAT OBJECT. Much, and amidst many difficulties, we have seen that they are capable of doing; other objects of humanity and religion still remain to be attempted; and these also their talents, perseverance, and piety, will accomplish.



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*Lately Published by the same Author,*

## CONSIDERATIONS

ADDRESSED TO

A YOUNG CLERGYMAN,

ON SOME TRIALS OF

*PRINCIPLE AND CHARACTER,*

WHICH MAY ARISE IN THE

COURSE OF HIS MINISTRY.















































