

of the deeper concern they have in the enforcement of legal and social obligations. They should pay very little regard to the pecuniary effect of prison labor upon their own industry, if this small sacrifice adds to the security of mankind against the horrors of crime, by cherishing and sustaining a salutary system of punishments. These are more important results to them, than a small per centum of the profits of their labor; for a sound and healthy state of civil and moral government is more vital to their interests, and cannot be safely exchanged for any pecuniary consideration. Those upon whom the favors of Providence have been showered with an unsparing hand; who have had the path of life always illumined by the smiles of the world, may little regard the excesses daily committed by the vicious. Placed more beyond the influence of the corrupting associations of mankind, acts of wickedness seldom affect them in their immediate or remote consequences. Raised and educated under the protecting auspices of exalted families, by their influence alone if necessary they may escape the punishment due to their crimes; and thus sometimes their legal innocence is considered moral purity. But the humble honest individual who cannot claim his nativity under so lucky a star, pursues the even tenor of his way, unseen or unknown; and if perchance the tongue of calumny utters a single word of reproach against him, it needs a good character, unstained by a single crime, to avert even the suspicion of what cannot be proved. This is his most impenetrable shield of defence. This is the citadel of virtue which malice and envy may assail but cannot subdue. Let this rich heritage descend to posterity, *with the means of preserving and perpetuating it*, that the good deeds and fair fame of the ancestor may serve as a beacon on the path to virtue and happiness, not as a mirror to reflect the infamy and disgrace of the son.

But in whatever way this *vexed* question may be decided, the committee hold it a safe principle to be acted upon by the Legislature, that *the good of the whole* of any community must be promoted at the risk of partial injury. Evil and vice exist in society—imperfection is inseparable from the institutions of man, and the most that can be effected by government is the advancement of the greatest happiness of the greatest number; to the accomplishment of which end, the interests of the minority in any community, must to some extent, yield.

The committee mention, with much satisfaction, the means used at the institution for the religious and moral instruction of the inmates. The Board of Directors have made all the provision in their power for the accommodation of those who were disposed to lend their aid to this really humane purpose. A large and commodious room has been fitted up as a chapel and school room for exercises on Sunday, and for six or eight years past, Messrs. Christian Keener, Thomas G. Hill, Robert G. Armstrong, Joseph Loane, and James Paul, have been in almost constant attendance at the prison, dispensing the lights