

of our compliments, she added sweeter and sweeter strains, till at last, as if memory was busy with the past, she warbled forth with deepest pathos one of the choicest melodies.

Your committee indulge in no extravagant eulogy when we say, that throughout the entire building there is scarcely aught to remind you that you walk midst minds dethroned, or gaze on creatures of unsettled intellect. As if to hasten the dawn of returning reason, every room is hung with paintings, and, along the lengthened avenues, engravings of some pleasing scenes adorn the walls to fix the attention, in the lucid intervals, and tempt the erring mind back to her deserted throne. True, as you walk along, some melancholly visages stare vacantly, as if they wondered why you broke the surrounding stillness, but in another moment they seem to look so intelligently, and with so intense a curiosity on those who enter their little circle, that you almost doubt their sad insanity. Such was the general condition of all the inmates, with the exception of some four or five, whose arms were gently pinioned, and even these, were it not for the peculiar garments that encircled their limbs, you would suppose were resting voluntarily with folded arms. All the revolting scenes of forced subjection, of dreary confinement in the solitary cell, of cruel binding to the wretched couch, all wild and startling shrieks that one expects to meet as the terrible accompaniments of the insane abode, were wanting in this charitable asylum. Indeed, from the mild aspect of the major portion of the inmates, from the neat and tidy chambers, from the calm stillness that dwelt within the walls, from the parlors luxuriously adorned, we lost sight of all the anticipated scenes of woe, of wildest discord, and of startling cry, and fancied that we trod the decorated galleries of some favored child of wealth.

In the male department, equal astonishment met your committee at every step. The same order, the same comfort, the same freedom from restraint, and the same kind treatment were everywhere visible. One solitary instance of apparent restraint presented itself, in the person of an athletic young man, who, with arms confined, and fettered feet, followed us from room to room, earnestly requesting our interposition for release. It was amusing to us, who had learned from the physicians his strong propensity to use without consideration or much courtesy to companions his lower limbs, to observe the subtle cunning with which he reasoned with his keeper to tempt him by the most urgent solicitations and feigned surprise at his condition to release him from the mild restraint; nor could we suppress the smile at the resigned and vanquished appearance with which he acknowledged his ineffectual attempt to deceive his kind and intelligent guardians.