

they returned to the world, schooled in vice, not reformed by the penalties they had suffered. And finally all men who have considered the subject seem to agree that a mild but inflexible system of penal laws, graduating offences and punishments, and founded rather on humanity than vindictiveness of feeling—aided by the certain enforcement of their sanctions by the rigorous but impartial discipline of penitentiary houses, where all hope of escape for punishment is cut off, possesses more advantages, and promises more good results, than any other which human ingenuity has discovered for vindicating the rights of society, and protecting them from violation.

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Reserving for the conclusion of this report some general remarks on the efficacy of penitentiary punishments, we pass now to the subjects more immediately connected with the order of our appointment, and, in doing this, we may properly range them under three distinct heads.

The Police,

The Finances,

• The Manufactures.