

forms, that it is destined, doubtless, to become eventually the pervading Prison system of all civilized communities.

The theory of the Auburn system is that the Warden, or principal Keeper, oversees the actions of every convict at labor. The eyes of the Deputy Keepers are his eyes, and through them he sees any breach of the discipline as soon as committed and punishes it. The certainty and celerity with which detection and punishment must follow the infraction of the rules, is deemed by all, who have written upon the subject, to be the great points necessary to be attained, and which are effectually attained in the prison at the village of Auburn, where the system was first tried, and which has given its name to the new science.

So efficient is this constant vigilance, in deterring the convicts from speaking to each other, that it is asserted "that, among thirty or forty working together for years in the same shop, no two of them know each others names."<sup>\*</sup>

The testimony of the Chaplain of this prison, (as printed on page 422 of the testimony,) corroborates in the full, this assertion, and he adds "it is difficult for any one not familiar with it to understand what importance is given to it, in this (the Auburn) institution, or with what unflinching assiduity the supervisory regulations are required to be maintained: If an assistant keeper turn out to be a man of *only common activity and watchfulness*, if, indeed, he be not a perfect *argus*, he is deemed unfit for the station, and must give place to another."

To understand more fully how this constant vigilance is maintained, it may be necessary to give a more particular description of the prison itself. We regret that we are not enabled to do this from a personal inspection, and we are therefore obliged to rely on the descriptions given by others. The fullest and best that we have seen is contained in the report made to the British government by William Crawford, the Commissioner who was directed, "by Viscount Melbourne, to visit and inspect the several Penitentiaries of the United States, with a view to ascertain the practicability and expediency of applying the respective systems, on which they are governed, or any parts thereof, to the prisons of England." This work, which was printed by order of the House of Lords, contains 229 pages in folio, and is illustrated by drawings of all the Penitentiaries in the United States. The use of it has been given to us by a gentleman who received a copy directly from the author himself. We avail ourselves of this and a number of other works which we have consulted, to give the following short sketch of the prison at Auburn, which will also furnish some idea of the arrangement of the others in the United States, conducted on the same principles.

<sup>\*</sup> Livingston's Code, p. 311.

† Mr. James McEvoy, of Baltimore.