

The question that next occurs is, what to do with the residue of the convicts, such as laborers, farmers, and those of trades which cannot be well carried on in the prisons. The only resource left is to introduce new kinds of business from foreign countries, and *teach* convicts trades in those branches only. This may be rather troublesome at first, but it is entirely practicable, and, when once fairly established, would probably be quite as profitable as the business now pursued.

"There are a great variety of articles now extensively used in this country, and with which it is supplied chiefly or wholly by importation, and the chief value of which consists in the labor bestowed in the manufacture. Among them may be named, files, needles, pins, shears, scissors, snuffers, fine knives, razors, and all fine cutlery; wrought nails, butts, screws; cotton, linen, silk, woollen and worsted hose; cotton, linen, worsted, silk and rubber webbing; carriage lace, carpeting, rugs; and, finally and especially, the manufacture of silk goods from the cocoons. The Commissioners see no good reason why some of the above enumerated articles may not, with propriety and profit, be introduced in the prison. Other articles, doubtless, may with equal propriety be added to the catalogue."

The Commissioners proceeded to recommend the passage of laws in conformity with these views, and some modifications of the laws were actually made; but I may venture to say, chiefly as a peace-offering to the mechanics, to check their frenzy till they could look at the facts of the case dispassionately—for it seems now to be conceded on all hands—that our prisons will, and must, go on in their accustomed course.

27. "Does the amount of your goods put into market affect the prices of that kind of fabrics, and to what extent? It affects them as the little rill does the lake. (See again Inspectors' Report for 1834, pp. 23—196. Also what is said of shoemakers in the foregoing extract, as an illustration of many other cases.)

28. "Do penitentiary goods always command a higher price than other similar fabrics, and is the price uniform, or subject to the usual fluctuations of trade?" The prison wares have the reputation, generally, of being rather superior, but are sold at about the same price with others. The contractors must, like other tradesmen, accommodate their prices to the fluctuations of business.

29. "If the labor of the prison does affect the price of similar goods made out of the prison, does the disadvantage fall on the manufacturer or journeyman mechanic?" It affects both; but in so slight a degree, that neither of them is aware of it, until he hears of the "*prison monopoly*."

30. "How would any change affect the latter [the journeyman]?" Suppose the change to be as complete as the most clamorous could desire—an entire annihilation of the "*monopoly*"—then take, for example, the case of the shoemakers. We employ 48, of whom 43