

attending to the morals and education of children. Every one is familiar with the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."—[Mease on the Penal Code of Pennsylvania, p. 94.

"Important as it is to possess a good penal code and prison discipline, it is even more essential that our youth be so trained and educated as to fit them for useful members of society. If this subject were properly attended to, I believe the number of criminals in this highly favored country would be very small indeed. A close personal observation of all the prisoners who have been admitted into this Penitentiary (675) convinces me that, with few exceptions, they were an ignorant and much neglected part of the community. Thrust into society without school learning—without moral training, or scarcely any idea of religion—without habits of industry or trades to qualify them to gain an honest livelihood, can it be wondered that, sooner or later, they become offenders against the laws, and the unhappy inmates of a prison."—[S. R. Wood, Warden E. Penitentiary, Report, 1837, p. 11.

To all this irresistible authority, we can only add the still higher one of Holy Writ, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

And finally, if proper regard be paid by the State to these suggestions for the [intellectual and moral improvement of mankind, and the Maryland Penitentiary be firmly settled upon the basis of the recommendations of your Committee, it will afford another proof of the correctness of the opinion expressed by a distinguished writer, that:

"Under a *careful and prudent administration*, the penitentiary system will answer all reasonable expectations. But the system must be theoretically complete, and *carefully* executed. Its details must be trusted to men of intelligence and humanity, and something beyond the mere excitement of a pecuniary compensation be an inducement for their execution. When this is accomplished, there will remain no doubt of its advantages; and that whether we take into view the security of society, the reformation of the offender, or the bad habits and feelings which are prevented by abstaining from cruel and barbarous exhibitions of punishment, it will be found the *least* of those evils which the perpetration of crime necessarily brings on the community."

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