

selves for their involuntary labor within the penitentiary, by fresh depredations on the public, when their periods of service shall have expired. Others leave the prison with what they suppose a fixed determination to live an honest life thereafter; but too many of these slide back into their old habits, return to intemperance, and again become violators of the law. Of a few, nevertheless, we are happy in the receipt of good accounts from them. They are found to be sober, industrious and prospering. On this interesting subject, the government and people of the state will hereafter be better advised. We have recently adopted the practice of recording a short biographical sketch of each prisoner, as soon after his entrance as he seems sufficiently composed to furnish the materials. This is made out and recorded by the intelligent clerk of the prison; and it is intended to add to these sketches any authentic intelligence that may be received of the conduct of such prisoners, after they shall have been discharged. We may thus have some new *criteria* as to the effects of the system.

There is one class of offenders for whom I feel much anxiety—but without knowing what practical remedy may be adopted to relieve it. I mean the youths, sent to the Penitentiary for two years, on account of petty thefts. Society should be relieved of these depredators; but, at the end of their sentence, they are discharged without father or mother, or friend, to guide or help them, without a master or a home. To prevent an apparent excuse for an *instant* return to their old habits, it is our custom to supply these (and all others), with a small sum of money; and this seems right and proper. “Lead us not [or suffer us not to be led] into temptation,” is an important portion of the wisest prayer ever offered up to the Divine Majesty. In some cases, good results from this proceeding; but in others, the money being expended before employment and a home, if really sought for, is obtained—the youth becomes the tool of some old and hardened offender, or returns to thieving on his own account, and, perhaps, speedily comes back to us for another period of service. I would, that some means might be adopted by which the youths, though released from the penitentiary, should not wholly lose the guardianship of the laws, or the benefit of a master and a home. Were this accomplished, I feel