

continuing for religious instruction, and whether it is true as stated by the Doctor, between that your Excellency has given any official sanction to the privileges he Board & exercises here. Since, the Reverend Doctor has exercised that right without the least any interruption (but certainly not without occasional remonstrance) Dr. Myatt for a series of years, with the consent of this and previous Boards, but the matter has now assumed a new shape, since Ministers of other denominations have demanded his exclusion from the Prison during the hours of labor, or their free and unrestrained right to exercise the same powers that he does in every respect.

The Board would call your Excellency's attention to the 8th article of the 25th Section of the act 1837, Chapter 320, which provides for the appointment of a Chaplain and prescribes the times of his visits as well as his duties, and also to the act of 1841, Chapter 215 which abolishes the office of Chaplain. Since the abolishment of said office, the Prison has been visited every sabbath morning, by one or more Ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who perform divine service in the Chapel, whilst the female Prisoners have been regularly visited, every sabbath afternoon, by several self-sacrificing female members of the Society of Friends, who labor zealously for their moral and religious improvement. The Ministers of the Methodist Church would be very happy, we are sure, to be relieved every second sabbath morning, by Dr. Myatt, or any other Clergyman of his or any other Denomination, and the Board of Directors would be much gratified if the Reverend Doctor could so arrange it, as to devote the whole of every sabbath afternoon to the religious instruction of the Convicts.

Whilst we concede to that reverend gentleman the right he now exercises, your Excellency must see that we cannot justly exclude others who may claim the same privilege, and hence, it may follow, that half of the time of all, or nearly all, the Prisoners, may be occupied by Clergymen during the hours of labor, and the interests of the State thus most seriously affected. The 11th Article of the 25th Section of the act of 1837, Chapter 320, directs that "the Convicts shall be put to hard labor every day in the year except Sunday and Christmas day, and their time so employed as to be most advantageous"

Therefore, if other Ministers are allowed to occupy their time for religious instruction during the hours of labor, (and we must grant this privilege to others whilst we perceive the impossibility of our strict compliance with the above provisions of the law.

As the act of 1837, Chapter 320, supercedes all other laws in relation to the Maryland Penitentiary, and as that section of said act creating the office of Chaplain seems strictly to confine his visits to the sabbath, or during their hours of leisure if in the week, the Board is of opinion that the mere tolerance of Dr. Myatt's clerical visits during a long series of years, does not make it obligatory upon them not to exclude him during the week, when