

an exception to the restriction". Upon my mentioning this to you at the door, you expressed astonishment, and emphatically reiterated that you authorized me to say, that you "would hold any man accountable who should attempt such a measure", and that "the nature of the exception did not render it less offensive to you". Such was the extent of Mr Lucas's intimation to me, and of my communication to you. When I next went to the Prison, I thought it not improbable that there might be some such proposition as had been suggested by Mr L., but there was no change in the arrangements or deportment of any of the officers. Everything proceeded as it had been accustomed to for years, and I had not a call to quote your authority, which I should have done if a Keeper had been introduced during my instructions. I have never to my recollection alluded to it in the remotest degree to any of them; and they have, so far as I know and believe, received their first knowledge of the hasty interview ~~which~~ which took place between us, from your Excellency's own recollection of it.

The whole tone of the transaction was totally unforeseen and surprising to me. While it was not improbable that some might desire to restrict the visits of such Clergyman, as in the course of years may have seen and known more than can be ascertained by the Grand Jury at their visit, for which everything is "swept and garnished" yet I remember with pleasure that the deportment of the officers has almost uniformly been what a Minister of Christ, rendering irksome and gratuitous services to guilty and afflicted men, was entitled to expect. When I received their note, of which, as they appear to have failed to do it, I enclose a copy, I first learnt that the question of allowing the Clergy to visit prisoners at any time which their other duties would permit, was agitated. My custom, like that I presume of the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Ministers, has been to request that the officers of the several Shops would inform the men accustomed to come to me, that they were at liberty to go to the Chapel. Of late, as a mode of saving time and trouble, the Deputy Warden, when all the men were together about to leave the dining room, himself obliged me by giving the same information.

The Note of the Board, as your Excellency will perceive, demands my "authority for the exclusive privilege of making Clerical visits to the prisoners during the hours of labor". The words exclusive privilege were underscored, and this I knew to assert by implication what was wholly groundless. Not having a copy of the Charter at hand, I replied, that my authority was the interpretation put upon the provisions of the Charter for the reformation of prisoners, by all the Governors, your Excellency of course included, and all the Boards, and Committees of the Legislatures, and Wardens, during twenty or thirty years. Your Excellency being named as the existing officer, was not in the remotest degree to intimate that

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