

you had done more than all your predecessors had done, that is, to sanction by allowance religious instruction in the prison. The existence of the usage implied their judgment of the law, and their sanction to the practice under it, which was all that it was necessary for me to offer to the Board of Directors of the Penitentiary. I beg to be excused for aiming at being explicit upon this point, because your Excellency appears carefully to contradict a supposed erroneous assertion of mine, that you had specially given me this authority; whereas your Excellency's only ground for the idea, was the implied assertion to that effect of the Board. For this I cannot imagine their warrant. If it exists at all, it must be in my letter to them, or in some conversation with them, and they will scarcely venture to allege either. They have thus misled your Excellency into an argument, designed to correct an erroneous impression of mine, into which error I had never fallen.

But what have been and still are the tolerated services? Two or three hundred of the most guilty and unfortunate men in the Community are placed in an institution professedly and primarily designed for their reformation on Christian principles, And what is done for this great purpose? On Sunday, at 10 A. M. the preachers of the Methodist denomination perform the religious exercises usual with them. The prisoners then by 12 o'clock taking their Bread and meat in their cells, are locked up for the whole of the rest of the day and night, and this is the extent of their Sunday sacred privilege. The ignorant, the profligate, the despairing, the contrite and broken in spirit, having heard this one sermon, delivered perhaps by some zealous and pious preacher, who may have been employed during the week in his engrossing mechanical pursuit, all find that there the stated means of Moral and religious reformation end. To convince the infidel, to instruct, in the first principles of Christianity, those wretched youths and men who from their parents had received no instruction and example but what was calculated to make them demons, to cherish convictions which the terrible penalties of crime may impart, to console those who are in danger of insanity through the violence of their remorse, this one address from the Methodist preacher, is all that is statedly provided for. Nine in ten of the (young) men in society, but provided with a self-sustaining power, would be driven to utter desperation in such a process.

What then is the nature of the additional instruction which has been given for so many years, but is now prohibited? Acting upon the principle justly expressed by your Excellency, each prisoner has been allowed the privilege of selecting his clerical adviser. Once in each week, this minister, of any and every denomination, has been at liberty to call to him those who invoked his care. Either by admonitions given to the assembled class, occupying at the utmost about one hour, or in more private conversation