

Mr Buchanan & Mr Coyle, Mr Edwards & Mr Ford, & others to whom I had soon mentioned Mr L's proposition, all assured me of their readiness to testify that they have received no other impression than that which I had repeated to your Excellency, that is, that it was proposed that a Keeper should always be present in the interviews between the Clergy & the prisoners, & that there should be an exception to the rule in the case of the Visits of the Clergy of the Church of Rome. This appears to me more offensive than an entire exclusion would have been, and therefore would not be liable to be forgotten, or put aside by the other suggestion, if such really had been made. Presuming that I should soon receive the promised result of my communication, relating to the officiating of Ministers for the reformation of Prisoners, & the time liable to be consumed by them, I would not allow myself hastily to write to your Excellency upon the offensive circumstance that had been grafted upon it; & I thought it more proper to delay, because the letter which I had already the honor to address to you, contained an explicit statement covering all that had occurred, & sufficiently explaining & contradicting, as I trust, the wrong impressions upon which they seem to have acted.

The use that has been made in the Penitentiary of what passed in your own house — not confidentially it is true, but with the usual supposed privilege between your Excellency & a visitor, I can only leave in your Excellency's hands. Of my own ministrations in the prison I cannot persuade myself to speak, but if it were necessary, I am told that there would be furnished testimony from many of the intelligent & respectable citizens who, at different periods, have been concerned in its direction. The annual report to the Legislature of 1840 contains upon page 8 an explicit article, which as it is probably upon file & has a wide bearing, I might respectfully request should be referred to. I trust that your Excellency will find time to recall from the Board & to consider, and to decide in some form, upon the statement and appeal contained in my former letter respecting the ministrations of the Clergy in the prison. The spiritual welfare of an immense number of wretched beings is eventually involved, and at present I imagine, the opportunities of religious improvement allowed them for many years, and under all former administrations, must be greatly contracted. The whole practical result petitioned for, as comprised in the Charter, is the allowance of any Prisoner to be visited by the Clergyman of his choice, for one hour in a week, on condition that it is not a plea, for
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