

forming and he is determined not to relinquish the idea that he can find his authority in some part of the Act of 1837, — as that must be the "Charter" to which he so often makes reference. We have read that portion of said Act which created the Office of Chaplain and prescribed his duties and the time of his visits, and cannot find even a vestige of it there, and we certainly cannot understand how any of our Governors or Visiting Committees of the Legislature, could have invested him with the privileges he claims, in the face of Article 10th of the 25th Section of said Act, designating what class of persons shall visit the Penitentiary without the consent of the Board of Directors. In that article, Ministers of the Gospel are not included among the privileged class.

I will here state to your Excellency, that the two other Clergymen (one a Lutheran and the other a Roman Catholic) who had occasionally exercised similar privileges here to those claimed as a right by Dr. Wyatt, made no complaint whatever against the action of the Board, when advised of it. On the contrary, they at once acquiesced in the propriety of the Board's determination, and expressed their willingness to cease their visits during the hours of labor without the least remonstrance, if we inflexibly applied that rule to all. In years that have passed, many Clergymen have officiated in the Prison Chapel on the Sabbath, with the view of making better men of our unfortunate inmates, and there are now living among us several of them (and one or two of them Clergymen of high renown) who will tell your Excellency that they have ceased their visits because they discovered that their labors were all thrown away, and that the greatest knaves and hypocrites in the establishment made the loudest professions of penitence and reformation to them, with the view, as they were not slow to ascertain, to secure their influence in obtaining pardons for them. All this Dr. Wyatt may attribute to their want of "credulity" in professions coming from such sources, or to any other cause that may suggest itself to his mind, but we can bring the witnesses forward nevertheless, and let any who may desire it, hear the story of their experience in Ministerial services in this Prison.

Although the Reverend Doctor tries to make it appear that the Convicts under our charge do not enjoy the means of religious instruction to any extent in his absence, we must insist that they have advantages in this respect of which thousands outside of the Prison do not avail themselves. During the hours that the law designed such services to be rendered in the Prison, pious and zealous Clergymen of the Methodist Episcopal denomination and several religious Instructors of the Society of Friends, spare no efforts to awaken the Convicts to the importance and necessity of trying to