

305

misfortune to see an erring son sentenced to our charge for crime, will be equally surprised and startled at the last assertion we quote from his pen. The Board regret sincerely that the Rev. Dr. should so far forget himself as to make such a record - not of his own dishonor; we are pleased to say) but most certainly of his liability to commit considerable mistakes. The Board owe it to the framers of the laws to punish crimes of different grades, thus to put on record their opinion that the means they prescribed for punishing and reforming offenders against the laws, have not proven utterly nugatory as it to be inferred from the tone of the Rev. Dr. Weyatt's arguments to your Excellency, but that they have been a powerful agent in bringing back many an offender into the paths of peace and honesty from which he had strayed. We could cite many examples in proof of this assertion, of men who have prospered in business and become fully restored to their former standing in society, who had no other agents in their reformation than our penal code, and the exhortations to uprightness which they received from some "pious Methodist preacher once in a week". And the Board feel it their duty to say in behalf of the late Warden, that he always seemed to feel a lively interest in the welfare of the unfortunate men that had been under his care, when they were leaving the Prison - as he did whilst they were serving the State - and not a few have attributed their restoration to industry and usefulness, to the lessons they received at his hands, in connection with the assistance he rendered them after they were set at liberty. Every other officer whose particular line of duty brings him in daily communication with the Prisoners, is not remiss in giving them lessons that will enure to their advantage if remembered and followed, and every reasonable want on their part, not inconsistent with law, is gratified at the earliest opportunity. If Dr. Weyatt thinks that all this interest on the part of the Prison officers, in awakening the Convicts to a proper sense of their condition and the justness of their punishment, in connection with the instruction and chastening religious exercises in which they are engaged for two hours every Sabbath morning and their deprivation of corrupting and demoralizing books, are not sufficient to accomplish their reformation, then the Board invite him, once more, to make the sacrifice of visiting them, either in person or by substitute, every Sabbath, or every evening during the week, between the hour of locking-up and nine o'clock, to comfort, console, and instruct them in the way he thinks best. Many and weighty reasons are to be found in your Excellency's letter of the 14th of October, why our Prison door should not again be opened to Dr. Weyatt's Clerical visit during the hours of labor in the week, and arguments equally strong against it. The Board

[Flatter]