

sion now was altered until I received your explanatory letter, which substantially confirmed the statement made to me, shortly before that time by Mr. Lucas, as to what had transpired between you and him, on the occasion referred to. I certainly could have had no wish to misrepresent you, and no object to accomplish by doing so.

You also seem to dwell upon the fact that I incidentally stated in my letter to the Board that I understood the main design of your visit to me as having reference to the pardon of Kelly. I so understood it. That is, it was no doubt occasioned (as you yourself say) by the newspaper commentaries, which were elicited by that pardon. I shall now proceed to reply briefly to the main subject matter of your note.

Upon the receipt of that note (of the 23^d of October) I called upon the Directors of the Penitentiary, through the Secretary of State, and received from them, in reply, two communications, severally dated the 23^d of December and the 5th of January, copies of which are herewith sent. You will perceive that the Board offer free access to Ministers of all denominations (imposing no condition other than the faithful observance of the regulations of the establishment) on every Sunday, and from the hour of lock-up until 9 O'clock, P. M. on each other day of the week.

They insist that this rule will answer every purpose, and that no Minister has complained of the non-adoption of a different rule, but yourself. They contend that any other rule would impair the discipline of the Prison and materially affect it otherwise. The laws have placed these matters exclusively within the discretion and control of the Directors. The Governor, to be sure, has a general supervisory power, incidental to his Executive functions, yet he could not, with propriety, undertake to reverse the decisions of the Directors, and to enforce a police system adverse to their settled convictions of duty, unless he could detect in their administration some vicious principle or practice demanding his interposition. After a full review of all the Acts of Assembly, and the most careful consideration of the statements made by yourself and the Board, in your respective communications to each other and to me, I cannot find sufficient grounds, in the law or the facts, to authorize me to overrule their decisions. Indeed they seem to have

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