

tive flagitiousness turns from the victim of the statute, forgetful of its monitions and terrors, to indulge the dispositions of a mind pregnant with crime because unimbued with any thing that could lead to virtue. Nothing could so eminently become a beneficent legislature as to lay the foundation of general education, and moral instruction; it would be the fulfilment of the most exalted charity from man to man; it would be the highest discharge of the highest duty, and ought to hand its authors down to future ages, and next in rank of worth to the founders of the Government, as they would secure perpetuity to a work, which had been so wisely planned and nobly executed.

The progressive improvements made in the State Penitentiary are good evidence of great attention in the management of an institution which is regularly gaining upon public approbation. Nothing at present, seems to be more wanting than a proper classification of criminals in the disposition of them at night. Mingled together, as they now are, the most atrocious and hardened, with those guilty of lesser crimes, and more accessible to the feelings of humiliation and contrition, reformation, one of the objects of the institution, seems to be rendered almost hopeless.

The acts of criminal justice are, to protect society, by preventing a repetition of injury; to deter others by the force of example, and, as far as practicable, to reform the wicked. The exposure of those on whom an humble sense of penitence begins to operate, to the debasing association of hardened wretches, a communication with whom, would greatly tend to frustrate one of the great objects of the system, is inconsistent with the beneficence which a wise government is ever desirous of intermingling with the strictest schemes of criminal punishment. The addition recently made to the building, will enable such regulations on this subject, to be carried into effect, as the Legislature in their wisdom may think fit to order. Until very recently, the State Penitentiary has been a considerable cost to the public treasury; but the expectation held out, that when completed, it would annually produce revenue, is likely to be realised, nor can it be considered in the least degree at variance with the strictest sense of justice, or of policy, that those who violate the laws, the peace, and the rights of society should be re-trained from such violence by the deprivation of their liberty, and made to labour for the benefit of that community, of which it was unsafe that they should be permitted to remain members, and against which they had committed the wrong. The better to fulfill this expectation, some further change may be found necessary in the present