

whole mass of the convicts. They accordingly caused them to be arranged into classes; suitably organized in regard to capacity, to be provided with teachers selected from among the most intelligent of the convicts, and furnished with the necessary books and means of general education in various departments appropriate to their respective talents. They assigned to them, the upper story of the western wing as a school room, where they should assemble every Sabbath day and devote all parts of it not employed, in the usual religious exercises, to the pursuit of various useful attainments. The whole being under the superintendance of the keeper, and other of the officers, the utmost order and decorum prevail, and the steadiness and care with which the object have been procured, have resulted in corresponding improvement.

The advantages of this regulation are not confined to the intellectual benefits derived from it by the convicts, but are evinced in an entire destruction of the improper indulgencies and corrupt association, to which exemption from labour formerly afforded them more opportunity on that day than any other.

Prior to the appointment of the present Board, a regulation existed, granting to the convicts a small compensation for any labour which they might perform beyond the limit of their daily tasks. This they were permitted to expend in the purchase of delicate articles of food, fruits, &c. not comprised in the regular diet of the house, procured for them weekly by a deputy keeper. The Board thought proper to abolish this custom, as being incompatible with the laws, which prescribe a wholesome but coarse diet, and as counteracting the disciplinary rules. Under the present regulations, the compensation for their labour is still allowed, but is reserved for the convicts until their discharge, when it may be usefully appropriated by them to the purchase of decent clothing, and to the supply of their immediate necessities.

Whilst, with philanthropists every where, we deplore the want of success of the Penitentiary system in arresting the perpetration of crime, or in correcting the habits of offenders, still we do not despair of the ultimate result. When experience shall have furnished enough of facts, the genius of legislation will be adequate to the induction and device of a system which shall realize the most sanguine hopes of its projectors. Anxious to contribute our mite of material towards this most benevolent work, we respectfully offer the