

government, and shop-keepers; the third, in picking oakum, washing for the establishment, and plaiting straw.

It would be difficult to imagine a more hideous community; and those who visited this establishment could scarcely realize the possibility that Great Britain could have produced such an assemblage of ugly creatures. It is hardly conceivable that the feminine character could ever have existed under faces, in which all traces of gentle expression have long since been annihilated, and where the countenance now indicates only the prevalence of the baser passions.

Some of the rooms were crowded, the inmates sitting on two rows of benches. Upon our entrance they discontinued their occupations, and saluted us with disgusting leering faces, staring at us with a malignity and hatred that were not soon forgotten.

The rooms appeared well ventilated, and scrupulously clean. I wish I could say as much for the prisoners themselves: they were dirty and slovenly in their appearance, and were clothed in a coarse drug-get gown, a cap and neckerchief of cotton.

The discipline is very strict, and maintained by a person who at one time was the most unmanageable convict they ever had confined there. She now holds the place of matron, and has the management of the females, under the supervision of Mr. Bell, who is the superintendent of the whole establishment.

Until she was appointed, no sort of order was maintained. We understood that her conduct has been excellent since she filled the place. She is a tall masculine woman, of some intelligence, and has a watchfulness of manner that shows she is an adept at her business. She told us that the punishment for misconduct was solitary confinement, on bread and water, and for smaller misdemeanours, working at the crank of the pumps which supply the establishment with water.

The children are in a room by themselves, and there are about one hundred of them, from the infant to the child of seven or eight years of age. They all looked healthy, were very playful, and appeared to be well taken care of. There are twenty nurses who attend to them. It gave us much pleasure, when the matron entered with us, to see them all come running up to her, demonstrating her kind treatment of them, and the affection they bear her.

To Mr. Bell, the superintendent, we were much indebted for his civility. He appeared well qualified for the management of so extensive and difficult a concern. He explained every thing to us, answering the numerous questions put to him with great pleasure and