

of culprits has not been thought the principal object in regulating their treatment.

The object of deterring from the commission of crime has been the duty of the law for the protection of society, and the association of prisoners has been deemed morally hurtful to them.

The Social System proposes to change this course to one in fact directly opposite to it. In criminal administration, according to his views, society is at present placed in one scale, and the culprit in the other, and it is not surprising that the weight of the former should predominate.

He proposes, that the nature of the punishment should be severe and short; that it should melt into probation, and this again into entire freedom, by changes as gradual as possible; thus taking nature as the guide, and copying what occurs on any severe misfortune befalling us, at first overwhelming grief, then a retrospective one, which afterwards slowly gives place to hope and encouragement.

To carry this out, it would be necessary to have solitary imprisonment, with moral and religious exhortations inculcated during sequestration from external influences, with permission to work, and instructions in its performance, but without the power of exchanging the proceeds for indulgences; next, separate imprisonment, with the power of exchanging marks of good conduct for gratifications, to be prolonged until the accumulation of a certain number of marks over and above all those exchanged for indulgences, should exhibit the acquisition of habits of self-control.

To this second stage should succeed social labour through the day, with separate confinement at night, and at length a complete admission to a society, in which the convicts should choose their associates, and be mutually responsible for the good behaviour of each other.

In passing through such a course of discipline, both of the ends which have been spoken of will be attained. The guilty will be first punished, and afterwards rendered fit for society by reformation and training, and will be thus restored to that state in which he was before he committed the crime, after he has been well tried and found worthy of being re-established in it.

As far as I could understand, Captain Maconochie was not prepared to prescribe the exact manner in which his views were to be carried out, and did not appear to set much value upon the mode, provided his principles were kept in view. He was of opinion that the principal error in modern penal science is the importance attached to physical arrangement in the construction of prisons.

According to him, the less stress that is set upon them the better,