

Prison Discipline

Read before the Philanthropic
Society of the Meadville Theological
School, Tuesday evening Dec. 31st, 1850.

Few of the reforms which
have been commenced within the
last seventy years occupy a higher
position or enlist more of our
attention and sympathy, than does
that which relates to the
treatment of criminals.

We love to contemplate the
increase and triumphs of kind-
ness and love among men.

After wandering long among
thorns and brambles it is pleasant
to find fragrant flowers springing
up and blossoming in our path-
way. They remind us of heavenly
messengers and encourage us
to proceed. So is it after

wandering in the fields of vice
and crime. When we arrive where
the reformer has cut down the
briars and reared the myrtle &
the rose, we feel a glow of rap-
ture thrill our souls.

Would any experience this pleasant
emotion, let them go to the pris-
on-house, as it was when the
foot of the illustrious Howard
first crossed its threshold. Let
them follow from thence the path
of the reformer and it will lead
them into cultivated fields where
the hand of the husbandman, with
the showers of Christian love and
beneficence, has caused the wilder-
ness and solitary-place to rejoice
and blossom as the rose.

Having premised this much
I would invite your attention to
a consideration of prisons as they
were at the close of the last
century and as they have been
since. I shall speak of the im-
provements which have been wrought
in prison discipline, and of the
duties which we, as Christian

philanthropists, owe to it.

Of the prisons visited by Mr. Howard, the first after leaving his own country was the principal prison of Paris. This was in a deplorable condition, "and when its massive gates were once shut upon a prisoner he was left at the mercy of a few rulers, who had the power of life and death in their hands. He could not be sure of a trial in open court and by a jury of his equals: but was left to languish without any means of redress." To obtain a further insight into the condition of French prisons, we need to look in upon her prisoners of war, when Howard fell a captive on her coast. But I will not intrude upon your minds a description of those unpleasant scenes. It is enough that I allude to them. I shall pass by the prisons of the inquisition and those where the cruelties of the torture and heat would cause every fellow-feeling to

shrink and the blood to still in their veins. I shall speak of English prisons. These are described as "crowded and ill-ventilated, the prisoners loaded with irons, & sleeping without straw in damp unwholesome dungeons many feet under ground. So offensive was the air arising from the filth in every part of these buildings, that frequently, more prisoners were carried off in a year by the jail-fever, than were condemned to death by the law. Instead of allowing them more air and better attention at such times, they were shut up still closer and often deserted by the medical attendants." In one instance a man was confined for debt in a hole, whither he was obliged to take his dog to defend him from vermin.

"The poor animal was soon decimated and the gentleman's face much disfigured by their attacks."

It is not wonder that the feelings of the benevolent and warm-hearted philanthropists were moved.

It was enough to move the sympathies of any man who has a heart to feel. We are not, nor can we ever be acquainted with the miseries of the prison as was he, who, like the Holy One

for whom the image of Father ^{dwelt} ^{in many}

Went about performing deeds of

There were other evils which pained the good man's soul.

Persons awaiting their trial, many of them innocent, were subject to the like treatment of condemned felons. These sometimes died of the jail fever. Persons detained as witnesses were not unfrequently confined in these dens of wretchedness. Those confined for debt suffered all the punishment of the most guilty criminal. "It was the design of Government that prisoners should have clean straw with good and sufficient food, but these were often denied them by inhuman and avaricious keepers.

If a man were acquitted by the court and he had not the means to pay the jailer's exorbitant fee, he

was thrust back into prison to remain under the corrupting influence of a licentious company. Accomplished rogues and young offenders were there brought together, and all the innocence of the one could not withstand the alluring wiles of the other. "If a man refused to answer to a charge of criminality made against him, he was put in a low, dark chamber - laid on his back on the floor - naked - as great a weight of iron placed on his body as he could bear - with no sustenance, save only on the first day, the morsels of mouldy bread - on the second, three draughts of standing water, brought from ditches nearest the prison door - and kept in this situation till he answered or died". There were a great variety of punishments in vogue both in England and on the continent. Among these were that of placing men in systems where they must pump or drown, and that of suspending men by the wrists on the wall of the prison. The injustice not to say uselessness of this, England

with all her boasted enlighten-
ment, did not perceive, till
Howard roused her slumbering
millions with his startling dis-
closures of her hidden miseries.

Then she arose and draped her-
self in garments of reformation.

But not to dwell longer
on foreign prisons, though much
more might be said, let us
look for a moment at our
own prisons. Unpleasant though
it may be, the same evils &
abuses which we passed through
in Europe beset our way in
America. "When Congress held its
sessions in Philadelphia, the pris-
oners in the great prison of that
city were kept, day and night, in
one common hall, without dis-
tinction of age, color, or sex; the
ruffians sold spirituous liquors
to the inmates, at a bar within
the prison, and with the knowledge
of the public authorities; to obtain
money to purchase liquors great
outrages were committed by
stripping fellow prisoners on their

first admission, which was "a custom of long standing under the name of garbush." Children were permitted to remain in prison with their parents; female convicts were allowed to associate with girls and young women confined by their masters for sale or temporary punishment; debtors and persons committed for criminal offences were indiscriminately confined together; keepers were suspected of unlawful partnerships with culprits; the pitiable objects of punishment were hardly screened from the public eye; passengers were assailed by obscene and profane expressions from the windows; and prisoners, in garbs that compelled them to shun the light of day, were, at the expirations of their terms of confinement, turned out into the midst of a populous city, ignorant, penniless, and reckless of every thing useful, moral or religious." In the Mass. prison at a somewhat later period, "correspondence was maintained between the culprit

and persons without the walls; false keys and other implements of mischief were manufactured in the prison; bank notes were received, altered to larger denominations and sent forth for the joint emolument of the prisoner and his friends abroad."

Such are some of the evils which have prevailed in our prisons. It would be too painful a task to enumerate them all; but there are a few which I cannot pass by in silence. "In some of the Old prisons, the convicts are clothed in filthy rags; they were seldom shaved or purified with water; their night rooms were not swept, scrubbed or white-washed; their beds were too filthy for description; cutaneous diseases were extended & vermin were common". The separation of men and women was neglected. The young and the old, the sane and the insane, the condemned and the uncondemned were all confined together.

Into this heterogeneous mass
men were thrown for debt and
many small offences. Children
under twelve years of age have
been found shut up with the most
profligate of the human race.
Idiot have been found in prison.
The numbers of the insane in our
prisons at one time was esti-
mated at 2400. Of these, some
had been confined for years in
dungeons which were insufferable to
others, and some had died of
cold and neglect. They received
no medical aid or attention of any
kind. The punishments in pris-
ons have been, for the most part,
stripes, solitary-confinement, and
hunger. The gag has been used
for females at Hong Kong and some
other prisons. Stripes have been
made in more instances than
one to result in death. Solitary
confinement has produced insen-
sibility and brought on diseases
which have terminated life.
Heavy chains have been worn till
they caused painful wounds, &c.

Men have been employed as wardens and subordinate officers who were destitute of all principle and humanity. "Men of violent & virulent passions; men of obscene and profane conversation; men who have been detected in acts of villainy & nefarious plans of wickedness with prisoners; men who have accepted a bribe; men who have made a league with counterfeiters; men who would defend the state; such men have been connected with the government of prisons." The results of such government stand out in bold relief on the pages of the past, testifying to the shortsighted wisdom of the few and the neglect of the many. They teach us that the rights of the prisoner have been disregarded - the true end of prison discipline overlooked and all that is sacred and lovely, in the sight of God and man, desecrated. The Christian community have been sadly negligent in this matter. They have forgotten those words

of Christ; "I was in prison and
ye came unto me." The false
maxims of the world have taught
them a vindictive theology, and
they cry "hang him, hang him,
he deserves it-." The things which
minister for peace, joy and long-
suffering have been reckoned of
no account. The depths of the
prisoners soul have not been sound-
ed. "The harp of a thousand strings"
has loined all sentiment in his
bosom. No breath of love and friend-
ship has awoken ~~the~~ melody into
being. No tales of love and child-
hood, of a mother's care and sis-
ter's affection, have sounded in his
ears to call him home to innoc-
ence and virtue. The fangs of
a merciless lion have been upon
him. Public opinion has hunted
him down with its blood-hounds.

The brightest and best portions
of his life have been required to
atone for a deed which injured
no one so much as himself.
And when he has become old
and broken down in body &

mind, then he has been turned out to die or to shift for himself in the swamps of human misery. Says the eloquent and high-minded Sir Dix, "There is often great disproportion between the offence and the punishment and the offence. Subordination is stimulated, and efforts for reform are often rendered abortive by the injudicious infliction of long periods of imprisonment". Others, not less acquainted with the operations of prison discipline on the mind and heart, tell us that sentences have been "unnecessarily and injuriously severe; that it is neither the duration nor the severity of punishment, to which we are to look for good results, but rather to its nature or kind and the manner of its infliction". Long periods of imprisonment do not benefit the criminal. They rather make bad worse. "Convicts become reckless and obstinate, and callous to all influences moral or religious

when subject to them." The despair of ever retrieving an honorable position in society. Their families are neglected and despised on their account. They feel, very justly, that the injury they sustain is greater far than the injury they have done. "Men have an ~~in~~ sense of justice." They know that there is no justice in the infliction of an extreme penalty merely because the law demands it.

I have little patience with such things as majesty of law. If a man can be made a good man without ~~punishment~~, why, in the name of heaven, should it be inflicted upon him?

But turning from these wrong and cruelties to more agreeable task invites our attention. On the left and on the right, we behold green oases, watered by streams of beneficence and love. Self-sacrificing philanthropists have poured out their lives and treasures in ameliorating the condition of "degraded and bleeding humanity."

They have spared no pains to dive into dungeons and show their sympathy with the lowest of the race, even at the expense of being stigmatised as fanatics and sickly sympathisers with the criminal.

So there may be traced great & astonishing changes in the condition and treatment of prisoners.

The first reforms in Europe were set on foot by John Howard, a name ever dear to the philanthropist's heart. He succeeded in establishing state salaries in lieu of jailer's fees. This was his first effort and was highly beneficial in many ways, especially in that it proved a stepping-stone to other and far greater improvements.

A radical change in the structure and discipline of English prisons soon followed. Similar results attended his labors on the continent.

When in Germany, the Emperor Joseph requested him to point out those grievances which most demanded reform. "Your Majesty," replied Howard, "has throughout your empire prisoners

who have been for two years imprisoned in dungeons, awaiting their trial; and should they be found innocent, it is not in the power of your Majesty to make them reparation for the injuries they have sustained."

The effect of this answer was that a law was immediately enacted by which the grievance was redressed.

Time will not permit me to review all the improvements in foreign prisons. The state of the Pentonville prison, a few miles from London, deserves a passing notice. It is conducted, as are most of the European prisons, on the Pennsylvania or solitary plan, and is spoken of in high terms, "It is well governed. The ignorant are taught to read and write. Sundays are occupied in preaching, religious instruction, & reading. The branches of common school education are taught daily."

The medical officers report of the intellectual and physical advancement of the prisoners. Ireland, France, Germany, in short, all the European countries have made considerable

improvements in their disposal & treatment of criminals. Societies have been formed in all these countries and a good work has been well begun. At London and France - Report Journals are published devoted to the subject. In the prison at Geneva, prisoners are divided into four classes, in each of which the discipline is graduated to the offense.

Another feature in this prison, is that of putting one-half of the surplus earnings into a fund, to be disposed of by a patron for the benefit of the prisoner's family or for himself after his release. This is also the case in some of the German prisons.

There are societies also whose object it is to find labor and give aid to discharged convicts.

However much has been and is still done in our own country, I believe, it presents no such arrangement as this. The "Prisoner's Friend" a journal, published in Boston by a devoted philanthropist, is doing a good work in this respect. It thrusts it has devoted mostly upon indi-

viduals alone to succor the prisoners
But now there is more general ac-
tion - Societies have been formed
and many who ^{would} have returned
to follow in sin have been ele-
vated to trust-worthy and respec-
table positions in society.

If we go within the Prison's walls
we find there the footsteps of
the reformer. The briars have been
removed. Where once men were
thrust into prison in filth and
rags and allowed to remain so, they
are now cleansed when they are
received, and supplied with clean
clothing, both on the Sabbath and
during the week. They have oppor-
tunities for daily bathing and proxi-
fication, and sometimes are required
to do it. Their rooms are kept clean-
er and more wholesome than formerly.

Diet is more carefully attended to,
and the whole appearance of the
prison and the prisoners is better.

Classification to some extent, and separa-
tion at night have been effected.

In the silent or congregate system
which prevails in the U.S. with the

exception of Penn. - the prisoners are allowed to see each other only during the day and then no intercourse is permitted.

"Under this discipline old comrades have been in the same prison, passed thru' the same yard daily, yet have not so much as remember that the other was there." This is considered as a great improvement on the old system of indiscriminate intercourse.

Elizabeth Fry once said "she had often known the career of a promising young woman, charged with a first offence, to end in a condemned cell. Were there but a refuge for the young offenders my work would be less painful."

Admonished by such counsel & the fate of large numbers of youth gone people have set themselves to work and in many of our cities have established "Houses of Correction and Reformation" where the children of dissolute and intemperate parents may receive that discipline which they found not under the parental roof. In one of these Houses, if not in all, children are under

a constant and useful discipline. Four hours in each day they are in school, giving attention to the common and useful branches of education. Such as have the physical strength are required to labor six hours each day. Many of the boys have a taste for useful reading, & highly value their privilege of access to a good library." These institutions have been the means of checking many an evil in the land. They have brought up diamonds from the river-bed of vice, pearls from beneath the dark waters of society. They have placed diadems on those whom the world would have incarcerated in a prison or executed on a gallows. Another step deserving of commendation, is the removal of lunatics from prisons to asylums established expressly for them. This has taken place in nearly all the states. Severe punishments have been mitigated. It has been found that "man" is not made better by being degraded; that he is reformed & restrained from crime by harsh

measures, and that when he is, he is never made radically better for its influence." It is the kind word, fitly spoken, which turns away wrath and begets good emotions in the human bosom.

"I earnestly plead," says Sir D. "for milder measures, in governing the base, the corrupt, Steady, firm and honest government of prisoners is the truest humanity, and the best exercise of duty." These principles have been felt and recognized. They have been acted upon in some instances. One occurred in the Eastern Penitentiary which I cannot forbear to mention.

There was a profane mariner in the prison, who was constantly violating the rules, and whom it was said nothing but extreme severity could govern. "The Warden had tried various means without effect. As the good old Quaker opened the wicket on one occasion he was greeted with a torrent of abuse. "For full ten minutes," said the worthy man

in relating the incident, "Ben continued this bitter tirade of abuse — and I continued steadily to look at him in silence. The truth is, I was quivering with myself whether I had not taken wrong means to subdue this violent man.

By and by, he was worried out with his own petulance, and he heaved a deep sigh, and was quiet. I knew it was a tender time with him and so I said kindly, "Ben, has thou a mother?" The strong man was subdued in an instant and sobbed aloud. Being determined to probe him to the quick, I thus continued; "What would thy mother say Ben, if she knew thou was here, and in rebellion against thy best friend? I want to be kind to thee — I want to be thy friend — but thou won't let me."

Thus continuing to talk to him for a few moments, he being in great suffrance of tears and sobs the while, I saw he was melted, and ordered the keepers to take off his chains and return

him to his cell. He was afterwards
an orderly and well-behaved man.
And when his time expired, he
left us with tears. I do not say
~~that~~ he was altogether a changed
man: but I do think that kind-
ness and tenderness did for Ben,
what nothing else on earth
could have accomplished."

Sarah is a brief account of what
has been and can be done by kind
means. It is a practical rebuke
to those who would treat the
criminal with excessive rigor.
It gives a brighter coloring to that
reform which has placed the gov-
ernment of prisons in the hands
of good men, men of patience,
mildness and christian forbearance.

The attention of the Christian
community has, more than for-
merly been given to this subject.
Sentences have to some extent
been shortened. Chaplains have been
appointed in nearly all the prisons.
Sunday-schools and Bible classes have
been formed, and much useful
moral and religious instruction
is imparted.

It would not be easy to estimate the influence which is thus brought to bear upon the hearts and minds of culprits. In illustration of this I will introduce an incident which was told me at the Ct. State Prison.

It is simple. Among the convicts was a young man who was the son of a clergyman. In the ardor of his youth he had forgotten the instruction of his father and fallen into temptation and crime. In prison the message of the chaplain fell upon his ear like the rain on a drooping flower. His thoughts of home and the resolutions of a better life rose up in his mind. He wept repentant tears. He was reformed. That sermon did more for him than many years of imprisonment could do. It restored life to the withering flower. It fanned a spark of love into a flame that shall live in the Paradise of God. Yea, it caused a stream to flow which shall make glad the city of the Most High.

Such results have been wrought in other prisons. Discharged convicts have

returned, not as criminals to ex-
piate a crime by long years of con-
finement, but as reformed and
respectable men, to testify their
gratitude and love to the minister
who had awakened in their souls
the slumbering energies of a divine
life. Instances of this kind might
be related, but it is unnecessary.

It is sufficient that they have oc-
curred to demonstrate that men
need not the rack and torture
to make them better men - The
great difficulty and cause of so
much crime and suffering has
been that the true end, the primary
object of prison discipline has been
overlooked - False principles and
erroneous ideas of justice have held
sway in the treatment of criminal.
Howard found these his most-
formidable enemies. And to incul-
cate and enforce the doctrine that
"reformation should be the leading
object in every house of correction,"
cost him more labor than
any other part of his system.

"Reformation", says Samuel J. May, "is the right of the criminal and the first duty of those who take charge of him as an offender."

"I know," says Channing, "I shall be told of the failure of all efforts to reclaim criminals. They have not always failed. And besides, has philanthropy, has genius, has the strength of humanity, been fairly and fervently put forth in this great concern? I must add that the most hopeless subjects are not always to be found in prisons". And what encouragement ought these words to afford us, my friends? What efforts ought we to make to advance the great work which has been so nobly begun! The lives of the sainted dead and the voices of the gifted and good call on us to put forth the strength of our Christianity in the work of redeeming our fallen brother. Past improvements are not universal. They are to be regarded as but indications of what will be. Great reforms are yet

in embryo. Thirty thousand per-
sons are now in the prisons of
the U. S. Twenty thousand are an-
nually going forth, either to return
to their homes as good citizens or
to plunge still deeper in the mire
of iniquity. Shall we be indif-
ferent to their woe, when we are
doing so much for the heathen
in other lands! Let us not
forget that charity begins at home,
and that many of our prisons
are yet in a deplorable condi-
tion and call loudly for our
philanthropy. Let us inquire into
the causes of crime and seek
to remove them. Let us acquaint
ourselves with the condition of
the criminal and the justice or
injustice of his sentence. Let us
connect ourselves with him and
"by manifestations of a sincere fra-
ternal interest, by conversation, books
and encouragement, touch within
him chords which have long ceased
to vibrate; awaken new hopes; show
him that all is not lost; that vir-
tue and the friendship of the virtuous

and honor, and immortality may yet be secured." Let us speak out for the repeal of bad laws and bad practices. Let us dilate with our sympathies and encircle all the suffering. Let us break down the wall of prejudice which shuts out the discharged convict from good society and frowns with disdain on any attempt to secure him.

Let us receive him into our families as we would a fugitive from slavery. We are bound by the requirements of our religion to do him good, to lift him up, find him honorable labor and make him feel that he has firm friends who have confidence in his honesty and who care for his welfare. Need I say that such is the surest possible way to make him our friend and save him from utter ruin? Oh!

"Speak gently to the erring ones!

We yet may lead them back,
With holy words, and tones of love,
From misery's thorny track.

Forget not brother thou hast sinned,
And sinful yet may'st be;
Deal gently with the erring heart,
As God hath dealt with thee."

We forget oftentimes that many
of our unfortunate fellows have come
to their present situation thro' neglected
or perverted education, for which others
are more culpable than themselves;
that influences which they could
not control have combined to leave
them downward in the way of vice
and infamy. Could we but tell
all the motives of the heart; could
we know all the circumstances
which gather around the weak and
ignorant, to betray their honor and their
virtue, methinks we should not at-
tribute so great guilt to their mis-
conduct. We are too apt to consider
criminals as hardened and malicious
villains, whereas many are naturally
of good disposition, but in an
unguarded hour temptation has
overthrown their moral force &
made them captives to sin -
Such persons need moral and re-
ligious instruction, not cold and

rigid discipline, the school house
not the prison - We do not know
the temptations which are constantly
besetting the ways of the poor -

There have been strong minded men,
men of culture who have given way
to these temptations, and what won-
der then that the weak minded
should? "Let him that thinketh
he standeth take heed lest he
fall." It has been computed for
one prison alone, that one-third of
the prisoners were actually intoxicated when
they committed the crimes for which
they were convicted. Of another prison
the warden says, "nearly three-fourths of
the entire number of prisoners were
committed for offences and misfortunes
palpably and directly caused by the
use of intoxicating liquor." Are such
persons, & such, proper subjects for the
penitentiary? By what law of ethics
does society imprison a man af-
ter laying before him stumbling blocks
which cause him to fall?

But while there are those who
are confined unjustly, there are
others whose confinement none

will question, provided it be directed
to its proper ends. Yet this class
have not forfeited our sympathy.
They, equally with every other, have
claims upon our attention. No man
can do to us or to society so
great injury that we should be
justified in reproaching and mal-
treating him. We are to deal with
the criminal on Christian principles,
as a moral being, a fellow traveller
to eternity. We have no right to
surrender him up, body and soul,
to the merciless experiments of spec-
ulative theorists. His life is precious.
The sentiments of his heart are sa-
cred. He is a man and we
are bound to regard his rights.

I have said that strong-minded
men have given way to temptation.

Yes - men whom the world de-
lights to honor - Think not then
that the prisoner's shame is for the
lowly alone. The innocent have
shared it with the guilty -

The great and the good have
all graced the dark abode with
their presence - Lord Bacon

was once a prisoner and so
was Leigh Hunt. The kings and
queens of England were frequently
confined in the tower of London &
so was Wm. Penn - It is said
that Penn wrote his defence of the
Quakers while in prison - Daniel
DeFoe conducted a semi-weekly
Review in prison - John Bunyan
wrote his Pilgrim's Progress during
a twelve years imprisonment.

James Montgomery wrote some of his
best poems in prison - John How-
ard was himself once a prisoner.

Paul and Silas and Peter and other
martyrs and reformers have not
escaped incarceration. And as an-
gels ministered to them, so there
have been angels in our days.

Holy men and women, bearing
messages of deliverance from the
Most High God, have caused the
manacles to fall off, and the
iron doors to open, and the light
of Heaven's sun and moon and stars
to illumine the emancipated captive's
soul. The prison's walls have echoed
with "strains of glad triumphant

melody" and hearts long steeled
to all earthly influences have wel-
comed the visitations of the cele-
stial messenger, music.

Woman has been revered in apart-
ments where men dared not enter,
her voice has been heard pronouncing
a "Psalm of Consolation" in the gloomy
corridors of the captive's home.
That voice, so sweet and saint-like, will
never cease its sounding to those whose
hearts it first taught repentance;
but ever along the weary march
of life will it tell of all that
is pure and lovely. We admire
such deeds of modest goodness.
Yet how unlike are they to all
that the world calls great!

They call on us, as with angels
voices to "go and do likewise".

A few noble spirits are now
on this crowd of heavenly mercy.
A thousand doors stand open in-
viting their feet to enter. They are
shod with the sandals of righte-
ousness and on their lips is a
"Psalm of Life". Like the Apostles of
old they have neither scrip nor

prize; yet our Heavenly Father
feedeth them and the spirits
of the good attend them. They make
light the darkness round about,
and whether in the royal mansion,
surround by kings and conquerors,
or in the prison's lonely solitude,
they are, in word and in deed
the "Prisoner's Friends".

"The Prisoner's Friend," how dear that name
To him whose bosom bears within
A Christian heart, that would reclaim
The erring from the paths of sin!
Go fearfully forth, thou Prisoner's Friend,
Thy mission to the world proclaim!
The sacredness of life defend,
The lost of Adam's race reclaim."

Heard what the bards have sung. A glory rests
On the dark prison; for within its walls
Virtue hath dwelt; self-sacrificing love
Hath made those vaults her home, and calmed bowed
To man's mistaken judgment. The brave chief, —
The lofty minstrel, — England's destined queen,
And Scotia's royal exile; — more than these, —
The martyr of his country or his creed, —
Innocent maid, and white-haired man of God, —
Reformer and apostle, — here have made
The darkness radiant with the light of faith,

And on the midnight silence of the cell
Pour'd strains of glad triumphant melody,
Yes! These could triumph! Courage, innocence,
And love to man, and intercourse with heaven,
Sustained them. But the prison's doors were
As for the guilty. Nor will ye despise,
Ye, who with youth and beauty grace this hall,
The sufferings of the fallen. Just their doom,
Seclusion, labor, shame; so may they learn
Repentance, and be reconciled to God!

Let let the voice of pity cheer their hearts,
And as for each the prison's gates unfold,
Let heavenly kindness like an angel stand
Before the opening portals, prompt to save,
And give a rescued brother to mankind!"

Meadville, Dec. 10, 1850.

A. N. Adams.