Bt. from Geo. Harding

Richard Strachey,

ASHWICK GROVE.

A

NARRATIVE

OF

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE

IMPROVEMENTS

EFFECTED IN

His Majesty's Gaol at Ilchester,

In the County of Somerset,

BETWEEN JULY 1808, AND NOVEMBER 1821,

UNDER THE

GOVERNANCE, SUGGESTION, AND SUPERINTENDANCE OF

WM. BRIDLE, KEEPER:

BEING THE

FIRST PART OF HIS EXPOSITION OF, AND ANSWER TO, THE CHARGES LATELY BROUGHT AGAINST HIM BY

HENRY HUNT,

A PRISONER CONFINED IN THE SAID GAOL.

Bath:

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AND AT MURRAY'S, ALBEMARLE-STREET; LONGMAN, HURST, REES, AND CO.'S, AND G. AND J. ROBINSON'S, PATERNOSTER-ROW; LONDON.

1822.

DEDICATION.

To the British Public.

IN dedicating the following pages to you, my friends and fellow-countrymen, I merely follow the dictates which govern every man whose dernier resort is, an appeal to the world. That I have been infamously calumniated, and most injuriously treated, it is my imperative duty to point out. The decision of any given body of men may be erroneous, but the decision of the British Public in toto *has never yet been found at variance with true and sound justice.*

To that Public, therefore, I confidently make my appeal: on its decision I am ready to stand or fall.

To the critical reader I have only one request to make—to pardon the literary errors he may find in this work; as the chief business of my life has been to improve the morals *not the* language *of men: my own, therefore, may have failed in cultivation, and may consequently be found imperfect.*

WILLIAM BRIDLE.

Bath, February 1st, 1822.

PREFACE.

SELF-DEFENCE is well known to be the strongest propensity inherent to human nature; the meanest worm that crawls will turn when trodden on: the world, therefore, cannot be surprised that I should submit the following sheets to its perusal.

I shall not pay so ill a compliment to the thinking and well-constituted part of my countrymen, that is, the great body, to convey even by implication an idea that they have prostituted their time to the perusal of the trash my chief foe has so long been vomiting out amongst those who are either the credulous dupes of his visionary politics, or are paralyzed by fear of his vituperative power. The former class stand on the system adopted by their own reason; whether perverted or not let others judge: but the latter are pitiable indeed: the reptiles of a North-American forest, it is true, do fascinate; but they fascinate to destroy.

That a man, whose vile passions are as notorious as his career has been erratic, should attack whatever might be good or orderly, cannot be a matter of much wonder: but it is that he should have succeeded in his object, that I complain. "Oh! that my enemy would write a book!" was the exclamation of a man of yore. That

an unvarnished, unlettered person, like myself, should make the attempt, is the best proof I can give the world of the fact, that I have been treated unjustly.

Since the following pages were written, it came to my knowledge that the Commissioners, lately appointed under the Great Seal, had made their Report. Deeply attacked as my character has been, I had been most anxiously looking forward to the event; as on their fiat I had reposed. I understood that a copy of it had been forwarded to the Quarter Sessions held at Wells on the 14th ult., and I immediately posted thither, not doubting but that I should be promptly supplied with one. But some of my good friends of the *Committee* were there, *and I was refused!* I have been arraigned, tried, and punished by a self-constituted Court, notwithstanding a higher Court was appointed to investigate my conduct. That higher Court has set, a Report from it has come forth,* and yet I am refused the knowledge of what that Report contains. The world, however, will

* The Chairman of the Sessions (Wm. Dickenson, esq.) was pleased to inform me (at the time I was refused a copy of the Report, or even the sight thereof,) that the Commissioners had given me a most excellent character *up to the time of and during* the typhus fever; but what prevented that character from being continued I could not learn; perhaps the Gaol was not found in such high order and discipline from that period; and should that happen to be the cause, I feel it a duty I owe myself and the world even here to make some explanation, and to show another feature of the act of the Committee: Sir John Palmer Acland was accused of disturbing the peace of the county in supporting Sir T. Lethbridge at the Somerset Election, and therefore had incurred the displeasure of some of these gentlemen! When the typhus fever became so alarming in the Gaol, the worthy Baronet took a very active part in recommending the House of Recovery, the attendance of Dr. Woodford, &c., which was by many considered as an unnecessary

see that, let its purport be what it may, it cannot coincide with the decision of the Committee of County Magistrates. If it *did*, I have reason to know, how trium-

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expense. Whether these are the causes or not, I will not pretend to say, but, STRANGE and WONDERFUL as it may appear, the Committee directed Mr. Broderip to inform me, it was their wish that my correspondence with Sir John Palmer Acland should be at an end!! This was stated to me by that gentleman, observing, the Magistrates would be jealous and displeased if I did not conform to their wishes; adding, "I told them you were directed by all Magistrates and Sheriffs, from the day of your appointment, to apply to Sir John for advice if any case of difficulty presented itself in your service, and that was admitted with an observation that Sir John was no longer Chairman of the Sessions." It was known to these gentlemen that Sir John Palmer Acland was a great and good friend of mine, and I thought it was cruel to be thus deprived of the valuable advice I had been accustomed to receive at his hands: I was, however, their servant, and bound to obey. Unfortunately, however, for me, my duties at this time were much extended, and my occasional absence from the Gaol much increased (in the year 1820 my duty took me from the Gaol 112 days); this absence was taken advantage of by my officers, and particularly the principal officer. Being deprived of the assistance of Sir John Palmer Acland, I pointed these things out to the Committee, and in my letter, dated March 1st, 1820, (a day of their meeting at the Gaol, when I was obliged to be absent,) I requested their protection and support from this abuse, by their entering an order in their Journal that the Taskmaster should not leave the Gaol during the hours of labour, nor the turnkeys during the time the Gaol was unlocked. This protection not being then afforded me, I applied personally to the Committee at the Gaol, and MR. GOODFORD, the CHAIRMAN, thanked me for the suggestion, observing it should be noticed in the Rules they were then preparing. I again applied for an immediate order to be made in the Journal, and was again refused. In the same letter I applied for certain bells to be put up in the Gaol, to enable me in the night-time to know if all were well: this was also neglected. But many months after this the Prisoner Hunt made a similar application and obtained an order for bells to be put up in his ward, that HE may have the power of CALLING HIS SERVANTS. In the execution of this order I reminded these

phantly it would have been handed over to me; but as it is, it is refused. The inference is obvious.

One other act of injustice I cannot pass over. The Commissioners were instructed not only to investigate my conduct, but to investigate also the *local disadvantages of the Gaol.* This has been done *at my expense;* and I ask if it be fair? Surely the latter investigation was a public matter; why should I, therefore, suffer loss by it? My witnesses I had brought, some of them from a great distance: they were all residing at Ilchester at my own expense; yet their examinations were delayed daily, because the Gaol was to be investigated also; and thus were my expenses increased tenfold. I trust the gentlemen who composed the Commission will see this circumstance in its honest light, and rescue me from a pecuniary loss so ruinous. It was but a little I had scraped together in the course of fourteen years' arduous service, and of that little I am deprived—deprived too principally through the means of men who ought to have protected me.

I shall not charge the Magistrates of the county of Somerset as a body, however, with a breach of duty, or of protection towards me. No! for my heart glows

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gentlemen of my application for bells: it was AGAIN OMITTED! Subsequently I again repeated my application to one of my visiting Magistrates, when they were at length ordered to be put up.

Thus was I deprived, by an official order of the Gaol Committee, of the able advice and experience of Sir J. P. Acland in every trying and difficult situation; and instead of the counsel and assistance of that Committee in lieu thereof, I could not even obtain the necessary interference and protection of those gentlemen to enforce regularity and good order in the Gaol during my absence on duty.

whilst my pen records the fact, that the injury done me has been effected by *six Justices* alone. *They* well know that if I had appealed against their decision to the great body, it *would have been set aside:* unfortunately for myself, I knew it too late. The world will perhaps scarcely credit this statement, but its truth is open to investigation. When the Committee came to their decision, *seven* of their body only were present, and *four** who were not of their body; and by six of these was an old, faithful, and tried officer *courteously* dismissed from that situation they themselves had so frequently testified could not have been better filled. But I will not anticipate for my readers, the following pages will sufficiently speak to that fact.

Petitions to the House of Commons, relative to grievances of any kind, carry with them, in public opinion, great weight; and it is well that they should do so: and their doing so is the best proof that two thirds of the community think too reverently of the constituted authority of the realm, to suppose that there are men who will dare to make false statements to that august body.† But although my dire enemy, and the dire enemy of all that is either sacred in society or holy in

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* Of whom one (a very particular friend of those decidedly hostile to my interest) had qualified but a few days; in fact, after the investigation had closed!!! and although a resident of not more than 6 miles from the Gaol, I had never before (to my knowledge) seen or heard of, and whose first magisterial act was to sit with an assembly about to decide on an *ex-parte* case against me.

† The Petition of Charles Hill, presented by the Hon. Grey Bennet to the House of Commons in June, 1815, having caused an investigation at the time, and the *entire* of the charges contained in said petition *having been clearly and satisfactorily proved*

religion, has caused Petitions to be forwarded to the House, as if from aggrieved persons, yet let the public opinion pause with respect to their truth.* In the

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to have been utterly false, the Hon. Grey Bennet sent the following letter to Wm. Dickinson, esq; M.P. acknowledging the receipt of the documents upon the subject:

To Wm. Dickinson, esq; M.P.

DEAR SIR,

I shewed your letter, and the accompanying papers, to Mr. Horner only; Sir S. Romilly not being in the House yesterday. He expressed himself perfectly satisfied. I then took occasion to state to the House that I had received a communication from you, relative to the petition I had presented from Ilchester Gaol, which communication had satisfied me that the Petitioner was in no way warranted in the statement he had made, and that his complaint was untrue. I further added, that I embraced with pleasure an opportunity of declaring that, from all I had ever heard, the Gaol at Ilchester was one of the best regulated in the kingdom, and the magistracy who controuled its management among the most meritorious. Besides this, I added, that I was instructed to state that no letter from any debtor was ever opened by the Gaoler, and that I believed there was no instance to be found where the practice had taken place. I hope you will be satisfied with this; and I did it the more readily because I had been made the instrument (most unintentionally on my part) of wounding the feelings of an innocent man, and because I am fully aware how much the cause of necessary reform is injured by the introduction of unfounded allegations.

Believe me,

DEAR SIR,

Yours truly,

Whitehall, June 30th. H. GREY BENNET.

* In the course of my public duty one other striking instance of imposition on the House of Commons, by means of a petition, came to my knowledge; and as it is a parallel case to the one I have mentioned, I shall here relate it.

In December, 1812, Sir F. Burdett presented a petition to the House of Commons, said to be the Petition of the friends and relatives of Hipwood, Erey, Pitt, Millikin, Taylor, and Elizabeth Lovell, confined in Ilchester Gaol for "a sort of riot in the city of

course of this work I have narrated the circumstances attending one of these petitions, that of *William Chud-*

Bath, when a few of the windows of the Townhall were broken," complaining of cruelties, hardships, privations, &c. under which they suffered in the said Gaol. At the said time the Hon. Bart. produced a small loaf of bad bread, weighing about seven ounces, which he stated was the sole allowance for each prisoner in the Gaol for *one* day, and then indignantly cast it upon the floor of the House. This identical loaf was made in Bath for the purpose! and it is a fact worthy of observation, that all the loaves ever used in the Gaol during my governance, were of standard wheaten, weighing three pounds each!!!

I subjoin the document signed by the *said to be* petitioners.

Ilchester Gaol, 28th Dec. 1812.

WE, whose names are hereunto subscribed, being prisoners confined in the above Gaol for riotously assembling in Bath, on the 6th day of October last, do hereby declare, that since our confinement in this Gaol we have been well treated by the Keeper of the said Gaol, and by his turnkeys; that our friends have been at all times permitted to visit us in the said Gaol at the regulated hours; that money, bank-notes, meat, tea, coffee, tobacco, and all other things which have been sent to us by our friends, have been regularly given to and distributed amongst us, according to the directions of the person sending the same; that we have not made any complaint to any person whatsoever of any ill-treatment we have received since our confinement, nor have we had any cause to do so, as we have before declared to the several visiting Magistrates who have visited us since our confinement, and to William Dickinson, esq; the representative in Parliament for the county of Somerset: and we do further declare that we do not know of any Petition having been presented to the Hon. the House of Commons by any person or persons on our behalf, complaining of our treatment in the said Gaol, nor did we ever authorise any person or persons to present any such Petition: and we severally declare that we are not freemen of the city of Bath.

(*Signed*) WILLIAM ERREY,
WILLIAM TAYLOR,
CHARLES PITT,
JOHN HIPWOOD,
PHILIP MILLIKIN,
The Mark X of
MARY LOVETT.†

Witness, E. Broderip.

† Called in the Petition Elizabeth Lovell.

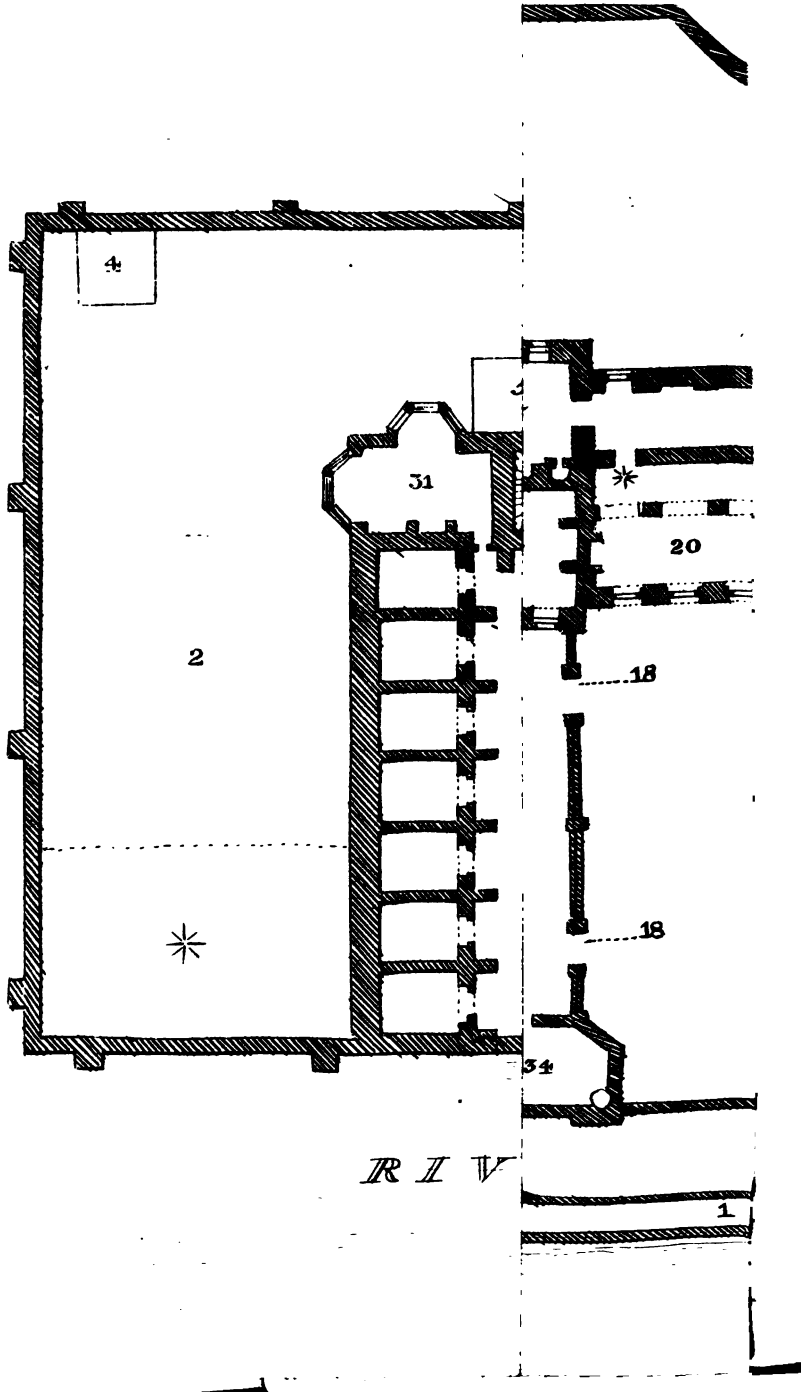
ley, and I now repeat my appeal to the House of Commons to cite me to their Bar to prove the facts. Let not the Members of that Honourable House permit the reverence that is due to their august body to be thus trampled down, and bemired by the inroad of imposition and falsehood. The right of petitioning that House for redress of grievances is one of the most sacred privileges of an Englishman; but to foist falsehood thus upon it, is the certain way to destroy the power and effect of that right altogether.

I now commit a plain unvarnished statement of what I have done, in my capacity as a public officer, to the world: I commit it fearlessly. Truth needs no ornament; and I have only to entreat the candid reader, patiently to consider, and to ask himself, whether I have or have not been treated unjustly.

An analyzation of each charge that has been brought against me I shall very shortly publish, together with a dissection of the witnesses brought to substantiate them, and my own defence. I feel the conscientious conviction of having faithfully and properly performed my duty, and I have no fear of carrying that conviction into every honest bosom in the kingdom.

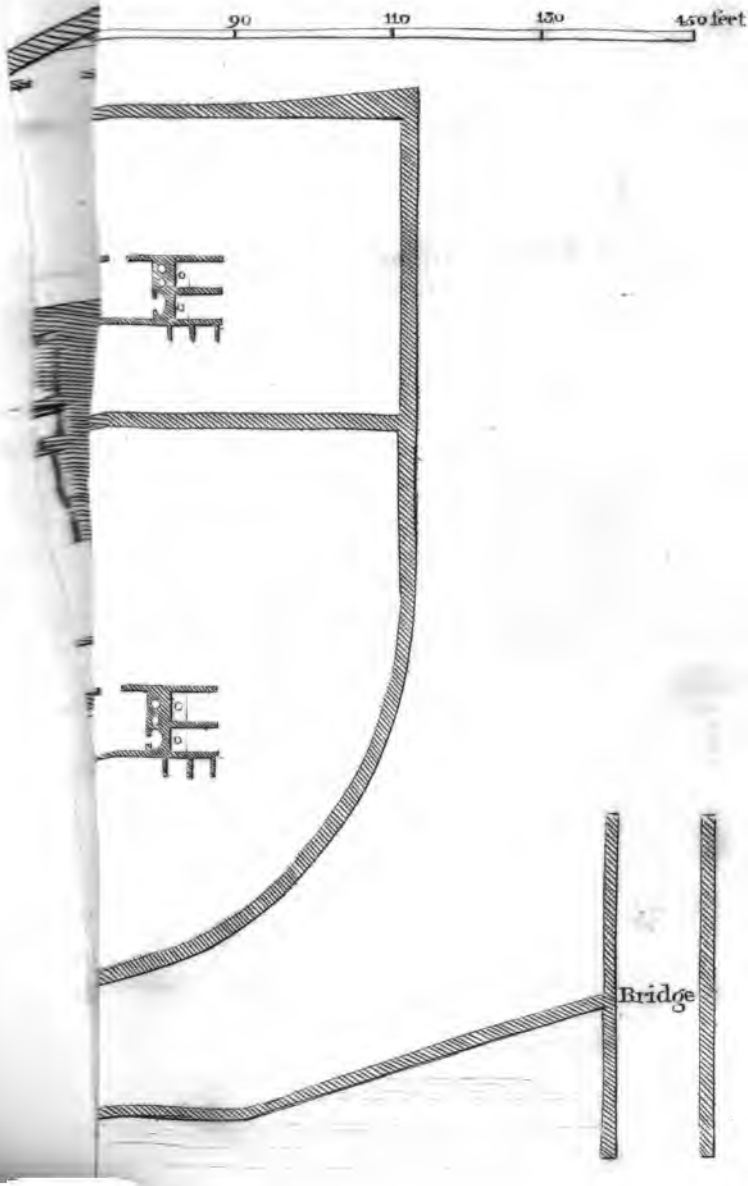
WILLIAM BRIDLE.

Bath, February 8th, 1822.


4
31
20
2
18
18
34
1

Explanation of Plate, describing the Gaol as it was in 1808.

1. Passage, three feet and a half wide, leading to the Gaol.
2. Gaoler's Gardens, Walks, and Shrubberies.
* in 2. A ditch containing stagnant water, sometimes as deep as 10 feet.
4. Hog-sties.
5. Sheds for carriages.
6. The Engine-House, for conveying river-water to the prisoners, usually stood here.
7. Part of Gaoler's Garden.
* in 7. Private Gate of entrance. This was occupied by the lower debtors six days after my induction.
8. Stable for horses.
9. Cow-house.
10. Straw-room.
11. Debtors' Apartments.
12. Debtors' Court.
* in 12. This had also been a ditch containing stagnant water.
13. Turnkey's Lodge.
14 Carpenters' Shop and Conversation-Room.
15. A Pump for all the Gaol usually stood here, there being no other water fit for drinking in the Gaol.
16. Time-men's Kitchen.
17. Time-men's Court.
18. Common Entrances for Water to the Debtor's Ward, &c.
* in 18. Wall, erected as a temporary division, and to interrupt so improper a thoroughfare.
19. Time-men's Arcade.
20. Intended for Time-men's Day-room, but used as Keeper's Cellar.
* in 20. Door of communication made by Keeper from his Scullery.
21. Court for all male Prisoners for trial, for Convicts, Vagrants, Deserters, &c.
22. Their Arcades with a Door leading into the Female Ward.
23. Their Kitchen, looking into the Infirmary Court.
24. The Infirmary Court.
26. The Infirmary Arcades, very offensive from the smells of the privies
27. Infirmary Stair-door.
28. Chapel-door, receiving all the effluvia and contagion of the rooms above and the arcade below.
29. Chapel, undivided, one common room or space.
30. Court-yard for females of all descriptions.
31. Room for Female Turnkey.
32. Common Entrance to Female Ward.
33. Entrance Lodge, being the residence of the principal Turnkey.
34. Warm and cold Baths, used by the Keeper as a Laundry.
35. Keeper's House.


90
110
130
150 feet
Bridge

Explanation of Plate, describing the Gaol as it was in November, 1821.

1. House for containing the Gaol caravans.
2. Stable.
3. Entrance-Lodge.
4. Prisoners' Visiting-room.
5. Manufactory.
6. Matron's Lodge.
7. Female Felons' Day-room.
8. Their Court-yard.
9. Female Convicts' Day-room.
10. Their Court-yard.
11. Occasionally the Female Debtors' or Infirmary Ward.
12. Twelve Refractory Wards.
13. Male Infirmary
14. Laundry and Bakehouse.
15. Boys' Ward.
16. Lower Debtors' Ward.
17. Upper Debtors' Ward.
18. Time-men's Ward.
19. Misdemeanour Ward.
20. Felons' Ward.
21. Convict Ward.
22. Chapel.
23. Keeper's House.

CHAPTER I.

State of the Gaol at the Period of my assuming the Governance thereof—Particulars of my Appointment, &c.

EARLY in the spring of the year 1808 an advertisement appeared in the daily papers for a Keeper of the Gaol, and Governor of the House of Correction, at Ilchester. At this time I was chief mate of the convict-ship Retribution, on the River Thames; and considering the nature and advantages of the situation thus advertised to be open, I determined to become a candidate for it, and applied instantly to the Superintendant of the Hulks, and other gentlemen connected with the observance of prison discipline, for such testimonials as they might conceive the manner in which I had fulfilled my obligations, and performed my duty, might warrant them to give me.

On the receipt of those testimonials, I forwarded them to a friend at Shepton-Mallet, and opened a correspondence with the Under-Sheriff of the county, stating my

desire to be appointed to the situation, and the grounds on which I conceived myself qualified to fill it.

On the day of election I happened not to be present, but the nature and power of my recommendations may be conceived when I add, that although there were twenty-seven candidates, many of whom were well known and respected in the county, yet immediately my testimonials were taken into consideration by the Sheriff and Grand Jury, my appointment was proposed and carried unanimously.

This statement is sufficient to prove the opinion formed of my zeal and ability at that time: and it is further strengthened by the fact, that I was unknown to the whole of the Magistrates present save two, and, moreover, was but twenty-six years of age. Attacked, however, and calumniated as I have lately been, it cannot be egotism in me to add, that the late Aaron Graham, esq; the active and efficient Bow-street Magistrate, who was, moreover, the then Inspector of Hulks and Felon Gaols, offered me the sole command of a convict-ship if I would remain in my original employ. I declined doing so, however, from the natural wish to settle in my native county; and on the 19th day of July was inducted to the Governorship of the House of Correction, and Keepership of his Majesty's County Gaol at Ivelchester, with a salary of £400 per annum.

On my taking charge, I found the population to consist of 62 prisoners of all classes, and the Gaol divided into five wards only, as may be seen by the annexed plan, viz. one for all classes of male debtors, whose limits extended to the very entrance-door of the Goal; one for all male prisoners under sentence less than transportation; one for all male prisoners for trial, from the

highway-robber down to the simple country boy for bastardy or assault; one for *all** female prisoners, whether felons or debtors; and one for infirmary purposes. The whole of the remaining site within the walls was occupied as a garden, piggery, stables, and cow-house, for the use of the Governor.

Here then, from a mere want of edifice, was no power of classification; from the absence of regulation and labour, no power of preventing the prisoners from spending their time as idly and as dissolutely as they pleased: and as the only place used as a visiting-room was appropriated to the debtors, all other visitants to the prisoners were permitted to enter their respective wards, and take with them whatsoever they pleased. The consequence was, that the prison was either a scene of drunken frenzy or gambling association: and as no religious books were ever distributed amongst them, no mode of restricting or adding to their personal comforts in case of wilful error, nor any other regulation by which their lives might be amended, or their wicked propensities repressed, the daily occurrences of the Gaol were all that was debauched, profligate, and dreadful.

But the internal mis-management of the Prison was not its only defect. There was an internal misconstruction: the very chapel was so perfectly undivided, that prisoners sat down in mass; and the House of God, with such a congregation, became a house of profligacy. Locking the Gaol up at night, and unlocking it in the

* The widow and one of the daughters of an officer lately governing the Island of St. Kitts, on being unfortunately committed to gaol for debt, were absolutely obliged to be placed in the same ward with females of the most abandoned description!

morning, formed the principal duty. From the want of employment, therefore, arose a proportionate addition of disorder and mischief. There was no laundry, consequently no regular supplies of clean linen; the bedding and linen, indeed, of the whole Gaol was washed by one woman, and that too in the kitchen, and by the fire of the ward in which she lived. There was but *one* pump for all the prisoners; the Gaol, therefore, was one common ward. The court-yards were neither stoned, paved, nor gravelled, and the only chance of walking with dry feet was, by stepping from one loose flat stone to another, placed for the purpose. There were neither fire nor side arms, for the use of the officers in case of mutiny, in the whole Gaol. The principal turnkey's lodge was entirely open and unprotected: and the prisoners had only to *will* their escape to *effect* it, for there were no means of prevention. Such was the state of Ilchester Gaol, as to its localities and the manner of its government, when I took charge thereof in July, 1808. What it has become since, is the duty of this work to point out; but I cannot go into it without premising, that however Herculean the task I had to perform, the Augæan Stable *was* cleansed; and, by the protection and noble co-operation of Sir John Palmer Acland, the Gaol at Ilchester, and I feel proud in asserting it, has become one of the first, if not the first gaol, in the whole world.

CHAPTER II.

Commencement of Improvements by the Introduction of Prison Labour.

As my former experience in the management of prisoners had sufficiently convinced me that without classification and labour, nothing could effectually be done in the regulation of a gaol, my great object was, under the protection and approbation of the Magistrates, to introduce them. Indeed, the introduction of one was the introduction of both, for it was only by labour that classification could be produced.

My first step on assuming the command was to make myself acquainted with the wants and difficulties of the prisoners; and I may as well remark here, that in pursuing this inquiry, I found Charles Hill, one of the present inmates of the Gaol, and of whom I shall have often to speak, confined in the infirmary ward as refractory and disobedient. The man, however, having committed his offence under a former governor, and wishing to conci-

liate the minds of all those under my charge as much as possible, I interfered with the Magistrates shortly after, and procured his pardon. Notwithstanding this lenity, however, I find, on reference to my occurrence-book, that he was the very first person who thought proper to break through the rules and regulations I had adopted for the better management of the Gaol, and to oppose me in the improvements I was beginning to effect.

Having provided for the wants of the prisoners as much as then lay in my power, I next turned my attention to increase the security of the Gaol, and caused a gate to be immediately erected on the inside of the principal turnkey's lodge, the better to protect that officer from any attack that might be made from within. This being effected, I began to employ the prisoners in useful labour: some in sinking a pit to procure gravel within the Gaol, to give a new and clean face to the areas of the different wards; others in removing a coat of green moss from the walls of the building, in order to give it (what it had not before) the appearance of being occupied; and thus readily found employment for all who were able to work, and effectually checked the stream of vice and depravity that had hitherto unceasingly rushed on.

In the course of a very few days, carpenters and masons were employed, by direction of the Magistrates, to assist the prisoners in the extension of the classificative capability of the Gaol; and as this measure was one that required acting on as soon as circumstances permitted, it was thought proper first to commence with the debtors. Hitherto (as has been stated in the first chapter), this class of prisoners were co-mingled, and their limits extended to the entrance-door of the Gaol. It was judged right however to divide their ward

into two classes, namely, first, those who supported themselves, or the upper debtors as they are now called; and second, those who received the county allowance; and to confine them within a fair scope of liberty without allowing them to come out of their own wards down to the entrance-door as heretofore. This improvement commenced on the sixth day of my residence, and it was with considerable difficulty effected; for whilst the carpenters were at their meals, the debtors assembled in a body round a door newly erected, and broke the lock in pieces. On the circumstance being stated to me by the foreman, I sent a turnkey to order them into the day-room, where I intended to examine them, and remonstrate on the impropriety of their conduct; they refused however to obey the order, and I immediately went into the yard where they were all assembled: I demanded the name of the person who had broken the lock; I told them I considered the safety of the prisoners under my charge endangered by their conduct, and unless they gave me up the perpetrators, I would declare them to be in a state of mutiny, and immediately call in the civil power. As however they became clamorous and refused to do so, I pulled out my watch, and assured them, if they did not retire to their room in five minutes, I would call in an effective power to oblige them to do so. They thought proper to obey, and within the period allotted they had all retired, and their door was locked. I am free to say, that had I not been thus prompt and determined, the whole establishment would have been in a state of mutiny within ten minutes; and I relate the circumstance merely to shew the difficulties I had to contend with in classifying even the debtors; who, it is to be supposed, should be the most

easily governed and orderly set of men within the walls of a gaol. The matter, however, was immediately investigated by the visiting Magistrates, the offender discovered, and punished by confinement in the refractory ward.

The labour of the prisoners was now becoming general and unintermitted; the exterior of the walls of the Prison were razed to the ground for the purpose of commencing great and necessary improvements; wells were sunk and pumps fixed in all the respective wards; the yards were all pitched and paved; and from the instant Sir J. P. Acland nobly determined to take deep interest in the progress of meliorating the state of the Gaol, every thing became progressive, every assistance was afforded me, and every protection and encouragement held out.

The domestic management of the Prison was rapidly placed on a new scale also. Constables and cooks were appointed to the respective wards, selected from amongst the most orderly and best disposed. Regulations were made for the prisoners to be supplied with necessaries from the shops in the town, and for the admission of butchers and others with articles for sale. Clean linen began to be regularly supplied, as far as the limited means of the Gaol then permitted, and every thing quickly assumed a cheerful, busy, and clean aspect. Instead of the squallid misery, idle inanity, and frenzied drunkenness and licentiousness, that had hitherto prevailed, regularity, discipline, and orderly labour took place; and in the course of six months the whole face of the Gaol was entirely and completely changed. To add to the personal comforts of the prisoners, to check the progress of immorality by the introduction of labour,

bour, and to cleanse and extend the Gaol, was not all however that was effected within that period: a turn had been given to the ideas of the prisoners; their leisure to pursue vicious inclinations had been broken in upon; and on the 25th day of December, 1808, Bibles and Testaments had been procured on my own application to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and were by myself distributed amongst them.

As soon as the classification of the debtors, and sundry other works of minor importance, had been effected, a ward, to be called the boy's ward, was commenced. This was highly necessary, as hitherto there had been no power of separating boys from men; and in the course of a few months it was completed. As the number of wards began rapidly to increase, a new line of drains became essential; this also was undertaken, and in defiance of the difficulty of excavation, quickly effected. On reference to my papers on this head, I discover that a trench of 170 feet in length, 10½ feet deep, and 4½ feet wide at the bottom, was dug, the bottom paved, the sides built up, a brick arch turned over, the foundation of two walls secured, the foundation of a wall for the female infirmary laid, and the whole drain entirely finished, in *seventeen* days by prison labour, at the mere expense of £9 : 1 : 10 to the county!

Let it be understood that the whole of the rubbish was cleared away, and the drain perfectly and entirely finished, within seventeen days, and I think it will appear that the result of the introduction of prison labour was beneficial in more ways than one—*it was an immense saving to the county*. As I find myself getting into *data*, I may as well prove the above assertion by the

mention of two or three additional facts; reserving for a future part of this work a minute description of the most perfect buildings ever accomplished by prison labour alone.

Outer Boundary Wall of the Gaol.—Expense of digging and laying the foundation of the above wall, being 66 feet in length, 6¾ feet wide, £4 : 1 : 8. To describe the difficulty that attended this work is almost impossible: from about the middle to the south end the foundation was laid *within* the river; at the extremity, *ten feet out into the stream.* Notwithstanding, a dam was made with materials found upon the spot without timber, the ground excavated, the foundation laid, brought to a level with the river, and *completed in eight days*, by *prison labour*, and at the expense of £4 : 1 : 8!!

Expense in excavating and laying the foundation of a wall through the felons' yard, being 51 feet in length, 6¼ feet deep, and 2 feet 4 inches wide, including wheeling out the earth, conveying in the stones required, levelling, and entirely completing, £1 : 3 : 0!!

These are facts that require no comment from me; but, under existing circumstances, I am bound in self-vindication to add, that by *my* suggestion a system of prison labour was introduced, and in the course of one year and three months, the above is a specimen of what could be thereby done. To touch on the effect produced by such labour, in the light of mere economy, is unnecessary, seeing that it is self-evident. But it may be profitable to dwell on the effect produced on the unhappy prisoners themselves. They were now constantly employed: instead of being left to brood over the extent of their crimes, to imagine new, or to plunge

into every excess their means could afford, they were kept alert; alertness produced cheerfulness; exercise, health; their labour, an addition to their means; strict discipline, cleanliness; and instead of diverging into additional crime, they were learning the sweets produced by honest labour, and shame at the former viciousness of their lives.

CHAPTER III.

Continuation of Improvements by the Introduction of Prison Labour.

AT the instant I assumed the command of this Establishment, and had discovered the outline of the immense alterations it became imperative to effect, I suggested to the Magistrates the propriety of my keeping a daily journal or occurrence-book, in which to note every thing that might inform them of the state of progress as to work, offences of prisoners, my own conduct thereupon, and all that it might be necessary for the visiting Magistrates to investigate and to know: the suggestion was approved of; and in addition thereto, a journal was decided on to be kept by them also, wherein to be noted all their orders, visits, approvals or disapprovals of my mode of governance, and indeed every step taken by them. Late occurrences have taught me to rejoice that such journals were kept; they are glorious documents for me, and would exculpate me from any, and from all, charges, were they to be read by the world. I have

introduced this circumstance, however, merely to shew, that I was anxious that the visiting Magistrates, and their whole body, should have continually before them every occurrence of the Gaol; that they should have the power of correcting me when wrong, and approving my conduct when right; and indeed, that I should be in some measure lightened, by such means, of that great load of responsibility necessarily devolving upon me, I shall have occasion frequently to revert to these journals, and shall therefore close my remarks on them at present, challenging every gaol in the Empire to produce so minute a narrative of occurrences, and perfect history of events, as my journal furnishes for the last fourteen years.

To resume, however, the thread of my narrative. Dividing the chapel into several compartments, so as to keep each class of prisoners distinct, became a very early improvement; and I may as well introduce here the cause of the great blunder committed by Alderman Wood in his Report on the State of Prisons in 1816, relative to this very chapel. The fact is, then, that the Committee appointed to report on the several Gaols they visited (of which body the worthy Alderman formed a part) remained but a very short time at Ilchester. I happened not to be at home at the period of their visit, but I know they inspected the Gaol very superficially indeed, and that they trusted to a Report drawn up by a gentleman of the name of Nield, more than four years before. [Appendix A will fully explain this matter.] It was rather unfortunate for the worthy Alderman that he should have adopted the very words and description of this narrative written four years before: perhaps still more unfortunate for me. The matter occasioned much

squabble at the time; but, after all, my thanks are most due to him for the kind eulogia he was pleased to pass on the state of the Gaol, and the manner in which I had performed my duty.

Again to resume, however: great alterations were immediately undertaken in the male infirmary. Hitherto the door of this building had been close to that of the chapel, so that if contagious disease should happen to exist, there was but very confined power to prevent its spreading. This was altered. The male felons also had the power of communicating with the prisoners in the infirmary through their kitchen-windows. This was also speedily altered, the infirmary enlarged, and a kitchen and scullery provided for it out of other arcades.

Small wards were also quickly built, called refractory wards, wherein those who were so sentenced, or others that might merit it by vicious conduct in prison, could be solitarily confined.

The arches* over the felons' cells being discovered, on inspection, to be only 3½ inches thick, they were immediately undertaken, and rendered effectually secure. It is remarkable that no escapes had ever previously taken place from these cells, for an athletic man might have made a hole through their roof almost by one blow

* This defect was discovered through the means of Reuben Hanham, a prisoner under sentence of death. On being visited one evening in his cell, according to my custom, I found that he had succeeded in breaking a hole through the roof, and in the course of a few minutes I have no doubt he would have effected his escape. The weakness of these arches will be best exemplified by the fact, that he made the breach with no other instrument than an iron spoon, given to him to eat his gruel with.

with his fist: yet these cells were built by contract, and had cost the county an immense sum.

The cells on the ground floor being stated to be damp and uncomfortable, every precaution possible was used to correct their humidity. The floors were dug down to a considerable depth, the earth removed, and the excavations filled up with broken bricks, and other material of a like nature, in order to keep them dry and healthy.

Great impediments having hitherto existed to the free run of water in the river, these were also removed, at amazing labour, by the prisoners; the County Bridge considerably improved, and the road over it made firm and excellent. These were great and most necessary improvements; for, from the frequency of inundation from the river, it became a matter of imperative utility to facilitate the free running of the stream; and it was at length effected, as far as human agency could do so.

It may be right for me in this place to state, that up to this period it had been the practice to employ the prisoners only in excavating and laying foundations, letting the buildings themselves to contractors; but as prison labour was now thoroughly introduced and unintermittingly persevered in, such labour was let to the contractors themselves in the progress of their works. The good effects arising from this system were multifold: there was no introduction of strangers into the Gaol; the prisoners were catching a knowledge of the art at which they assisted, and by which subsequently the Gaol became much benefited, for it will be seen that shortly afterwards a most complete and entire ward was built by themselves alone, without any mason or architect whatsoever being employed by the county. They were also considerably helping to defray the expense of

their own support, if not entirely paying for it; upwards of one hundred pounds having been received from contractors by the county, at one payment, for prison labour alone. Thus this introduction of employ benefited the prisoners mentally and corporeally, assisted the county, and was productive of good in every way in which good could be expected to arise.

Hitherto all executions had taken place a considerable distance from the town, on a common by the road side. It may be deemed invidious in me by some, and considered incredible by others, should I enter into a minute detail of the scene Ilchester presents on the day that unhappy beings are appointed to pay the last debt to the laws they have outraged; but as a brief narrative of facts is my object, I am bound to describe it. This day, then, at Ilchester is called *hang-fair day:* the people assemble from the surrounding parishes, and I myself have witnessed, on returning from the place of execution, numbers of them dancing in the ale-houses of the town. Once, in particular, I observed it in the tap-house of the principal inn: I made complaint of it instantly, and caused it to be stopped. On another occasion, I accidentally met a Magistrate, who is also a member of the House of Commons, and pointed out to him these disgraceful proceedings; the town at that very time presenting the appearance of a perfect fair. He very properly noticed it by calling the attention of the Magistrates to the circumstance in the papers of the day. It is still fresh in my memory, and will remain so as long as Reason holds her seat, that one inhabitant of Ilchester, an innkeeper, who was moreover a member of a troop of yeomanry, and nearly related to Mr. Lawyer ****, made the following remarks to me on the occasion of

of some unfortunate wretches having received the Royal mercy: "So, Mr. Bridle, there are none of the prisoners to be hung, then. By G—, it is a shame of the Judges to reprieve them all; for damn me if Ilchester is worth living in without there are *hang-fairs* and good elections!!!"

Many a time has the riot and disorder of the mob disturbed the unhappy criminal in his last moments, on his way in a cart to the place of execution; and to such a height did it at times arrive, that the poor creatures themselves have addressed remark and admonition to the surrounding revelling multitude. Nothing, indeed, short of actual observation could have induced me to credit what I myself have witnessed on these melancholy occasions; but there are thousands in the county who know the truth of this statement, and who, moreover, would add, that the description given of Ilchester nearly two hundred years ago,* bears good now.

To remedy this crying evil I most assiduously laboured. After great difficulty, and much opposition, it was ordered that the walls of the front lodge should be raised, the roof made flat, a drop erected (the model of which I had been at great pains to procure), and that all executions in future should take place thereon. This was quickly effected; and the unhappy culprits, instead of being dragged in a cart through a drunken and riotous populace, instead of having their last moments of devotion disturbed by the sounds of intoxicated blas-

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* "All Ilchester is Gaol, say prisoners there."
"That is they are so hard-hearted."—Vide Collection of English Proverbs with short annotations, edited by J. Ray, M.A. Cambridge; printed in 1678 by John Hayes, printer to the University.

phemy, or unfeeling bursts of laughter, are now removed from the chapel to the place of execution without annoyance, without hindrance, and without any extraneous addition to that agony which the sense of their awful situation alone must sufficiently inflict. But this is not the only good arising from the improvement: *hang-fair* is now less frequented than usual—is annually falling off; and although I despair that Ilchester will ever become famed either for honesty or morality, yet some check has been given to their power of proving to the kingdom that there is *one town in it* where the severest execution of the law produces *revelry;* and where events, over which Pity drops a tear, and even Justice weeps, elicit delight, and drunkenness, and joy.

CHAPTER IV.

Continuation of the beneficial Effects and local Improvements, arising out of the Introduction of Prison Labour.

MY object in the prosecution of this work is to combine as briefly and succinctly as possible the state of perfection, order, and cleanliness to which the Gaol at Ilchester was brought under my suggestion, superintendance, and government: to prove therefrom the manner in which I performed my duty to the county, the benefits arising from the introduction of prison labour, and the progressive and easy advancement made in meliorating, both the imprisoned, and their place of confinement. I am far from arrogating to myself any other credit than merely that of *suggesting*, and *diligently overlooking* every thing taken in hand; it is to the protection I received from Sir J. P. Acland and other Magistrates that the praise is due. He in particular was pleased to think me an efficient officer; to

listen to, and approve of, my plans, and to render me every facility in their execution. My efficiency, my diligence, my anxiety to perform my duty, however, have been lately attempted to be controverted. Be it so. But I have both the leisure and the power to rebut the attempt; and I feel, that honestly and unsophistically to shew the world what I *have* done, will clear me from the foul and filthy charges the "High Priest of Riot" hath so plentifully poured out against me, were they a thousand times more heavy than they are.

It hath been already stated, in the first division of this work, that females of all classes, whether debtors or felons, were confined together: this was soon remedied; the women's ward divided into two classes and compartments, and a lodge erected for the matron, solely by the labour of prisoners. At this time, the female part of the population of the Gaol had amazingly increased; and it became a measure of vital importance to procure employment for them also. Accordingly, the system of putting out the linen and bedding of the Gaol into the town to be washed, was abandoned, a wash and laundry house commenced, and in July, 1810, completely finished. These buildings were performed by contract, the prisoners assisting as labourers only.

I am free to assert that this establishment, for the employment of female prisoners, surpasses most others of the kind in the kingdom, and is in itself surpassed by none. In it work is found for all the women prisoners in the Gaol. They are moved into it at 8 in the morning; at 1, go to dinner; at 2, return again to their labour, where they remain until 6. (These are their summer hours, in winter their period of work is proportionably shorter.) The wash-house is fitted up with a

complete set of troughs* in a frame (being far superior to tubs), a lye-cistern for soft water, a boiling copper fixed in a recess, to prevent the steam from hanging about the room and annoying the people; and here six women are generally at work in washing only. The door of this apartment leads into a spacious court-yard, where the linen, &c. is hung out to dry, under the inspection of the matron.

From the wash-house you ascend a flight of steps into a large room, where there is a stove for the ironing, a mangle, folding-tables, &c.; and here six or eight women are also constantly employed in that necessary branch of housewifery. From this room you enter another on the same floor, called the drying-room, fitted up with drying-horses worked by pulleys, yet so completely placed out of the way, that the room may be used for any other purpose whatever. In it there is also every convenience provided for the employment of the remaining females at sewing and knitting. As soon as this establishment was completed, great and beneficial results were immediately produced: clean bedding and linen was provided weekly, or oftener when required, for the use of every prisoner in the Gaol; a measure extremely calculated to preserve their health, and which until now could never be regularly and effectually accomplished. The women were constantly employed, and by such employ earning the means of adding to their own comforts. Some idea of the labour

* Although we had no cooper in the Gaol, we managed to get these troughs made within it by the prisoners, and their construction has been universally admired.

here performed may be conceived from the fact, that in this laundry and work room linen and bedding for two hundred prisoners is washed weekly, besides being made and kept in repair. In addition to this, all the articles of dress worn by the female prisoners, the shirts and stockings worn by the men, the beds and pillows, &c. are here made up, not only for the consumption of the Gaol itself, but likewise for the Houses of Correction at Shepton-Mallet and Wilton; the Keepers of those establishments always drawing on this Gaol for slops, whenever they might happen to want them. Thus, in the course of a few months, this great and necessary branch of labour and economy was introduced and completed: and it was subsequently determined, that as the introduction of strange women into the Gaol might be attended with unpleasant consequences, the different officers of the establishment were directed to send all their linen and bedding of their respective families to be washed by the prisoners also.

This establishment for the employment of the women was completed in July, 1810. To bring before my readers at one comprehensive view some idea of the benefit that arose out of it, and the labour performed therein, I shall merely add, that, independently of the washing, making, and mending all the articles already enumerated, for the use of this Gaol itself, the following articles were made in addition, and supplied from this establishment to the two Houses of Correction at Shepton and Wilton between that period and October, 1818, alone, being within the space of little more than 8 years:

Gowns . . One hundred and twenty-two.
Petticoats Two hundred and two.
Aprons . . One hundred and forty-two.

Shirts . . . Two hundred and eighty-eight.
Shifts . . . One hundred and thirty-two.
Caps . . . One hundred and sixty-two.
Stockings One hundred and fifty-two pairs.

Such was the effect produced by the introduction of female labour into the Gaol at Ilchester; a measure suggested, planned, and undertaken by myself, under the approbation of the Magistrates, and which I succeeded in bringing to as great a degree of perfection as it possibly could be brought. It elicited the admiration and praise of all who inspected it: it corrected the vicious habits of the prisoners, by allowing them no time to follow them up; gave additional means to their comforts; softened the rigour of their imprisonment, by filling up those hours that otherwise would have moved heavily on; was an immense saving to the county; productive of satisfaction to myself, and comfort to every female committed to my care. Let it be contrasted with the condition in which I found the females when I took the command of this Gaol, and I think the benefit of the introduction, on that score alone, will prove how praiseworthy was the improvement.

The additional buildings of the Gaol, however, went rapidly on; and in consequence of the admirable manner in which the matron's lodge, and the wall that divided the female wards, had been built by prison labour, unassisted by any mason or architect from without, it was determined that an entire ward should be immediately commenced to be built by them also, and to be called the misdemeanour ward. The site marked out for it was occupied by a heap of old buildings used as a debtors' conversation-room, lumber-rooms, carpenters' shop, &c. These were immediately re-

moved, and although the area was much too small for the purpose, yet a ward was constructed thereon that excels any other in the whole Gaol. . . .

In consequence of the increase of prisoners this ward is now used for time-men. It possesses sleeping-rooms and cells for thirty prisoners, has the best and most roomy kitchen in the prison, was built by the prisoners alone, and by them completed, from the foundation to the chimneys, without any assistance whatever either from mason or architect: no man out of the Gaol was employed about it, except a glazier; and with this sole exception, not a shilling was paid by the county for its erection but to the prisoners alone. It was begun and completed in the space of ten months: every stone used in the erection was prepared by the prisoners, and it now stands the best-built, strongest, and most convenient ward in the whole Gaol.

This circumstance will sufficiently shew the state of improvement to which prison labour was by this time brought in the construction of edifices; but on the score of saving to the county, the benefit thereby was most material. It is recorded in the Magistrates' Journal, April 18, 1816, that the construction of this ward alone by prison labour effected a public saving of £200. The observations made by visitors too, on the singularity of prisoners building their own places of confinement, were many and amusing, serving at least to show the novelty of the introduction. I remember one instance in particular: the visit of a Mr. Koe, of London, who informed me he belonged to a committee about to try the experiment of building a prison for *boys*. On examining this very ward, and being informed that it was built by the prisoners alone, he was evidently astonished. "Had you

you no architect?" said he. 'No, Sir,' I replied; 'Sir J. Acland and myself were the architects, and the prisoners the artificers.' "Good God!" he exclaimed, "Is it possible?—And who succeeded in making them so?" I explained how, (and which I shall explain also to my readers in a future page,) and his astonishment increased. He parted from me however with this kind eulogium: "Sir, you will not do yourself justice without you take care that the whole body of the Magistracy of the county are brought acquainted with your meritorious exertions, and fulfilment of more than your duty. I am sure, they have only to know what you have done in this Gaol, to call forth their thanks, appreciation, and unlimited protection."

To shew farther the perfection to which the state of prison labour had now arrived, and the opinion entertained of its good effects by those who inspected the Gaol, I shall insert verbatim the description given by Mr. Fowell Buxton, in his "Inquiry whether Crime and Misery are produced or prevented by our present System of Prison Discipline;" published in 1818; page 124.

'ILCHESTER GAOL.

'This Jail stands in an airy situation: a considerable part of it was built by the prisoners, without the assistance of any other mechanic, artizan, or labourer; and that part is allowed to be, both in point of stability and neatness, the best workmanship in the Jail. This happy suggestion has produced a very important saving to the county. It has certainly produced a very important change in the manners of the prisoners: their behaviour, and the skilfulness they have ac-

'quired in the various departments of building, may 'excite a well-grounded hope, that, when released, they 'will desist from their former practices, and adhere to 'those habits of industry, and to those methods of obtain-'ing an honest livelihood, which they have thus learned. 'One cannot but admire an arrangement, which em-'ploys prisoners in erecting their own prison, and in 'preventing the possibility of their own escape; and 'which at once, and by the same effort, enlarges the 'Gaol, and diminishes the number of its future inmates.'

Page 131.—'I was not so fortunate as to see the 'Jailor; but the aspect of the Prison convinced me, 'that he had well performed his duty to the Magistrates 'who employ him, and that they had nobly discharged 'theirs to the county in which they reside.'*

Such was the opinion of as acute an observer, and as good a man, as any now living—a man, who made the melioration of the heart, and a curtailment of human misery, the great object of his life; and, to the effecting of which, he brought splendid talent and unabating perseverance. I have made the above extract, to prove that the system I adopted was considered a good one; that it was appreciated by those who were best acquainted with what *was* praiseworthy in prison

* Hunt has asserted, with his usual quantum of falsehood, that "I imposed on this gentleman." To refute this, I need only mention the fact, that I was from home at the time he inspected the Gaol, and that I never had the honour of seeing him but once in my life, which was when I was examined before a Committee of the House of Commons on the state of Gaols, in May, 1819, nearly a year after he had given his work to the World.

discipline. And although a Committee of Magistracy has since decided "that, in *some instances*, neglect of duty has been proved against me;" yet, I proudly asert, that, by such decision, they merely gave one more illustration of the ease with which services are forgotten, and diligence neglected. One feeling however I can never be deprived of: a conviction, that I ever conscientiously and fully performed my duty to them, the public, and the prisoners. Be it the object of this work to shew, too, how far I can perform that duty *to myself*.

CHAPTER V.

Improvements of the Gaol, continued— Manufactory built, &c.

ON the truth of the axiom that "Idleness is one great cause of sin, and industry one great cause of reformation," I have ever implicitly relied. The foregoing pages will satisfactorily shew how far I had succeeded in introducing labour and order into Ilchester Gaol; but as that labour was of course principally confined for a certain period to merely building and improving the Gaol itself, I became naturally anxious to provide sources of employment for the prisoners after the simple local improvements of the place should have reached their climax.

I began to act on this idea almost as soon as it presented itself, by employing all the unfortunate tradesmen committed to my care in the handicrafts they knew, and to teach others that were ignorant any little business that might benefit themselves or the Gaol. We first introduced the manufacture of knitted gloves, mittens,

doyleys, cuffs, &c. and straw hats for the prisoners: the latter, however, being soon found too weak and inefficient, their manufacture was abandoned for that of knitted worsted caps, such as are still worn. The success of this experiment quickly led me to believe that a general trade might easily be established highly beneficial to the county; as the sale of the proceeds would tend, if successful, to cause the prisoner to support himself during his imprisonment. No sooner had the suggestion presented itself than I made the experiment by introducing shoemaking as a general business. I must make mention, however, of the fact, that, unwilling to burthen the county with the speculative experiments I was thus anxious to make, I actually embarked my own capital in this business, and carried it on solely at my own risk two whole years; during which period I had upwards of four hundred pounds laying dead in it. Such, indeed, was my anxiety for the fate and good success of the experiment, that I would willingly have spent my last shilling to have perfected my plan.

At the end, however, of two years, the magistrates joined in the trial of the experiment, and the business was prosecuted until the year 1817, when it was abandoned, on account of not being found sufficiently profitable to be pursued as a general gaol trade.

The following is a statement of the capital embarked in the business, together with the sums paid to the prisoners for labour during some part of the period:

	Capital embarked.	Paid for Labour.
1813—	£528 : 15 : 11¼	£39 : 7 : 3
1814—	720 : 18 : 0	58 : 17 : 11
1817—	675 : 0 : 9	38 : 3 : 11

During the time, however, this plan was in prosecution, much benefit arose from it to the prisoners themselves: many of them becoming complete masters of the trade, and capable of earning an honest livelihood on their release from gaol. One man, in particular, who had been convicted of sheepstealing, but whose punishment was commuted to two years' imprisonment, acquired the art of shoemaking so perfectly in that period, that he has ever since supported himself thereby. It may not be amiss, perhaps, to dwell on this circumstance a little, and to speculate on what might have been the probable fate of this man, had not such a plan been adopted in the house of his confinement. His character ruined, he would have quitted the Gaol without the power or the hope of procuring employment, and would consequently mayhap have been from necessity obliged to resort to those practices that would have again consigned him to prison, and perhaps to an ignominious death. Instead of which, he acquires a trade, becomes accustomed to habits of industry; the money paid him for his labour adds to his comforts in gaol, and enables him to return to the bosom of his family, with both the power and the will to live ever after by the honest labour of his own hands. This however is but one case out of many wherein the vicious habits of the prisoner have been corrected, industrious habits inculcated, and the common depredator metamorphosed into an honest man.*

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* "Prison labour is the ground-work of all impovements, "of general tranquillity, and hope of reformation in a prisoner's "habits of life and disposition of mind. Give a prisoner action by "labour and employment, and it will give him a determined "direction towards a better system of life: industrious habits

I have already mentioned that shoemaking was abandoned as a general trade on account of its not being found sufficiently profitable: the making of shoes for sale was therefore discontinued, and the future prosecution of the business confined to the making and mending them for the use of the Gaol, and the other two Houses of Correction only.

Pending the period, however, of the trial of this experiment, some workshops were built; and an old man became committed to prison, through whose instrumentality I succeeded in introducing another and a more profitable branch of manufacture. He was by trade a weaver and wool-comber, and had been convicted of receiving stolen goods at the prosecution of a very respectable manufacturer, who hitherto supplied the Gaol with tick for bedding, dowlass, &c. It came accidentally to my knowledge that the old man had a loom. I prevailed on him to send for it into the Gaol. He very readily entered into my views of teaching his trade to other prisoners, and in this manner weaving was introduced. I began by giving him two apprentices; these he continued at the loom alternately until they had acquired that branch of the business: this being effected, a comb-pot of his own making was fixed in the same shop with the loom, and combing and spinning was in like manner taught the boys. They

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"must be created, be the expense what it may, and the moral "effects produced will compensate for all numerical loss that may "be sustained."—Vide Sir J. P. Acland's Evidence before the Gaol Committee of the House of Commons, June, 1819.

having at length acquired the whole business, I gave other apprentices to the old man, and from that period we commenced the manufacture of dowlass, linsey tick, and worsted, for the uses of the Gaol.

The old man's loom was also a model for us by which to make others. The number of weavers rapidly increased, and it was soon discovered that enough materials could be manufactured to supply, not only the Gaol itself, but the other two Houses of Correction likewise. In the course of a short time the manufactory was enlarged by prison labour, and ultimately brought to consist of a very large shop for carpenters and coopers, with proper stores and implements; a store-room for wool and yarn; two carding and spinning shops, containing a tucker, a carding and two spinning engines (one of the spinning engines and the tucker were made by the prisoners themselves); eight other shops, having eight narrow and two broad looms, warping engine, and all the necessary apparatus required by the weaver to finish cloth; together with a shop for shoemakers and tailors.

I cannot give the process of the labour carried on in this manufactory a better, or more faithful delineation, than by adopting the description of Mr. Fowell Buxton, in his Inquiry, &c.; a work to which I have before referred.

Page 125.—'But, besides the buildings which have 'given employment to a number of masons, bricklayers, 'carpenters, and painters, manufactures to a consi-'derable extent are carried on. All the prisoners are 'clothed in a dress, every article of which they make. 'In the store-room I saw a collection of suits of cloth-'ing for the men; worsted caps, dowlass shirts, jackets, waistcoats,

'waistcoats, breeches, stockings, and shoes: for the 'general use of the prison, beds, mattresses, sheets, 'linen, &c. Each of these numerous branches of 'labour furnishes occupation to a portion of the pri-'soners; and the knowledge of each trade is perpetuated 'by apprenticing all who come in to some experienced 'workman.'

'It was a sight of much interest, to see the whole 'process of converting wool into cloth, carried on in 'one yard, and that yard within the walls of a prison. 'In the first workshop several were engaged in washing 'the wool; in the second, in dying it; in the third, in 'hand-carding it; in the fourth, in spinning it; in 'others, looms were in activity, in weaving it; and 'lastly, the tailors were busy in making it into clothing.'

Some idea of the rapidity with which this manufacture was increased and improved may be gathered from the following data: the old weaver, before spoken of, was committed to the Gaol at the October Sessions, 1815: through him, as I have already shewn, I introduced the first principles of the manufacture. At the end of *three years*, not only had all the prisoners been thoroughly supplied with clothing, and the Gaol with beds, rugs, bolsters, and blankets; but the following articles had been manufactured, made up, and supplied to the two Houses of Correction, at Wilton and Shepton-Mallet: viz.

Men's Jackets	One hundred and sixty-eight.
Waistcoats ..	One hundred and sixty-eight.
Breeches ..	One hundred and twenty-six.
Gowns	One hundred and twenty-two.
Petticoats ..	Two hundred and twelve.
Aprons	One hundred and forty-two.

Shirts .... Two hundred and eighty-eight.
Shifts .... One hundred and thirty-two.
Caps .. .. One hundred and sixty-two.
Stockings .. One hundred and fifty-two pair.
Beds .... One hundred and thirty-two.
Bolsters .. One hundred and thirty-two.
Blankets .. One hundred and sixty-eight pairs.
Rugs .. .. One hundred and fifty.
Worsted .. Thirty-nine pounds.

But my aim was not yet thoroughly attained. I had still my favourite object in view—the endeavour to establish a general business; and I at length thoroughly succeeded. Fortunately for my plan too, a *cloth-weaver* became committed to my charge; so that I had that branch of the art quickly introduced, and in the course of a short period I entirely succeeded in manufacturing from the flax and fleece, to their completion, the following articles (independant of the material required for the Gaol) in a very superior manner, viz. (Appendix B.)

Mixed beaver broad, narrow, and kersey cloths.
Drugget for drawing-rooms, stairs, &c.
Blankets, rugs, and tick for pauper-houses.
Linen towelling and other goods.
Superior ready-made ladies' cloaks,* gentlemen's morning-gowns, great-coats, gig-rugs, sail-cloths, &c.

These articles procured a ready sale; and I find, on reference to my papers, that in the course of two years one hundred and seventy-eight pounds were received

* The Countess of Cork, Lady Acland, and many other ladies of distinction, purchased several of these cloaks, so much were they esteemed.

by the county by such sales, independant of the quantity still remaining in store.

Thus a perfect manufactory was established in the Gaol, a source of continued employment secured, a new mode of profit opened to the county, and of benefit to the prisoners themselves. Their ready acquiescence in labour was secured by the advantages they themselves reaped, every artizan and manufacturer receiving one entire fourth of the value of his earnings; two thirds of which were paid him weekly, to enable him to add what he pleased to the gaol allowances of victuals or otherwise, and the other third funded, that he might have a sum of money to receive on his quitting prison.

It is unnecessary for me to make any comment, I trust, on the advantages thus secured both to the prisoner and the county by the introduction of this manufactory: but, stigmatized as I have lately been, it is imperative on me to add, that the suggestion was my own, and that I spared neither time, expense, nor unabating and diligent perseverance, in bringing it to perfection. I at length succeeded in doing so: I succeeded in the means of teaching many an unhappy ignorant man a trade by which he could afterwards honestly maintain himself: I succeeded in implanting industrious habits, and checking evil propensities in many a vicious and idle bosom: and notwithstanding the return I have met with from those who ought to have appreciated and protected me, still I am out of the reach of their punishment. I am placed above it by the conviction that I thoroughly and faithfully fulfilled my duty, and I shall yet have my reward.

CHAPTER VI.

Beneficial Effects arising from the Introduction of the Manufactory, as set forth in the Report of a Committee of Magistrates.

IN the foregoing chapter I have described the introduction, progress, and rise of a complete manufactory in Ilchester Gaol. I cannot better elucidate the effects produced by it, and the opinions entertained thereof, than by inserting the following Report; a report drawn up for mere county information, but which was subsequently laid before a Select Committee of the House of Commons, on the 28th day of May, 1819, and dated three years and three months after the first introduction of the said Manufactory.

CHAPTER VI.

Report of a Committee of Justices on the System of Labour, &c. carried on within the Gaol and House of Correction, at Ivelchester, made at the Epiphany General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, holden at the City of Wells, on Monday the Eleventh Day of January, 1819.

WE, the underwritten Members of the Committee appointed at a former Session, for the purpose of examining into the system of labour carried on within the Gaol and House of Correction at Ivelchester, and of forming a scheme of account, calculated to shew the profit and loss arising from the labour of the prisoners; and also to revise the existing rules and regulations of the said Gaol and House of Correction; have to report as follows:—

We have every reason to be satisfied with the *system* of labour carried on in the Gaol and House of Correction.

It has been obviously the result of much experience in, and zealous attention to, the several branches of industry, which could with the most propriety and convenience have been adopted, and which have been prosecuted with a regularity, spirit, and effect, seldom seen, where discipline was less exact.

The new buildings erected, and the various improvements made, by prison labour, exhibit specimens of masonry and carpentry, rarely equalled; and which appear to us to have been executed at less than half the expense had workmen been hired, and brought into the Gaol for the purpose.

The whole clothing of the prisoners has been manufactured and made by their own industry; and considerable supplies of clothing have been afforded the prisoners confined in the two other Houses of Correction in this county, free of expense to those establishments.

The extensive concern of the laundry has been well conducted; and a great portion of every part of this useful labour has been effected by many who appeared at the commencement of their imprisonments to have been ignorant of all honest means of earning their bread.

Some of the sources of employment in the buildings of the Gaol are diminishing; and, as we understand that the grinding of corn is practised in some other gaols, we beg leave to suggest the propriety of the introduction of a similar practice in Ivelchester Gaol, provided adequate machinery can be obtained at a moderate expense; and we would recommend, that the bread for the consumption of the Gaol be baked therein, for which the requisite conveniencies already exist.

We also think an extension of the manufactures worthy the consideration of the Court, equal to the demand which can be obtained, without rendering them at a less price than is charged by manufacturers in general of similar articles; for although some loss has been sustained by them, yet they have afforded, and will continue to afford, in our opinion, much useful instruction to those employed.

In consequence of the diminution of employment in the buildings before alluded to, a Committee of Justices assembled at the Gaol, previous to the last Easter General

Quarter Session of the Peace, directed, until further ordered, that the employment of debtors should be discontinued, except useful mechanics; and that all those who were entitled to the county allowance should receive the same in lieu thereof.

We are of opinion that this judicious order has proved a saving to the county, as in the quarter preceding, it will appear, on a reference to the document accompanying this Report, No. 1,* that the sum of £74 : 7 : 4 was paid to debtors for work in addition to one fourth of that sum, £18 : 11 : 10, as a per centage on the labour of debtors *hitherto* divided between the Governor and Taskmaster, making together the sum of £92 : 19 : 2; and that the county allowance to the same debtors, during that period, would have amounted to £50 : 4 : 6 only, leaving a sum of £42 : 14 : 8 against the county; a difference, probably, not compensated by the labour performed: at all events, we are of opinion, that no view of the situation of debtors makes it advisable to employ them, except it be with advantage to the county. In the quarter immediately succeeding, the whole sum paid to debtors for labour amounted to but £10 : 2 : 5, and in the following quarter to £3 : 17 : 8.

We find that the wages of labour have been estimated at nine pence per day for common labourers, and from nine pence to sixteen pence per day for mechanics.

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* This document is in the office of the Clerk of the Peace, where the same may be inspected.

Debtors have *been paid* for their support the whole of the said wages; not having received, when permitted to work, the county allowance directed by law for such as could not maintain themselves. The wages of the other prisoners have been divided into four parts; one fourth part of which has been appropriated to the advantage of the prisoner, one fourth divided between the Governor and Taskmaster, and the remaining two fourths carried to the credit of the county. A third part of the fourth so appropriated to the prisoner, if a common labourer, has been funded, that is, reserved for him until discharged from prison: if a mechanic, a quarter only has been funded, the remainder of the prisoner's fourth having been paid to him to afford him additional sustenance beyond the prison allowance, which addition, we are of opinion, was necessary to a person at labour. On this point, we have to observe, that with respect to those who have been convicted of offences and were sent to *hard labour*, it would probably have been more consonant to law to have supplied them with certain additional sustenance, than to have allowed them the proportion of their earnings to expend for themselves.

With respect to the Governor's and Taskmaster's proportion, we have to state, that it does not appear to us that the county, is authorised by law to remunerate more than one person in one prison in the character of taskmaster; and we are therefore of opinion, that the remuneration of the Governor for his services should not arise from any proportion of estimated labour, or from any other source than that of a fixed salary.

With pleasure we take this opportunity of bearing testimony to the zeal, activity, and intelligence manifested

fested by the Governor and Taskmaster, within their respective departments.

The next object entrusted to us, was to form a scheme of account calculated to shew the profit and loss arising from the labour of the prisoners.

On examination, we have had the satisfaction of finding that by a very little alteration in the form of keeping the accounts, and by directing the value to be taken of the materials, implements, and stock, belonging to the various branches of labour and manufacture carried on; and by taking an account of, and estimating the work done at the prices which must have been paid if labourers had been hired, or, if the articles manufactured had been purchased, documents would exist, from which at any time could be ascertained the profit or loss incurred by the county, from the time such account of the stock, &c. was taken. As these directions were given soon after the appointment of your Committee, we are enabled to lay the annexed account before the Court, which shews the pecuniary result of the whole labour in the Gaol from the 3d January, 1818, to the 2d January, 1819, both inclusive.

On inspecting the said annexed account, it will be obvious, as before remarked, that a loss has been sustained by the manufactures; but there is reason to hope, in consequence of the machinery lately introduced, and the additional proficiency which experience will afford the prisoners, that, in future, instead of a loss, a profit may be expected.

It is moreover to be remarked, that the county is required to find labour for prisoners in houses of correction, and it is difficult to provide sources of profitable employment.

We doubt not, that the Court will see the propriety of directing an account, similar to the one annexed, to be annually presented.

In regard to the remainder of our duty, which refers to the *revision* of the rules and regulations of the Gaol, we have to state, that some progress has been made, and we hope to make a report thereon at a future session.

W. DICKINSON,
J. PHELIPS,
THOMAS POOLE,
VINCENT STUCKEY,
A. MOODY,
JOHN THRING,
J. PALMER AGLAND.

The following is the Dr. and Cr. Statement of Labour performed by Prisoners in the Gaol and House of Correction at Ivelchester, from Jan. 3d, 1818, *to Jan. 2d,* 1819.

CHAPTER VI.

STATEMENT OF

Dr.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To inventory of tools, &c. carpenters, Jan. 3d, 1818 .... No. 2*				21	16	6
To cash paid carpenters, House of Corrrection No. 3	17	2	1½			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	17	2	1½	56	18	2
To cash paid debtors .... No. 3	18	3	2			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	4	10	9			
To cash paid for tools and repairing .... No. 4				5	16	3
To inventory of tools, &c. masons .. No. 5				27	19	6
To cash paid masons, House of Correction .. No. 3	13	9	2			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	13	9	2	30	5	
To cash paid debtors .. .. No. 3	2	13	4			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance		13	4			
To cash paid for tools and repairing .... No. 6				3	19	10
To inventory of articles in the laundry, Jan. 3d, 1818 .... No. 7				25	13	6
To cash paid prisoners in the laundry .... No. 3	46	0	9½			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	46	0	9½	92	1	7
To cash paid for soap	77	9	10½			
To cash paid for wood-ashes	3	9	4½			
To cash paid for scissars, &c. .... No. 8	1	2	8	95	1	11
To cash paid for new furnace ..	11	2	6			
To cash paid for sud-irons, ironing box, &c.	1	17	6			
To cash paid tailors, House of Correction .. No. 3	17	3	8			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	17	3	8	39	3	7
To cash paid debtors .. .... No. 3	3	17				
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance		19	3			
To cash paid for large shears .. .. No. 9					13	
To cash paid for stone pollers and labourers, House of Correction .. .... No. 3.	25	19	2			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	25	19	2	127	15	3½
To cash paid debtors .. .... No. 3	60	13	7			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	15	3	4½			
To cash paid repairing tools ..... No. 10				10	19	9
To cash paid cooks, constables, and nurses, House of Correction	34	12	10½			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	34	12	10½	72	18	3
To cash paid debtors	2	18				
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance		14	6			
To inventory of stock in trade, looms, &c. Jan. 3d, 1818, manufactory .... No. 11				181	18	3
To cash paid manufacturers, House of Correction .... .. No. 3	80	2	5			
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	80	2	5	170	9	10
To cash paid debtors .. .... No. 3	8	4				
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance	2	1				

* This and the other Documents referred to by the numerals are in the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, where they may be inspected.

CHAPTER VI.

LABOUR &c.

		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
					Cr.		
By amount of carpenters' work, as ℘ book ..	No. 15	101	13	5½	122	15	5½
By tools, as per inventory, Jan. 2d, 1819	No. 16	21	2				
By amount of masons' work, as ℘ book ..	No. 15	108	1	1	137	14	1
By tools, as per inventory, Jan. 2d, 1819 ..	No. 17	29	13				
By amount of laundry work, as ℘ book ..	No. 18	207	1	10½	248	6	8½
By inventory of laundry articles, Jan. 2, 1819	No. 19	38	19				
By cash, old furnace sold		2	5	10			
By amount of tailors' work, as ℘ book ..	No. 18	43	14	6	44	10	
By shears and iron			15	6			
By amount of stone pollers' work, as ℘ book	No. 15				88	10	4
By ditto 658 ft. 4 in. and 103 ft. 5 in. stones polled by debtors	No. 3	38	1	9	60	13	7
By stones polled by debtors at day work ..		22	11	10			
By estimated value of labour					155	16	6
N.B. This branch of expense has been incurred by the prevalence of fever, and other sickness in the Gaol during the past year. If nurses and attendants had been hired and brought into the Prison, a still greater expense would have been incurred.							
By inventory of stock in trade, &c. (manufactory) Jan. 2d, 1819	No. 21				394	4	1½

Dr.

		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To sundry bills for yarn	No. 12	159	5	3	547	14	0½
To ditto for stays and harness ..		16	12				
To cash paid for flour and fat		5	10	11½			
To sundry bills for wool		180	6	3			
To ditto for soap		8	6	10			
To ditto for oil and dye-stuff		57	14	10			
To value of new looms ..		16					
To sundry bills for machinery and articles thereunto belonging		69	0	4			
To cash paid for shuttles ..		1	3	3			
To ditto for charcoal		6	8	4			
To ditto for brushes			12	9			
To ditto for twine, tweezers, &c. ..		2	9	6			
To ditto for broad loom, carriage, &c. ..		13	13	6			
To ditto for cards		4	2				
To value of new turns, &c. ..		3	14				
To cash paid for cogg-wheels, for looms, &c.		2	14	3			
To inventory of stock in trade, &c. shoemakers, Jan. 3d, 1818	No. 13				15	14	3
To cash paid shoemakers, House of Correction	No. 3	5	11	10	15	4	6
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance		6	5	2			
To cash paid debtors	No. 3	2	14				
To governor and taskmaster for superintendance			13	6			
To sundry bills for leather, &c.		81	0	6½	87	6	3¼
To ditto for sundries		5	4	9			
To cash paid for awl-blades ..		1	1				
To governor and taskmaster's share on the forfeited wages					12	8	2½
					1641	17	6
Balance in favour of Prison Labour					48	7	10
					1690	5	4

Cr.

	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
By 374½ yards bed tick	0	21	32	15	4½			
By 715 —— dowlass	0	19	56	12	1			
By 262½ —— blanketing	4	6	59	1	3			
By 68½ —— ditto	6	0	20	11	0			
By 26½ —— ditto	6	9	8	18	10½			
By 33½ —— cloth	4	3	7	2	4½			
By 248½ —— men's linsey	3	6	43	9	9			
By 218½ —— linsey	2	2	23	13	5			
By 12½ —— flannel ..	0	22	1	2	11			
By 100½ —— brown towelling	0	15	6	5	7½			
By 57½ —— brown sheeting	0	18	4	6	3	337	3	11½
By 27 —— white ditto	0	15	1	13	9			
By 23 —— white dowlass	0	16	1	10	8			
By 24 —— ditto	0	18	1	16	0			
By 40 —— brown canvass	0	12	2	0	0			
By 51¼ ℔. worsted	5	6	14	1	10½			
By 110 yards cloth	4	3	23	7	6			
By 28½ —— white kerseycloth	4	6	6	8	3			
By 12 rugs, each 12 and 13 by 8 ..			15	8	0			
By 16½ yards coloured linsey	2	6	2	1	3			
By 16½ —— ditto			1	6	3			
By 33 —— white ditto	2	2	3	11	6			
By amount of county shoe bills, as ☞ book ..						78	14	2
By inventory of stock in trade, Jan. 2d, 1819 No. 20						21	16	4
						1690	5	4

Wood and Co. Printers, Bath.

CHAPTER VII.

General Summary—Contrast of the State of Ilchester Gaol in November 1821, *to its Appearance in July* 1808.

IN my first Chapter I gave a brief but faithful description of the state of the Gaol, on my assuming the governance thereof. I have since summarily narrated the different improvements suggested by me, and carried into effect. I have endeavoured to shew how anxiously and unremittingly I laboured to ameliorate both the moral and physical state of the prisoners—to benefit the county—and to bring the whole establishment as near to perfection as possible. It is gratifying to me, even now, to reflect on the manner in which I performed my duty, and the continual meed of praise bestowed on me and my exertions. Magistrates from other counties were applying to me for descriptions of my mode of governance, in order that a similarity of procedure might be adopted in the Gaols of their own counties respectively.* My opinions, when called before

* Independent of the correspondence opened with me, by letter, on the subject of Prison Governance, by Magistrates of the counties of Norfolk and others, (vide appendix C.), a deputation from the

a select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to investigate the state of Gaols, in May 1819, were received with great considerative kindness, and independent of the handsome eulogium passed on me by Mr. Fowell Buxton, in the work to which I have already more than once referred, he was pleased, on his visit to the Gaol, to make the following entry in the Magistrates' Journal, dated 6th of April, 1818.

"Visited this Gaol, and must express my admiration of it. It was clean in every part, and the prisoners looked healthy and behaved properly; I was exceedingly

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Court of Mayor and Aldermen of Bristol visited the Gaol, and were pleased to make the following entry in the Magistrates' Journal, dated July 25, 1820.

"We, the undersigned Magistrates of Bristol, having been deputed, by the Court of Mayor and Aldermen thereof, to make a visit to the Gaol of Ilchester, for the purpose of deriving information in respect to the general management and regulations of the said Gaol, preparatory to the occupation of the new Gaol of Bristol; have great pleasure in recording the high satisfaction we experienced, in company with Doctor Colston, one of the visiting magistrates of the county, during the survey and inspection we made of this Gaol; observing, in every part, the utmost order amongst the prisoners, the greater part of whom were usefully employed in their respective occupations: and also the greatest cleanliness, strikingly apparent throughout every part of the prison: at the same time, we cannot forbear giving our testimony to the intelligence, civility, and obliging conduct of the Governor.

WILLIAM FRIPPE,
HENRY BROOKE."

Independent of this, the gaolers of Norfolk, Exeter, and Devizes, were sent to me by the Magistrates of their respective counties, in order to acquire, by ocular demonstration, and instruction from myself, my mode of discipline and governance.—But now my services are all forgotten!

struck with the system of employment, and do not feel any doubt that the magistrates will receive the reward of their meritorious attention, in the improved morality and industry of those committed to this prison.

(Signed) T. F. BUXTON."

The* entire appearance, cleanliness, order, and discipline of both the prison and the prisoners, elicited delight and approbation from all who inspected; and so perfect was the construction of the Gaol now become, that by a gallery, which I suggested and procured to be made, I could go from my own bed-room throughout the entire prison, (excepting the refractory debtors' and females' wards,) without the knowledge either of prisoner or turnkey. If I happened to hear the slightest noise in the night, therefore, amongst the prisoners, I could be on the spot in a moment to ascertain the cause; and had the power also of assuring myself, when I pleased, that all was right and safe.

When I reflect indeed on the improvements effected, and the *means* by which they *were* effected, I am almost surprised myself at the Herculean task I have been chiefly instrumental in performing. I shall not enter into comment, however, lest I be considered a boaster; though some little egotism may be allowed me, when it is remembered the ungrateful return I have met with, and the mass of infamy I have had to oppose.

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* In support of this assertion I am bound to mention one further fact.—My mode of governance was so much sought after, that my system of paying and funding the prisoners' earnings, was copied and introduced into the Penitentiary, at Milbank, where, I believe, it is followed up to this day.

CHAPTER VII.

I shall now introduce a contrast between the

State of Ilchester Gaol in July, 1808,	and the	*State of Ilchester Gaol in Nov.* 1821.
The Gaol consisted of five wards, capable of containing about 80 prisoners, and without any power of classification whatever.		Increased to thirteen wards,* and has since contained 266 prisoners. Classification can now be perfectly carried into effect, with a population of 150.
Females of all classes, whether debtors or felons, confined in the same ward.		There are now two wards for female prisoners, and one for female debtors. The latter apartment, however, is at present occupied by the prisoner Hunt.
No employment for the prisoners whatsoever, whether male or female.		At present every prisoner able, willing, and trust-worthy, is employed in useful labour—A manufactory of cloth being established capable of employing sixty men, besides taylors, shoemakers, &c. A laundry for females also, wherein thirty may be continually kept at work.
The demeanor of the prisoners, drunken, frenzied, and brutal—their persons and linen, dirty, squalid, and disgusting.		The demeanor of the prisoners generally, civil, respectful, and orderly—their persons and linen clean and wholesome.

* Vide the annexed plan, No. 2.

July, 1808.

The spacious areas and yards, unpaved, filthy, and so muddy that every person was obliged to step from one stone to another, to keep dry feet. In one part of the Gaol indeed, stagnant water was occasionally lying to the depth of ten feet.

All executions took place about half a mile from the town, by the road-side; to which spot, the unhappy criminals were dragged in a cart, through a mob of unfeeling and riotous people, whereby their sufferings were increased, and their last moments of devotion, distracted and disturbed.

Prisoners confined here, having no employment furnished them, of necessity became worse members of society than they were before. There being no incentive to virtue, but a great tendency to vice, vice consequently prevailed: and it cannot be an extravagant hypothesis to advance, that if a man be confined two

November, 1821.

The whole site, heretofore occupied by the keeper, as garden, stables, cow-house, &c. now covered by additional buildings to the Gaol. All the wards and yards paved and pitched, and the areas perfectly dry and clean.

Executions now take place on a new drop, erected on the roof of the front lodge; the consequence is that the unfortunate wretches pass to their last earthly scene undisturbed: and that most pre-eminent disgrace to a civilized country, *Ilchester hang-fair*, is rapidly falling away.

All prisoners under sentence now regularly labour. And as an additional proof of the good effect produced by such an introduction, I shall cite a part of the evidence given by Sir J. P. Acland, before a select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inquire into the state of Gaols, &c. Vide minutes of that

July, 1808.

years with another man *worse* than himself, within that period, he will learn to equal him in depravity, unless labour, or some other method be introduced, to break in upon that idleness, which is the mother of all evil.

The whole of the Gaol insecure; particularly the

November, 1821.

evidence, page 371, 7th of June, 1819.

"I have a man who occasionally works for me as a cabinet-maker; he had been committed to Ilchester Gaol for theft. When this man went to prison he was a common carpenter; he improved himself during his imprisonment in joiners' work, and is now a cabinet-maker: this advancement he owes to knowledge acquired in prison: I employ him in my house, give him the liberty of going into all my rooms, as unguarded as if he had never been in prison, and I do not know whether I had not sooner trust him than another person, because he knows what the loss of character is; no man has conducted himself better than he has since he left prison."

Such is a specimen of the effect produced by labour and discipline.

The Gaol is now as strong and as secure in every part

July, 1808.	*November*, 1821.
felons' and condemned cells.	as it can possibly be made, and the whole effected by the labour of the prisoners themselves.
No religious book of any description, amongst the whole mass of felons.	Bibles, Testaments, Prayer-books and religious tracts are now to be found in every ward of the Gaol, besides a quantity in store.
No book relative to, or descriptive of, the events of the Gaol whatever. No documents or any other papers, save and except the warrants for those actually transferred to my custody.	Left with my successor a complete set of books and journals, the warrants and records of every person committed to and discharged from the Gaol, during the whole of my keepership, classed, marked, and properly arranged.
The chapel perfectly undivided; the prisoners sat down indiscriminately—debtors and felons together.	At present the chapel is divided into as many compartments as it will admit. The felons together; the women behind the felons, parted off by a screen, so that they are invisible to the men: and as many honest members of society are, through mere misfortunes, thrown into a prison for debt, and to whose misery, the knowledge of their features by every felon, would

July, 1808.

On my taking charge, I found about five suits of prison clothing, and those in wear; sixty beds; one hundred and two blankets; sixty-two rugs; and fifty-two bedsteads; which together with all the fixtures of the Gaol at the time, might be valued in about £170.

Prisoners were conveyed to and from the Assizes and Quarter Sessions (the nearest town in which they are held being eighteen miles distant from the Gaol) in open waggons, exposed to all the inclemency of the weather, and to the public gaze; and travelling at the rate

November, 1821.

be an aggravation, I considered it an act of proper attention to their feelings, to screen off the gallery they sit in also.

Left with my successor, besides an immense quantity of clothing and cloth, the following articles, all of which excepting a few bedsteads and some old articles of bedding, manufactured by the prisoners in Gaol:

Beds	199
Blankets	420
Rugs	245

which together with the fixtures of the Gaol, were appraised and delivered to my successor, in the value of £1550 19*s*. 8*d*.

A caravan was constructed (on my own plan) on springs, entirely enclosed, wherein the prisoners are defended both from weather and the public eye. On its being completed, I had another made on the same model, in the Gaol, by the prisoners themselves, and some

July, 1808.

rate of three miles per hour.

Every tradesman in Ilchester had an account quarterly to receive from the County, either for labour, materials, or other matter connected with repairs of the Gaol.

The prisoners never regularly supplied with clean linen. Sometimes it was washed by a woman in the Gaol—but most generally let out to people in the town. The County paid my predecessor, for washing and mending per week, for each prisoner, 4*d.*—for each pair of blankets, 6*d.*—for each bed and bolster,

November, 1821.

some idea of their utility, lightness, and strength may be conceived, from the fact, that I have myself travelled on the box of one of them, seventy miles in a day. These I left with my successor.

For the last ten years no such account has ever been contracted: every thing connected with building, repairing, or cleaning the Gaol, having been solely effected by prison labour.*

By the erection of a laundry, and the introduction of female labour, all the bedding and linen of the prisoners and the Establishment, is now washed in Gaol. The saving thus effected, will be shewn by the following statement:

Paid for the soap and ashes, used in 12 weeks	4	18	0

* I must here except that of a blacksmith and glazier; those tradesmen are still employed from the town. It was considered dangerous to erect a forge within the Gaol, which of course excluded the introduction of that business.

July, 1808.

6*d*.—for the Chaplain's surplice, 2*s*. 6*d*.—The sum paid on this head alone, in twelve weeks, for fifty-four prisoners, would be therefore as under,

Washing & mending, for 54 prisoners, at 4*d*. per week, for 12 weeks	19	16	0
54 bed and bolster cases, at 6*d*.....	1	7	0
54 pair of blankets, at 6*d*.	1	7	0
One surplice.....		2	6
Amounting to	£13	12	6

and that too allowing a prisoner clean bedding once in three months only.

November, 1821.

10 cwt. of coal, at 20*d*. per cwt.	0	16	8
Labour of 5 female prisoners, for 72 days, at one penny per day	1	10	0
Thread, for mending, &c.	0	6	0
	£7	10	8

being a saving to the County of £6 1*s*. 10*d*. in 12 weeks, on the washing of 54 prisoners only. Since this introduction took place I have had as many as 266 prisoners in Gaol, at one time: the saving to the County, therefore, for that number, amounted every 12 weeks to £30 0*s*. 1½*d*.

It must be remembered, the above calculations are not speculative, but extracted specifically from the Gaol accounts: the sums thus saved are amazing, when it is remembered, that during the period typhus-fever raged in the Gaol, at least 240 blankets, and 120 rugs and beds, were washed weekly.

Such is a brief contrast between the state of Ilchester Gaol in July, 1808, and November, 1821; and when it is considered that this great amelioration was effected solely by the introduction of prison labour, at my own suggestion, and under my own superintendance, I conceive it to be impossible to fix a charge of neglect of duty upon me.

The* majority of Magistrates forming the late Committee, however, have been pleased to think differently; and for the sake of contrasting their subsequent conduct with their opinions, before the fear of Henry Hunt began to manifest itself. I shall make a few extracts from their own journal; confining myself, however, to one or two in each year, and summing up the remaining number of their testimonials in mass.

February 13th, 1809.

"Visited the Gaol, and found the apartments perfectly clean, and every thing regular.

(Signed) WILLIAM HANNING."

This minute will prove the rapidity with which cleanliness and order was introduced, when the testimony contained therein is contrasted with the state of the Gaol six months before: as described in the first chapter of this work.

July 31, 1809.

"Inspected the Gaol, and found every thing in perfect good order.

WILLIAM HANNING,
R. T. COMBE."

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* That is to say, there were seven composing the whole Committee at the time they came to their decision, and three absent. Out of the seven, if my information be correct, "*four* voted in my favour!" An Irish sort of a majority this! if the majority be said to be *against* me.

The number of visits made by Magistrates, and entries to the foregoing effect recorded, during the year 1809, were twenty-eight.

May 21, 1810.

"Visited and found all well.

AARON MOODY."

Number of visits in 1810, twenty-three.

October 14, 1811.

"Visited the Gaol, and found every thing regular.

WILLIAM HANNING,
AARON MOODY."

Number of visits in 1811, twenty.

April 29, 1812.

"Visited the Gaol, and found all things clean and well.

JOHN PHELIPS."

Number of visits in 1812, twenty-five.

June 22, 1813.

"Visited and went round the Gaol, and saw the prisoners locked up. Found every thing very orderly and regular.

R. T. COMBE."

Number of visits in 1813, thirty-seven.

January 22, 1814.

"Visited and went over the Gaol, found all well, and free from complaint.

AARON MOODY."

Number of visits in 1814, thirty-five.

September 12, 1815.

"Went round the Gaol, and found all things clean and regular.

JOHN GOODFORD,
R. T. WHALLEY."

Number of visits in 1815, forty.

February 20, 1816.

"We visited the Gaol, and notwithstanding the immense number of prisoners, found them comfortably accommodated, in good health, and no complaints: and the whole prison clean and in good order.

GEORGE EDW. ALLEN,
THOMAS POOLE."

October 10, 1816.

"The Gaol, after examination and inspection of the several cells, wards, and other parts of the Gaol, was found to be in a perfect state of neatness, good order, and discipline.

J. ACLAND,
THOMAS POOLE,
AARON MOODY,
W. H. COLSTON, D.D.
R. T. WHALLEY,
EDW. BRODERIP, Under Sheriff,
E. COLES, Clerk of the Peace."

Number of visits in 1816, forty-six.

March 14, 1817.

"Visited the Gaol, and found all correct and well; and beg to acknowledge my thanks to the Governor for a great deal of useful information.

THOMAS HELE PHIPPS."

Number of visits in 1817, twenty-seven.

June 30, 1818.

"Visited and inspected the Gaol, and were much pleased with the good order, cleanliness, and general regulations of it. The system of employment appeared to us to be not only conducive to the happiness of the prisoner, but to lead to a general industry on their being permitted again to enter into society.

RICHARD HART DAVIS,
MALACHI BLAKE."

Number of visits in 1818, thirty-two.

July 28, 1819.

"Visited the Gaol, and found all things correct and clean.

JOHN GOODFORD."

Number of visits in 1819, thirty-five.

October 28, 1820.

"Visited the Gaol, and found all things clean and orderly.

JOHN GOODFORD,
JOHN QUANTOCK,
R. T. WHALLEY."

Number of visits in 1820, thirty-three.

June 26, 1821.

"Visited the Gaol, and found it in good order.

JOHN NEWMAN."

Number of visits up to November 10, 1821, the day of my quitting the command, thirty-four.

It may be very well asked here, how came it about, that so many visits should have been made by these Magistrates, without their discovering the great irregulari-

ties, charged on the Gaol by Henry Hunt? To this question I can only reply, THAT THEY NEVER EXISTED.

It may be asked again, if they did not exist, why have the Magistrates dismissed you? I answer, *I know not*, unless their decision was actuated by fear or love of Henry Hunt.

The Committee however have placed themselves in a very awkward predicament. By dismissing me, they tacitly admit the charges of Henry Hunt to be true. If they be true, the very members of that Committee pass on themselves their own condemnation—for if such great cruelties, such glaring irregularities, positively did exist in Ilchester Gaol, every member of that Committee had been guilty of gross neglect of duty, in not having discovered them, and of gross mis-statements in their entries on their own journal.

But I will not press this point upon them unnecessarily. I shall by-and-by proceed to shew the measure and the mode of their conduct towards me; not from mere logical deduction, but from the absolute written testimony of their own hands.

Facts are stubborn things; and although a Magistrate may swear to-day, that he never heard of the existence of a certain object, and amend that evidence to-morrow, on discovering he had made that object the substance of an order, *under his own hand*, a few months before: it only proves to us, that even Magistrates are fallible men; and that the decision of a Committee of such men, may be erroneous likewise.

A decision, however, by which the character of an honest man is affected, is always dreadful; but, if that decision be caused by injustice, it becomes *monstrous;*

and it is a balm to me, the assurance, that if I had appealed against that decision to the great body of the Magistracy, it would have been set aside.*

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* Such was the opinion of the Magistrates of the County; an unusually large number having assembled at the Sessions, holden at Taunton, in October last, expecting that I should appeal against the Report of the Committee; which Report, had I so appealed, I have been informed by a most respectable Magistrate then present, would have been negatived by a great majority, and I should have been continued, or re-appointed in my service.

CHAPTER VIII.

Descriptive of the System of Discipline pursued in Ilchester Gaol.

IN the foregoing chapters, I have briefly narrated the rapidity with which labour and manufacture were introduced into the Gaol, and the benefits that arose therefrom, both as related to the moral and domestic character of the prisoner, and to the County itself. But, as it would be impossible to expect, that a gang of desperadoes, could be confined within small limits, without occasional misbehaviour and disturbances, I shall proceed to relate the mode which I adopted, to secure their good behaviour; or to inflict proper punishment, when they became refractory.

I have already stated, that on my first appointment to the keepership, I suggested to the Magistrates, the propriety of my keeping a Journal, or daily Occurrence Book. My object in so doing was two-fold—I had the desire to lay before them, a perfect history of events, at each period of their visiting; thereby to elicit promptly, their approval or disapproval, of whatever I might have done, or be doing; and, likewise to put them in possession of every act of punishment I might have had to

inflict, and hand the offender over to their own examination and judgment. I was the more particularly anxious on this latter head, because I knew the impossibility of governing such an Establishment, without a system of rewards and punishments; and because I knew, how subject the keepers of prisons are to vituperative abuse, invidious remarks, and unfounded charges: and I doubted not to be able to escape this, the common lot of Gaolers, if I could succeed in causing every necessary punishment, to arise from the act of the Magistrates alone. At all events, I was determined no such punishment should take place without their knowledge and approval.

I cannot better illustrate this system, than by extracting from my Occcurrence Book, a few prominent circumstances, which may tend to shew the nature of the people I had to govern, the anxious and unremitting care necessary to preserve order, and the frequency with which it was imperious to resort to coercive measures, in order to protect the quiet and well-disposed prisoner from the insult or depredations of those more hardened and desperate.

[Occurrence Book.]

Monday, Nov. 28, 1808.

"Locked Jane Prowles* in her cell, for having on a petticoat, made out of a blanket, (Gaol property,) a pair of pockets, made out of county cloth, and a bed-tick sewed within the petticoat, all the property of the county, all of which was immediately put into a bag,

* One of the honest hard-working people spoken of in the petition presented to the House by Sir F. Burdett, in Dec. 1812; she was then called Elizabeth Lovell.

and a seal set thereon. Aaron Moody, esq. visited, and ordered that Jane Prowles be continued in close confinement."

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 1808.

"Sent second turnkey to Aaron Moody, esq. (visiting Magistrate) to be informed how long Jane Prowles shall continue in close confinement, or what further proceedings should be adopted. Received a note per answer, ordering a week's further confinement."

Monday, March 20, 1809.

"James Gumm, John Sperring, and John Horder, made a complaint against Robert Haines,* for committing divers petty thefts, which being proved, and some of the articles, viz. a shilling, a piece of soap, and a pair of stockings found in his cell, and proved to be the property of the complainants, he, the said Robert Haines, is put in irons and confined to his cell, until the pleasure of the visiting Magistrates be known."

Friday, March 24, 1809.

"Aaron Moody, esq. visited, and had Haines brought before him, who, on promising to amend his conduct, is permitted his usual liberties."

Tuesday, January 23, 1810.

"Visited Mary Fuller, a convict, in her sleeping-room, at seven o'clock p. m. she being then in a convulsive fit, and on approaching near the door, heard Sarah

* Robbed the Gaol on leaving it, was convicted of the offence, he came again and was transported.

Slade, another convict sleeping in the same room, say, 'be damned if she would get out of her bed any more to-night:' meaning that she would not assist to hold Fuller, who was then beating her head against the bedstead. Ordered, that Slade be kept to hard labour in solitary confinement, by having pails of water and scrubbing brushes supplied her, and that she continue to clean the rooms and staircases in the ward she at present inhabits until further orders."

Monday, February 5, 1810.

"The Rev. W. H. Colston visited and inspected the Gaol, and ordered that Sarah Slade be restored to the accustomed liberties of her ward, she having promised to conduct herself better for the future."

Friday, November 1, 1811.

"The females in the convict ward, having altogether neglected to clean their ward and the rooms therein, are all sent to their cells at half-past three p. m. being first severely reprimanded for their slothful and disorderly conduct."

Saturday, November 2, 1811.

"The females are all restored to their ward, (with the exception of four,) on condition of their being more attentive to cleanliness in future, at eight a. m. The remaining four continued in confinement in consequence of gross misconduct."

Monday, November 4, 1811.

"Aaron Moody, esq. visited and inspected the Gaol, and permitted Jane Carr, Ruth Creed, Elizabeth Fleming, and Elizabeth Williams, to be restored, they having severally promised to behave better in future."

Saturday, February 8, 1812.

"A diabolical conspiracy, amongst nineteen of the prisoners, to murder me with a knife and effect their escape, being discovered through the medium of Robt. Harvey, the said Harvey deposes to the circumstances before Aaron Moody, esq. who directs George Groves* and Thomas Good, two of the ringleaders, to be put in solitary confinement, and there kept, without the power of corresponding with, or seeing any of the other prisoners, until further orders."

Thursday, February 13, 1812.

"Aaron Moody and William Hanning, esqrs. visited and inspected the Gaol, and made further enquiries into the conspiracy; and ordered that Groves be restored to the liberty of his ward, but that Good be continued in close confinement."

This man was kept closely confined until Saturday, May 23, when he was removed, with other convicts, to the Captivity Hulk, at Portsmouth.

Saturday, July 3, 1813.

"Jonathan Spencer, having conducted himself very disorderly, made use of violent and outrageous language to the taskmaster, and been guilty otherwise of very improper conduct, is locked up in his cell."

Thursday, July 8, 1813.

"R. T. Combe, Aaron Moody, and G. E. Allen, esqrs. together with the Rev. Dr. Colston, visit the Gaol,

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* This was the celebrated "Captain Groves," so well-known in the purlieus of Bath and Bristol.

and directed Jonathan Spencer to be continued in his solitary confinement; in which he was kept until Saturday the 10th, when his sentence of imprisonment expired."

Tuesday, November 15, 1814.

"Francis Warden, one of the shoemakers, having cut up and purloined a quantity of the County leather; and having made a violent personal attack on me, when I attempted to take from him the property he had stolen, I immediately ordered him into solitary confinement."

[Magistrates' Journal.]

Wednesday, November 16, 1814.

"We visited the Gaol, and found Warden handcuffed, and in solitary confinement, for resisting Mr. Bridle by force. We ordered him to be continued; but directed Mr. Bridle to unhandcuff him in the evening, as his own act."

W. Dickinson,
R. T. Whalley."

[Occurrence Book.]

Saturday, November 19, 1814.

"Rev. R. T. Whalley visited the Gaol, and released Warden from solitary confinement."

[Magistrates' Journal.]

Monday, November 28, 1814.

"The under-mentioned Magistrates having investigated a complaint made to them by Francis Warden, who was placed in solitary confinement, for riotous conduct,

by Mr. Bridle, have expressed themselves in the following manner: 'That the Magistrates on hearing the case, and what he, the prisoner, had to say for himself, are of opinion that he hath behaved ill, and hath forfeited all claim to indulgence. That Mr. Bridle hath done no more than was necessary to support authority, and they are of opinion that the said Francis Warden hath not made out any case of ill-usage on the part of Mr. Bridle, and they are further of opinion that the complaint be dismissed.'

(Signed) J. ACLAND,
W. DICKINSON,
R. T. WHALLEY."

[Occurrence Book.]

Monday, March 6, 1815.

"William Watts and James Watts being found gambling, riotous, and disorderly, are severally confined to their respective cells."

Tuesday, March 7, 1815.

"Aaron Moody, esq. visited the Gaol, and on the two Watts's promising to behave better in future, they are released from solitary confinement.

Saturday, January 27, 1816.

"Committed Joseph Evans* to a solitary cell, in consequence of having cut and spoiled a piece of kerseymere, the property of John Pratt, a fellow prisoner.—

* Once escaped from the Hulks, once from Botany Bay, after which he served two years and six months in Ilchester Gaol, the last six months being for an offence committed in the Gaol.

He appears in this case, to have been actuated by revenge, in consequence of Pratt having formerly complained of his misconduct."

[Magistrates' Journal.]

Thursday, February 29, 1816.

"Joseph Evans—Ordered that he be continued in his present solitary confinement; his recent conduct having highly merited it, and that he be supplied with work there.

Signed by the Clerk of the Peace for the Court of Quarter Sessions, held at the Gaol on the above day."

Thursday, April 18, 1816.

"At the General Quarter Sessions, held this day at the Gaol, Joseph Evans applied to be released from solitary confinement, which the Justices did not think proper to comply with, in consequence of his former misconduct on many occasions.

Signed in behalf of the Court by
COLES, Clerk of the Peace."

[Occurrence Book.]

Tuesday, May 7, 1816.

"Rev. R. T. Whalley visited and inspected the Gaol, ordered Joseph Evans to be released from his solitary confinement, with a suitable rebuke that he be careful of his future conduct.

Saturday, July 5, 1817.

"John Quantock, esq. visited and inspected the Gaol. Put John Tilley, of the felons' ward, into solitary confinement,

confinement, by order of the visiting magistrates, for being a wicked and disorderly boy. Handcuffed Joseph Gulliford and George Britton* together, for fighting in the convict ward."

Sunday, July 6, 1817.

"George Britton having beaten off the cuff that confined him to Gulliford, I put a pair of strong irons on him, and both his hands in cuffs; released Gulliford on promise of future good behaviour."

[Magistrates' Journal.]

Thursday, July 10, 1817.

"A special Sessions is this day held in the Gaol: present, John Goodford, Aaron Moody, John Newman, and John Quantock, esqrs. Edward Coles, Clerk of the Peace, and Joseph Lovell Lovell, for the Sheriffs.

"George Britton, a prisoner now handcuffed, owing to misconduct in the Gaol, having expressed contrition for it, and promising to behave orderly in future, ordered, that the Governor do remove the cuffs *to-morrow morning*, at ten o'clock.

Signed for the Court,

COLES, Clerk of the Peace."

[Occurrence Book.]

Saturday, September 19, 1818.

"Put Daniel Finassy and Wm. Clatworthy into solitary confinement, for making a great noise and fighting in the felons' ward."

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* Came a second time, and was then transported.

Monday, September 21, 1818.

"The Rev. R. T. Whalley visited, and ordered that Daniel Finassy and Wm. Clatworthy be released from solitary confinement to-morrow evening."

Wednesday, March 17, 1819.

"Locked up Charles Flower* in solitary confinement, for interrupting and abusing the constable of his ward."

[Magistrates' Journal.]

Thursday, March 18, 1819.

"Ordered, that Charles Flower be continued in solitary confinement, for misbehaviour in the Governor's absence. Ordered, that Robert King be continued in irons, for misconducting himself.

(Signed) JOHN QUANTOCK, jun. esq.
Rev. R. T. WHALLEY."

Wednesday, May 19, 1819.

"Aaron Moody, esq. visited and inspected the Gaol, and ordered Charles Flower to be released from solitary confinement, on promise of future good behaviour."

Thursday, May 18, 1820.

"Visited the Gaol, ordered a boy, of the name of *Wheeler*,† a convict for two years' hard labour, who had been guilty of a disturbance of fighting with another

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* Committed a second time, and was then transported.

† His father capitally convicted and transported for fourteen years; his grandfather also transported; and his young brother twice in Gaol, and once whipped.

boy, to be confined in a separate cell, till he shall amend his behaviour: and approved of Mr. Bridle's confining the legs of such boys as shall be disorderly in their workshops.

(Signed) JOHN PHELIPS,* esq."

My readers will perceive that I have merely extracted one occurrence in each year; I have made no selection of cases, but merely taken the first that presented itself, as a specimen of the regularity with which all punishments inflicted were made known to the visiting Magistrates immediately on their arrival. Every circumstance of the kind was entered in my Occurrence Book directly it took place, and to this Occurrence Book, Magistrates, on their visits, were immediately referred.

It may naturally be supposed, that a population, sometimes amounting to 266 persons, composed of the most desperate characters that infest society, requires some strictness, some vigilance, and great promptitude, to keep them in any thing approaching to quietness and order. I feel quite conscious that promptitude and vigilance were never wanting, yet to preserve undisturbed order was impossible. Punishments by solitary confinement, by ironing, by handcuffing, &c. were consequently frequent; remembering, however, that the latter mode was never resorted to, except in cases where great violence had been used by the prisoner, or by the express order of the Magistrate.

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* This gentleman was Hunt's first witness; and he swore he did not know of any stocks being in the Gaol, until the inquiry, although Mr. Phelips had the stocks brought into the room for his inspection, before he made the order.

Quarreling, fighting, thieving, and insolence to the officers, were the most frequent crimes; and as they were all promptly punished, so the prisoners, generally speaking, were orderly and well disposed. I have had occasion to remark, that those who repeatedly broke through the Gaol regulations, were men of the most desperate and abandoned character: men who became re-committed to prison, almost as soon as they might be discharged, and whose ultimate fate, was sure to be either transportation or the gallows. I have a few instances of such offenders, who after escaping death here, have been executed in the Colony of New South Wales afterwards; thereby proving themselves irreclaimable: indeed on such characters, lenity is thrown away.

I shall now, however, extract a few occurrences of punishment in the year 1821, the last of my governorship; in order to shew how entirely the face of offences had become changed. At this time, in fact, the Gaol was in a state of anarchy; "Henry Hunt" was the cry, Tom Paine (insiduously distributed amongst them) the substitute for the bible, and* disobedience and confusion the order of the day.

Monday, April 30, 1821.

"The Governor returned from the Sessions, at 7 p. m. having received information, that the convicts intended to make themselves masters of the Gaol."

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* I regret that I cannot give, verbatim, the complaints laid against many of the prisoners, from the nature of the blasphemous and horrid expressions, they had *now* got into the habit of using towards the officers.

[Occurrence Book.]

Saturday, August 18, 1821.

"The turnkey, Pike, reports the felons' ward to be in great riot and confusion; that Heath and Russell, two prisoners therein, had been fighting, who, for the peace of the ward, he removed into the passage, where Russell immediately renews the combat, swearing he would kill his opponent. I ordered Heath again to be sent into his ward, and Russell, with his handcuffs, into solitary confinement."

Sunday, August 19, 1821.

"In consequence of some alarming intelligence, communicated from the felons' ward this morning, the Governor has placed a watchman, to parade the front court by night, until further orders."

This conspiracy was indeed alarming, and to such a pitch had the example of the High Priest of Riot, in creating tumult and insubordination, now arrived, that I have great reason to believe, this very conspiracy, was suggested by a well known character, a vagabond, pettifogger, and one of his satellites. I addressed the Under-Sheriff, however, on the occasion; and by great promptitude and vigilance, the felons were prevented from carrying it into execution. Their plan was, to demand to be released from their irons, attack the officers in chapel, and to break Gaol. The Under-Sheriff, however, immediately visited; committed some of them to solitary confinement; and applied to the Secretary of State, for the removal of others to the Hulks: on which application, twenty-nine of the most desperate, were removed accordingly.

In the appendix, marked D, will be found the copies of the papers sent me by one of their own body,

disclosing the particulars of the conspiracy; and which very papers, were laid before the Under-Sheriff, at the time he investigated the matter.

[Occurrence Book.]

Tuesday, August 14, 1821.

"John Southerwood's sentence having expired, he is discharged at 8 a. m. At half-past nine, John Southerwood came to the Gaol, as a visiter to Henry Hunt—in the mean time, information is received, that Samuel Hodges, a person discharged from Gaol on Sunday last, is still loitering in the town, with two large bundles; and from certain other information, it is ascertained, that these bundles contained county property, stolen from the Gaol: I procure this man to be sent for; who comes down, leaving his bundles without the Gaol; he remained in the Lodge until Southerwood terminates his visit to Hunt, and they both leave together; each taking one of the said bundles: I then cause them to be stopped, and finding the bundles absolutely to contain county property, stolen from the Gaol, I give them into the charge of a constable, who takes them before Aaron Moody, esq. for examination. On investigating the matter, he causes them both to be committed to the Gaol, to take their trial at the Assizes, and binds me over to prosecute them."—The fact of this theft was, that John Southerwood stole the property, and threw it over the wall in the night-time, to be picked up by Hodges: but as he had the honour of being reckoned among the friends of Henry Hunt,* a law officer is provided for him by the orator,

* The orator, I believe, was exceedingly enraged at the circumstance of one of *his cronies* being thus implicated in a theft, immediately on his quitting Gaol.

and in consequence of a defect in the evidence, the bill against him was thrown out. Hodges, however, on receiving his sentence to be transported, for his share of the business, murmured much, and declared Southerwood to be the thief, and he himself the mere receiver.

It is useless for me now, however, to enter farther into detail of the great irregularity, anarchy, and confusion that at this time prevailed in the Gaol; the entries in my Occurrence Book on this subject, therefore, I shall defer until I enter fully into my defence, and the investigation of the evidence. Suffice it to say, that I had no power of controul, that the major-part of my officers were paralyzed in the execution of their duty by mere fear of Hunt, or by a worse feeling; and Henry Hunt, indeed, spoke truth, once in his life, when he asserted that Ilchester Gaol was under his management, and that if he chose to order prisoners, under sentence of death, to be brought into his ward, from their condemned cells, the order must be obeyed. In fact, increase of offence and irregularity were not the only evils; infidelity and irreligion rapidly increased. Tom Paine's Works had been assiduously introduced, even into the upper debtors' ward, and the general topics of conversation were now, either scepticisms on the bible, reflections on the state, or infuriated debates, and cries of radicalism for ever! It may be remarked, however, that these circumstances had their birth from the first moment unlimited communication was commanded to be permitted by the High Sheriff, between Henry Hunt and all other classes of prisoners;*

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* "*To* Mr. Bridle,
Governor of Ilchester Gaol. } *Dillington, April* 10, 1821.

"Sir,

"To render equal justice to you and the County, each being now accused, by Mr. Hunt, of abuses in the Gaol, I have

until then, my difficulty in preserving order and quiet had not increased to insurmountability.

I have, by the foregoing extract of an occurrence of each year of my government, endeavoured to shew the manner in which all punishments were conducted, and the promptitude with which they were made known to the visiting Magistrates, in order to take the responsibility off my own hands; and procure also their approval or disapproval of my conduct. It is gratifying to me to reflect, however, that up to the period of my quitting the Gaol, only one entry had been made by the Magistrates in their Journal, expressing any thing like disapprobation, and that arose from the dirtiness said to exist in some part of the building. It so happened, that at that very time I had been absent from the Gaol *twelve days* on duty, and had but just returned. The paper marked E. in the Appendix, will explain this curious circumstance, and may, perhaps, serve to shew some glimpse of the injustice I have suffered. A secret enemy libels me to a Justice, and that Justice, in revenge, endeavours to throw a slur upon my conduct in my official capacity.

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thought it right to write Mr. Hunt, stating, that I should give an order for any prisoners, within your custody, not exceeding two at one time, to be permitted to be examined by him, either in his room, or the visiting-room, as to the charges he has alledged; and this attention, to his request in writing, I request may be attended to.

I am, Sir, your's obediently,
WM. HANNING."

This precious order continued in force until the 27th of July. Debtors, felons, convicts, &c. &c. meeting indiscriminately, to be prepared for this honest and wise examination.

The

CHAPTER VIII.

The general modes of encouraging prisoners in the correct performance of their duty, besides paying them a certain proportion of their earnings, were, by presenting them with money on their discharge, recommending them to situations, giving them articles of clothing, applying for remissions of their sentences, &c. The latter boon was found the most powerful; and I have great pleasure in recording, that between the years 1813 and 1821, twenty-six were found to merit such an indulgence, and received it. (Appendix F.) I might mention here, also, the great advantage enjoyed by the prisoners in the acquirement of trades, an advantage by which many of them honestly support themselves to this day; but as I have already dilated on this subject in my fifth and sixth chapters, I shall content myself by adding, that although vice and irregularity never failed to meet with their due punishment in the Gaol at Ilchester, virtue and good conduct ever met with their reward.

I shall conclude this chapter, by stating, that between July, 1808, and November, 1821, 4533 prisoners, of all classes, were confined under my care; that out of this number, I conveyed* 567 to the Hulks, at Ports-

* When convicts are removed from Newgate to Portsmouth, the number is generally twenty-five, a military escort is provided, and it accompanies the caravan until the charge is safely delivered. I have frequently removed six or eight at a time without any assistance. I was once travelling with twenty-two, we stopped and took breakfast at a lone house, (the Shoe, at Plaitford) during which time they sat by the kitchen fire, on leaving the house I treated them with a walk, a full mile. The present Governor of Bristol Gaol was there with convicts; they were not trusted out of their coach, and on my moving my men forward, he, with amazement, exclaimed, "I had less trouble with my twenty-two men, than he had with the least of his boys." I had two assistants.

mouth, Woolwich, and Chatham, and to the King's-Bench Prison, in London: that I never lost but one prisoner, which circumstance will be found fully described, in appendix G: that I rode with prisoners the number of miles, mentioned in the paper, appendix H, merely to and from the Gaol, to Quarter Sessions and Assizes; and performed all such journies, without let or accident: that in the course of my governance, repeated attempts at suicide were made, and the whole frustrated; repeated attempts to break Gaol, and the whole prevented; repeated conspiracies, of the most dangerous nature, entered into by the prisoners, and all discovered and averted; and I leave it to the candid reader, on this brief view, whether I have, or have not, faithfully and diligently performed my duty.

CHAPTER IX.

Description of the State of the Gaol, during the Time it was afflicted with Typhus Fever, in the Years 1817 *and* 1818.

I CANNOT send this, the first part of my work, into the world, without attempting to shew the state of difficulty and danger to which I was reduced, when the typhus fever crept into the Gaol. A contagious disease is at all times, and under the most favourable circumstances, dreadful; but, when it bursts forth in a spot, where numbers are confined, where an immense population is crowded into a small space, where ventilation, and every other means, necessary to check its progress, are limited, and where it is imperious to combine the safe custody of the afflicted, with the means of curing them —a combination as difficult as it is trying—it becomes appalling. The fever had existed in the neighbourhood, about six months, and in the town itself, perhaps three, before it made its appearance within the precincts of the Gaol; how it introduced itself, I am at a loss to determine, but I incline to suppose, by the constant intercourse kept up between the prisoners, and those of their friends, who daily came to visit them. The first case that presented

itself, was on the 19th of January, 1817, in the felons' ward.—A few days after, the contagion extended to the debtors' ward, and from this period, its progress became alarming.

To counteract its influence, was a subject of momentous consideration; but from the present crowded state of the Gaol, containing two hundred and forty inmates, the task appeared to be almost impossible. Every thing, however, that human ingenuity could devise, or medical knowledge suggest, was called into play. Fumigations, in every part of the Gaol, were constantly kept up, the day rooms being fumigated at night, and the sleeping rooms by day. Every article of clothing was fumigated in the same manner, vestments at night, and bedding by day. All those prisoners, who remained as yet uninfected, were daily bathed in tepid water, wherein had been dissolved a quantity of bay salt; and the strictest attention was constantly paid, both to the sick and to the healthy.

The contagion, however, still increased, and I consequently felt it my duty, to report the matter to the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions. He directed me to lay the state of the Gaol, before the High Sheriff. I waited accordingly on that gentleman, at Clifton, who referred me to the Under Sheriff. With him, it was decided, (in consequence of the directions I brought with me from the Sheriff,) that we should with all possible speed, report the immediate state of the Gaol, to the Judges, then on their circuit, at Exeter. This measure was considered necessary, in order to take the opinion of their Lordships, as to the propriety of bringing an infected population of a Gaol, into a crowded Court of Justice.

In pursuance of this direction, the Under Sheriff and myself went to Exeter, and laid the matter before Lord Chief Justice Abbot and his brother Judge; when their Lordships were pleased to order, that a daily report be made to the Home Secretary of State, and a house of recovery immediately procured, at a distance from the Gaol, to which the infected were to be instantaneously removed.

In the mean time, the manufactory had been suspended, and fitted up as an hospital; but to describe the increase of duty that fell upon my hands, and the intense anxiety with which I was filled, is impossible. The difficulty to procure a house of recovery may easily be conceived, every man naturally feeling anxious to keep what they considered a plague, from their own doors. We were avoided, shunned, and cut off from all society; and even at an inn at Taunton, where I had been in the habit of stopping ten years, I was refused admission. At length we succeeded in procuring a cottage at Lymington, a village situated about a mile from the Gaol, to which on the 2nd of April, we removed seventeen infected prisoners, of all descriptions, and of both sexes. The safe custody of those prisoners, being a matter of great importance, was provided for by the hiring of people for the purpose; in which we found also great difficulty. This house was kept in possession twelve months, and had at one time, twenty-three inmates, of both sexes; all of whom had been committed for serious offences. By great care, however, every attempt at escape from thence, was prevented.

The increase of duty arising from this visitation was amazing. Besides the attention necessary to the house of recovery, the inmates of the Gaol itself were daily

taken out into an adjoining ground, in parties of thirty or forty at a time, for the benefit of exercise and free ventilation. So alarmed were all the debtors, that every one of them who could afford to procure a writ of HabeasCorpus, applied for removal to London; and some idea of the unwillingness of every one to admit us into their houses, may be gathered from the fact, that on my having to remove certain convicts to the hulks, I was obliged to start at two o'clock in the morning, in order to deliver them the same day; well-knowing no one would permit us a night's lodging. In fact, it was altogether refused us.

The removal, however, of convicts, from the infected state of the Gaol, became suspended, the population consequently increased, and shortly amounted to 266. The state of the Gaol was now distressing, as many as sixty-seven persons being confined in a ward,* not calculated to contain more than twenty. This was an alarming evil: and it became imperious to lessen the population. To effect it, appeared at first impossible. Government were naturally anxious to prevent a contagious fever from being introduced into Hulks crowded with prisoners; and the Magistrates of the County were still increasing the inmates of the Gaol, by fresh commitments. At length Sir J. P. Acland succeeded in procuring orders from his Majesty's Government, for the fitting up an extra vessel at Portsmouth, on purpose to receive them, and, as soon after as possible, we cleared the Gaol of that class of prisoners sentenced to transportation. We could now breathe a little freer, and from this period we could entertain something like hope of putting a stop to the contagion.

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* It is to be remembered, that this was the state of the Gaol in 1817.

CHAPTER IX.

I must go back a little, however, and shew the danger and difficulty to which I was further exposed. In the spring assizes of 1817, I had to remove from the Gaol, eighty-five prisoners for trial at Taunton, whither I removed them in one day. Eighty of these male felons, and absolutely occupying a ward, having twenty-six cells, and intended for the occupation of *twenty-six people only!* This may serve to shew the crowded state of the Gaol at that time.

The fever, however, being amongst them, it was neither safe or proper to introduce them into the Gaol at Taunton, and it became necessary, therefore, to procure a house for their reception. To effect this we met with great difficulty, the people absolutely threatening to raze any house to the ground we might chance to reside in, so great was their dread of the contagion spreading. At length an unfinished house in the fields, nearly two miles from the town, was procured, and to it I conducted my charge, and took up my residence amongst them. My situation here, during the assizes, may be conceived, but cannot be described; placed in a lone house, and sleeping on the same floor, with eighty-five desperadoes is no enviable situation; but they had all been objects of my attention and care, and on their gratitude I relied. The characters of these men may be conceived from the fact that I brought home, from this assize, thirty-one under sentence of death, five of whom actually suffered, twenty-one for transportation, and sixteen others under various sentences. The duties I had to perform at that house were severe and complex. No prisoner being suffered to go into Court, until he had been bathed in warm water and salt, his linen changed, his clothes fumigated; and this routine every man, individually, went through daily.

The means necessary to destroy the infection within the Gaol, were also continually and actively pursued. As soon as the prisoners quitted their cells in the morning, a pitch-pot, or a pan of newly slacked lime, was introduced into each, and on their removal, the cells were fumigated with nitrous acid gas. The prisoners were all bathed every morning in warm water and salt. Military slop clothing was purchased in abundance, to give us the power of supplying fresh and clean clothes daily, if required. The changes of bedding were, also, numerous; nearly one hundred and twenty weekly. Some idea of the care taken in this respect may be conceived by the fact, that one individual was supplied with nineteen changes of blankets, and nearly as many of linen, in one week alone.

At length, however, by the blessing of the Almighty, and the active and energetic uses of the means I have briefly attempted to set forth, the contagion was checked and ultimately destroyed. During its continuance, sixty marked and confirmed cases of typhus presented themselves, besides a great number of slight infections, out of which two only died. When it is remembered, that the average number of deaths in typhus fever, is one in fifteen or sixteen, the fact that we lost but two in upwards of sixty, speaks volumes in favour of the mode of treatment adopted, the attention shewn, and the vigilance and activity displayed by every officer of the Gaol. For my own individual part, I shall briefly say, that such was the anxiety and fatigue I suffered, an inroad has been made on my constitution, no reward can repair. I have the conscientious satisfaction, however, that I faithfully, actively, and diligently performed my duty; and I cannot help impressing upon the minds of my readers, that

that when the crowded state of the Gaol is considered, it appears almost a miracle, how the contagion was destroyed at all. By the admirable treatment of Doctors Woodford and Bryar, however, assisted by the means before spoken of, and under the blessing of the Almighty, it was effectually done; although, at that very period, seventy-six men were confined in a day-room, calculated to hold no more than twenty, and ninety-nine prisoners were confined for trial in cells, originally intended to hold no more than twenty-six! Indeed, at the spring assizes held at Taunton, in 1818, (being immediately after the period the contagion was destroyed,) I absolutely had to conduct ninety-five prisoners to take their trial! which I performed also in one day.

I might, perhaps, under the peculiar circumstances in which I stand, exultingly point to this occurrence, and ask, whether conduct like mine, on so appalling an occasion, be indicative of a disposition to neglect my duty. But it is needless. The honest recital of what I have effected, will prove to every candid mind, that my sufferings have been occasioned, and my enemies been actuated, by any thing but *a love of justice.* When, however, I enter upon the full analyzation of the charges preferred against me, I fear I shall convict my persecutors of something more meanly detestable than mere injustice—a motive of *fear—fear* of one of the most in significant reptiles that crawls this earth, or ever disgraced humanity.

CHAPTER X.

This is a rogue,
without honour or shame,
That robb'd the poor wretches
who got him a name:
Fam'd for poisonous compounds,
and virulent ravings,
Boxing, lying, defaming,
and pocketing savings;
The slave of ambition
in liberty's mask;
Now the king of a Gaol,
once a god of the cask
The lord over felons,
the radicals' tower,
Who would wield
the weapons of lawless power,
That the jacobins used
in an evil hour, &c.

Vide the Loyalists' House that Jack built.

ON the 15th of May 1820, I removed fourteen convicts to the Leviathan Hulk, Portsmouth-Harbour, of

whom eight were old offenders, and amongst them one Hugh Mac Geddy, a locksmith,* whose abilities appear too well recorded to be even doubted; but, strange as it may appear, the same locks still remain in Ilchester Gaol, and that too without any alteration whatever.

On the 17th I returned, having safely delivered my charge; and at ten o'clock the same night, Mr. Henry Hunt, the celebrated orator, and self-styled reformer, arrived at Ilchester Gaol, in the custody of a tipstaff, in pursuance of a sentence of the Court of King's Bench, directing him to be imprisoned for the space of two years and six months, and, at the expiration of that period, to find security for his good conduct for five years, himself in the penalty of one thousand pounds, and two sureties in five hundred pounds each. It being late when he

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* *Magistrates' Journal, April* 26, 1820.

"Visited the Gaol, and particularly inspected the various wards; my attention was called most particularly to the behaviour of Mac Geddy, a felon under sentence of transportation; in my presence he easily unlocked the doors of his cell, and prepared wires, with which the Governor opened the main gates in the passage. He had been in the habit of opening his own cell, and also of liberating other Felons. This appearing to endanger the safe custody, I have desired Mr. Bridle to take additional precaution, and to apply for his early removal to the place of his destination.

"J. PHELIPS."

It may appear strange how this convict had the power of procuring wire to make picklocks: and it is, therefore, necessary for me to say, it was nothing more than the wire that went round the rim of his saucepan, which enabled him to open all the patent locks of the ward, from which ward I have removed eighty-seven prisoners for trial, at one assize, and for whose safe custody my bond to the Sheriff, in £10,000, formed a part.

arrived, I caused him to be placed in the female infirmary ward, with two other misdemeanour prisoners.

On the day following, John Phelips, esq. of Montacute, a visiting Magistrate, inspected the Gaol, to whom I reported this committal, and where I had placed the prisoner. He accordingly entered the following order in the Magistrates' Journal, dated May 18, 1820.

"Mr. Bridle reports the reception of Mr. Henry Hunt, by a sentence of the Court of King's Bench, for two years and six months' confinement in this Gaol. He is placed in the female infirmary ward, with two other prisoners, against whom articles of the peace have been exhibited—there being no other ward adapted for that purpose; directed, that Mr. Hunt may use the fire-place in the infirmary, adjoining his present ward, until it may be wanted for the use of the prison.

(Signed) JOHN PHELIPS."

On the following day I again left the Gaol, with other convicts; I delivered them; I met a second draft, whom I also delivered, and took charge of John Kinnear, who was removed to London by a writ of habeas corpus, as an evidence, and on the 28th of May, I brought him again to the Gaol.

I beg my readers specifically to understand, that the punishment awarded to the prisoner Hunt, was for a *Misdemeanour*.—On the sentence being passed, he requested Mr. Justice Bailey to direct, that he might not be put into solitary confinement: this the learned Judge was pleased to command should be complied with; and these two misdemeanour cases, being at the period of his arrival the slightest in the Gaol, were selected to bear him company.

It so happened, that the prisoner Kinnear, was, by an order of the Magistrates, at that time living in my house: being aware of this circumstance, Hunt applied for a similar indulgence, which was refused, as of my own power, I had no right to grant it. To prevent, however, any heart-burnings on the subject, the Magistrates were pleased to enter the following order in their Journal, dated June 6, 1820.

"It is ordered as follows by the Magistrates whose names are below written, together with the Under Sheriff,

1st. "That Mr. Kinnear be no longer boarded or lodged in the Governor's house, but that Mr. Kinnear and Mr. Hunt be placed on an equality, in the same ward.

2nd. "Ordered, that Mr. Kinnear and Mr. Hunt be permitted to receive their visiters in their own ward, at the regular hours, until the visiting Magistrates direct otherwise.

3rd. "Ordered, that Mr. Bridle may, if he thinks proper, furnish the before-mentioned prisoners with provisions, dressed in his kitchen at their expense; but if either Mr. Bridle, Mr. Kinnear, or Mr. Hunt, find the above regulation inconvenient, Mr. Bridle is directed to apply to the visiting Magistrates for further orders.

4th. "Ordered, that Mr. Kinnear and Mr. Hunt may be allowed the assistance of their present attendants in their ward, until further directions.

(Signed) J. Phelips.
John Goodford,
Henry Gould,
J. Newman,
R. T. Whalley,
Edw. Broderip, Under Sheriff."

To give, however, the negative direct to the false statements Henry Hunt has been foisting upon the world, I shall here insert, verbatim, the copy of certain affidavits filed against him in the Court of King's-Bench, in answer to his own, given in the appendix marked I; by which he obtained a rule to shew cause, why he should not have the full liberty of the Gaol, &c. which rule was served on the Sheriff Depute and myself, and called forth the following depositions in answer. The counsel employed by Hunt, however, on the reception of these affidavits, applied for leave to withdraw the rule, which was at length granted; the Court ordering all costs incurred, to be paid by the said Hunt. It may serve to shew the character of the man a little to state, that he refused to pay such costs, and, in consequence, a detainer for the debt, now stands against him, in the Gaol of Ilchester.

The Affidavit of WILLIAM BRIDLE, *Keeper of the Gaol at Ilchester. Sworn 24th Nov.* 1820.

That by a rule or order of this Honorable Court, made on Monday next after the morrow of the Ascension of our Lord, in the first year of King George the Fourth, it was, amongst other things, adjudged and ordered, that Henry Hunt, (who is therein stated to have been with others convicted of misdemeanors,) for his said offences, should be imprisoned in his Majesty's Gaol at Ilchester aforesaid, for the term of two years and six months thence next ensuing; and it was thereby further ordered, that the Marshal of the Marshalsea of this Honorable Court, or his Deputy, should deliver the said Henry Hunt into the custody of the keeper of the said Gaol at Ilchester, to be, by the said keeper, kept in safe custody, in execution of the said judgment.

That on the 17th day of May last, the said Henry Hunt, was, in pursuance of such rule or order, delivered into the Deponent's custody, at the Gaol at Ilchester aforesaid.

That the said Gaol at Ilchester is a common Gaol and House of Correction, as well as a Sheriffs' Ward or Gaol: that the Deponent is appointed keeper of the said Gaol, by the Magistrates of the said County, as also by the Sheriffs for the time being.

That a Session, called the Gaol Session, comprised of the Sheriff, or his Under Sheriff or Deputy, and the Magistrates of the County of Somerset, or such of them as can make it convenient to attend the same, has, for many years last past, been held in the said Gaol, on some day, generally on a Thursday, in the weeks preceding the four General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, of the said County, for the purpose of enquiring into, and inspecting the state and condition of the said Gaol, and making such orders and regulations for the government and management thereof, as from time to time appear to be necessary: and that these Magistrates have also, for many years past, been regularly appointed, agreeably to the Statute, to visit and superintend the said Gaol, who frequently attend therein, and always upon any application from the prisoners, to hear, and redress, and decide upon, any complaints; which applications have been uniformly and promptly communicated by the Deponent to the said visiting Magistrates, free of expense to the said prisoners.

That for some years before the said Henry Hunt was confined in the said Gaol, the following rules and orders had, (amongst others,) been made by the Magistrates of the said County, at the general Quarter Sessions

of the Peace, held in and for the said County, for the good and orderly government and management of the said Gaol, and the prisoners confined therein; viz: "That one hour from nine o'clock in the morning, one hour from twelve o'clock at noon, and one hour from three o'clock in the afternoon, should be allowed the debtors and such other of the prisoners as are allowed to see their friends, but they are not permitted to enter the Gaol twice in any one hour; but the wife of any prisoner, not being a debtor, shall not be admitted at any other part of the Gaol, than the visiting-room at the lodge.

"That no persons, but the prisoners committed to the Gaol, be permitted to lodge therein, except the Governor, his officer, and their wives and families.

"That other persons may be permitted to visit the prisoners in the day time, in case of sickness of such prisoners, and the wives of any prisoners, who are debtors, from nine in the morning till five o'clock in the afternoon; such wife first applying to the Gaoler, and in his absence to the turnkey, and entering her name and place of abode in the book in the turnkey's lodge, and declaring herself to be the actual wife of such prisoner; but that such wife shall not be permitted to enter the Gaol more than twice in any one day."

That at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the said County of Somerset, held at Wells on the 7th day of April, 1815, an order was made by the Court of Quarter Sessions, whereby it was, amongst other things, ordered: "That in case the Gaoler, or any of the officers, or prisoners shall hereafter have reason to complain against each other, they are thereby respectively required to state the grounds of such complaints to the visiting Magistrates, the first time they attend the Gaol,

Gaol, after they may feel themselves aggrieved, or to the Magistrates who may be assembled at the Gaol Sessions: to the end that such Magistrates may report the same, to the then next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace." That all such rules and orders were in full force, and acted upon, before and at the time the said Henry Hunt was delivered into the Deponent's custody, as aforesaid.

That on the arrival of the said Henry Hunt at the said Gaol, the Deponent placed the said Henry Hunt in a *comfortable ward, which was perfectly dry and airy*, and which had, for a considerable time before, been inhabited by five female debtors, who were removed from the same expressly that the said Henry Hunt might be placed therein; that at that time there were several beds and bedsteads in the bedroom of the said ward, such as are allowed to prisoners; and for the particular accommodation and comfort of the said *Henry Hunt, all the said beds and all the bedsteads (save one) were removed; a good feather bed provided*, and the day-room and court-yard of the said ward were appropriated to the use of the said Henry Hunt; and two prisoners, who were in custody in the said Gaol, for want of sureties to keep the peace, were placed in the ward adjoining that which had been so allotted to the said Henry Hunt.

That Gerard Martin Berkeley Napier, esq. the Sheriff of the said County, dying a few days before the said Henry Hunt was delivered into the Deponent's custody as aforesaid, the execution of the office of Sheriff of the said County devolved on Edmund Broderip, of Wells, in the said County, gentleman, the person mentioned in the affidavit of the said Henry Hunt, (who had been appointed Under Sheriff by the said Gerard Martin Berkeley Napier,) and who executed the duties of the

office of Sheriff of the said County for nearly six weeks, till Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, bart. the present Sheriff, was sworn into the office of Sheriff of the said County, who appointed William Melliar, of Wells aforesaid, gentleman, to be his Under Sheriff.

That early in the month of June last, the then three visiting Magistrates of the said Gaol, together with other Magistrates of the County of Somerset, and the said Edmund Broderip, met at the said Gaol, and after some conversation with the said Henry Hunt, and John Kinnear, who was and still is confined in the said Gaol for a misdemeanor, in pursuance of the sentence and order of this Honorable Court, it was ordered, that the said John Kinnear and Henry Hunt should be placed together in the same day-room or visiting-room, which the said Henry Hunt then inhabited; that they should be permitted to receive their visiters, during the stated regular hours, in their said room, in which they were so placed, instead of the said visiting-room, until the Magistrates should direct otherwise; that the Deponent might furnish the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear with provisions dressed in his kitchen, at their expense; and that if either the Deponent, the said Henry Hunt, or John Kinnear, should find the foregoing regulations inconvenient, the Deponent was directed to apply to the visiting Magistrates for further order; and that the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear should be allowed the assistance of the said two prisoners, in their said ward, as servants, until further directions.

That on the 23rd day of the same month of June, the visiting Magistrates, at the request of the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, gave permission to the said Hunt and Kinnear to walk for two hours in the yard of

the factory, after the prisoners employed therein had retired from work; that subsequently thereto, at the request of the said Henry Hunt, and for the accommodation and comfort of the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, their day or sitting room, which was before paved with stones, had been floored with board, doors set up in the said apartments, and bells fixed, to enable them to call their said servants, and the officers of the Gaol if necessary; and a larder and scullery erected.

That the sleeping-room of the said Henry Hunt, which is over the said day or sitting room, so assigned to the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, and from which there is a communication, is of the dimensions of 14 feet by 9 feet 4 inches; that the said John Kinnear sleeps in another ward, and the said day or sitting-room is of the dimensions of 13 feet 4 inches by 9 feet 4 inches, and is conveniently fitted up with a register-stove, grate, fire-irons, and fender.

That for the further accommodation of the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, a proper fire-grate for cooking, hath been placed in the kitchen or sitting-room of the adjoining ward, which the said two servants inhabit; the yards of both the said wards have been newly paved, at the request of the said Henry Hunt, and the door of the communication between the yard of the ward of the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, and the yard of the adjoining ward of the said two other prisoners, who act as servants as aforesaid, is thrown open in the day-time, as well for the more easy access of the said servants to the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, as to enable them, the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, to walk and take exercise in both the said yards; and for their still further accommodation and comfort, they are

allowed nearly four hours daily to walk in the factory-yard, which is about 100 feet long and 40 feet wide.

That the said Henry Hunt hath often expressed himself to the Deponent, to be well satisfied with the accommodation which had been shewed to him.

That in the month of June last, an extract of a letter from the said Henry Hunt in Ilchester Gaol, to a friend in Bath, and which letter the Deponent verily believes was written by the said Henry Hunt, appeared in a public newspaper called the Sherborne Mercury, of which extract the following is a copy.—

"I believe no man that ever lived, was more happy that I am here; in fact, I esteem this only a cessation from my labours; and from all present appearances, I anticipate the pleasures, at the end of two years and a half, of leaving this prison, (perhaps even reluctantly,) at least five years younger in my constitution, than when I came in here. I am in the enjoyment of that tranquility which I have so long in vain wished for; and I possess that serenity and cheerfulness of mind, which alone can flow from conscious rectitude of intention, accompanied by the most vigorous health, arising from temperance and exercise, which, as far as the strict discipline of this prison will permit, I shall not fail to continue; cleanliness, which is next to godliness, as well as the greatest regularity, predominate here; and all the persons employed about the place, at the same time that they perform most strictly the several duties allotted to them, conduct themselves in the most becoming manner. Although I am in a dungeon I have at present no reason to complain. Last night I began to write the history of my life, which I intend to publish in numbers monthly; the first number will be published in a fortnight*"

* Similar accounts were continued to be published for some

That at the Gaol Sessions, held there on the 6th day of July last, it was at the request of the said Henry Hunt ordered, that he and the said John Kinnear should be permitted to see visiters in their said room, from nine o'clock in the morning until sun-set, until further orders: and for the further accommodation of the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, they were permitted to walk in the said factory yard, at all such times as should be deemed proper by Deponent, except during the hours of labour; and they were also permitted to dine at Deponent's table, when convenient to Deponent, the time of the meal being limited to one hour; that the said Henry Hunt, did several times afterwards dine at the Deponent's table, till at length the said Henry Hunt voluntarily withdrew himself from so dining at the Deponent's table.

That subsequent to the said last-mentioned orders, the said Henry Hunt was often visited in his apartments by many persons; and from the 31st day of July to the 20th of August, he was daily visited in his said day or sitting room, by a *Mrs. Vince*, with whom, as the Depo-

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months after the arrival of this man; besides which, his discourse to his friends and visiters proved to them how much he was pleased with my conduct towards him. About the month of August, 1820, a Mr. Balster, of Sherborne, and two other gentlemen, being in his room, the conversation turned on the heat of the weather, when he said, "That very few gentlemen enjoyed so comfortable a room as he did; that the Governor did every thing in his power to make all persons under his care comfortable and happy; see," said he, "the prisoners are now watering my court and passages to keep it cold. If all the men in this kingdom had, upon their oaths, said, that under *this* government there was one Gaol where all the duties were well and truly performed, I would not have believed them, but I now find, by my own experience, there is one, and this is the very one."

nent hath heard and believes, the said Henry Hunt had previously cohabited for some time, she being the wife of a Mr. Vince, and the said Henry Hunt being also a married man; and that the said Mrs. Vince generally remained with the said Henry Hunt, during the greatest part of the time allowed by the last-mentioned order: That a young lady, of the name of Gray, also visited the said Henry Hunt, often during the same period, in the day or sitting-room; and that dinners, wine, and other liquors, were brought from the inn, in the town of Ilchester, unto the said Gaol, for the entertainment of the said Henry Hunt, and the said female and other visiters.

That these latter circumstances having been represented to the Magistrates of the said County, who were assembled at the Assizes at Wells, on the 14th day of August, by the visiting Magistrates of the said Gaol, or some of them, and by Deponent; an order was prepared by the Clerk of the Peace of the said County, and signed by the said Magistrates, and also by Mr. William Melliar, the Under Sheriff, of which the following is a copy:

"Wells, 14th August, 1820. It appearing, that inconveniences having arisen in consequence of certain orders, rules, and regulations, which were made by the visiting and other Justices, assembled at the Gaol at Ilchester, on Thursday, the 6th day of July last, it is now ordered, that such orders, rules, and regulations, (excepting such parts thereof as relate to the improvements of the wards in which Henry Hunt and John Kinnear are confined, as also to the permission granted to them to walk in the manufactory yard, and to their employment of two prisoners as servants,) be rescinded; and that in future, no female visiters, except the *wives and children* of the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear,

be admitted into their private rooms; and male visiters be therein admitted, only between the hours of nine till twelve o'clock in the forenoon, and three to four o'clock in the afternoon: and it is further ordered, that the keeper of the said Gaol do not permit any prisoner to board or lodge in his house." That such order was signed by the following twenty Magistrates of the said County; viz. John Wiltshire, Vincent Stuckey, George Edward Allen, and William Clarke, esqrs. Sir John Cox Hippesly, bart. the Rev. J. S. Phillott, and Richard Thomas Whalley, clerks: Sir Abraham Elton, bart. the Rev. Dr. Colston, and Aaron Moody, esq. (then two of the visiting Magistrates of the said Gaol;) John Phelips, John Stuart Hippisley, Francis Drake, Richard Thomas Combe, John Thring, the Rev. Thomas Coney, and J. G. D. Thring, clerks; Thomas Strangways Horner, William Hanning, and L. St. Albyn, esqrs. and by Mr. William Melliar, the Under Sheriff of the said County.

That notice of the said order was first given by the Deponent to the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, on the 20th day of August last; who had then no visiter or visiters with them in the said Gaol.

That shortly afterwards the said Mrs. Vince and Miss Gray came to visit the said Henry Hunt, who refused to see them unless they were admitted into his private apartment, which the Deponent did not permit, as being contrary to the said last-mentioned order.

That at the Gaol Sessions there held, on the 12th day of October last, the said Henry Hunt having by a letter complained of the restriction contained in the said order of the 14th day of August, and of other matters, it was ordered by the visiting and other Magistrates then present, that copies of all the orders relative to the said

Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, with copies of their respective commitments, should be laid before the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be held at Taunton, on the Monday following; which was done accordingly: when the said Court of Quarter Sessions ordered, that the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, should be permitted to receive their respective *wives* and *children*, and also male visiters, in their own wards, (the number not exceeding four persons at any one time,) between the hours of nine in the forenoon and four in the afternoon, from Michaelmas to Lady-day, and between the hours of nine in the forenoon and seven in the afternoon, from Lady-day to Michaelmas: and that no female visiters *(except as aforesaid)* be admitted to the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, but at the usual hours, in the debtors' visiting-room, at the said Gaol; unless upon some urgent occasion, allowed by and stated in an order first obtained from one of the visiting Justices of the said Gaol, or the Sheriff of the said County of Somerset.

That no person or persons who hath or have applied at the said Gaol, to see the said Henry Hunt or John Kinnear, was or were refused admittance, to them or either of them, during the hours and under the said existing orders and regulations; nor hath or have any such person or persons, on any occasion, been treated in a brutal and savage, or any other unkind or improper manner by Deponent, or by any of the officers of the said Gaol, to Deponent's knowledge or belief.

That the said Henry Hunt hath not been treated by Deponent, nor by any officers of the said Gaol, to Deponent's knowledge or belief, in a cruel or any unkind way, on the contrary, the Deponent hath done, and still

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is anxious, consistently with his duty, to do every thing that can in any way add to the comfort, convenience, and accommodation of the said Henry Hunt.

That the said Henry Hunt hath not sustained any solitary confinement in the day-time, except during the period of divine service in the chapel of the said Gaol, on Sundays, and on Christmas-day last past: which generally continues about an hour and a half; when, inasmuch as the said John Kinnear, and the two other prisoners appointed to attend on the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, as aforesaid, together with all the other prisoners and officers of the said Gaol, are attending divine service in the said chapel, which the said Henry Hunt refuses to attend, and is the only prisoner in the said Gaol, who does not without good cause attend: and as one of the walls of the said wards, is the boundary or outside wall of the said Gaol, and the back wall, it is not safe to suffer him, the said Henry Hunt, to have range of the yards of the said wards, during such period, and therefore the outer door of his apartment is locked, during the said period of divine service, for the safe custody only of the said Henry Hunt, and not by way of increased punishment; and that such door is regularly unlocked as soon as divine service is over; and that the doors of all other prisoners, who from sickness or other cause, do not attend such divine service, are locked in like manner.

That the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear have much more liberty, and more comforts extended to them, than to any other prisoner or prisoners, confined in the said Gaol for misdemeanors; or to any debtor, or to any other prisoner or prisoners whatsoever, confined in the said Gaol.

That the apartment of the said Henry Hunt was, some time before he was placed therein, appropriated to the residence of a female turnkey, who superintended the ward allotted to female prisoners; and that at that time, the internal fastenings of the doors, referred to in the affidavit of the said Henry Hunt, had been fixed for the safety and security of such female turnkey; but that such internal fastenings were removed after the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear were placed in the said ward, when the improvements of the said ward were making; such internal fastenings being, as Deponent apprehends, inconsistent with the proper management of a prison, and might be used by the prisoner confined, to prevent the ready access of the Deponent or his officers, to the said apartment, in case such access should at any time be deemed necessary.

That the Deponent has long known the said Edmund Broderip, who has many times served the office of Under Sheriff of the said County; that after the said order of the 14th day of August had been handed to, and perused by the Deponent, he, the Deponent, having some doubts as to the construction of the said order, and the intention of the Magistrates, asked the said Edmund Broderip, who had attended some of the meetings at the Gaol, as before stated, and who the Deponent considered was competent thereto, to give this Deponent his opinion thereon, who there wrote in the Deponent's presence, the words or to the effect following. "Sir, I conceive that no visiters ought to be admitted into the private rooms, except in the hours mentioned in the accompanying order; and I think the general rule, as to the admission of visiters into the conversation or visiting room, still remains as it was, and includes *both* the prisoners in ques-

tion, who are entitled to the benefit of it; but when either of these gentlemen choose to remove from their private apartment to the visiting-room, to see any friends there, all visiters then in the private apartment ought to quit the Gaol. If you wish for any further information, I think you should apply to the visiting Magistrates.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant, Edmund Broderip, Wells, 20th of August, 1820."

That the said Edmund Broderip hath not, at any personal interview with, or by letter to Deponent, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, directed, advised, or requested the Deponent, to treat the said Henry Hunt in a cruel, or in any unkind or harsh manner; that the before-mentioned written opinion or letter, of the said Edmund Broderip, is the same which the said Henry Hunt has referred to in his affidavit, as having been produced by the Deponent to the said visiting Magistrates, Aaron Moody, esq. and the Rev. Dr. Colston, as a justification for cruelties, therein charged by the said Henry Hunt to have been inflicted on him by Deponent; but Deponent saith, that such allegation was, and is untrue, as Deponent never inflicted, or caused to be inflicted, any cruelties on the said Henry Hunt, nor produced such letter to the said visiting Magistrates, for the purpose stated by the said Henry Hunt in his affidavit.

That the Deponent knows Francis Drake, mentioned in the said affidavit of the said Henry Hunt, who is one of the acting Magistrates of the said County of Somerset; but the Deponent never heard, nor does he believe, that the said Edmund Broderip, is an agent of, or in any way connected with, the said Francis Drake.

That the several persons who are confined for misdemeanors, in the said Gaol, (except the said Henry Hunt

and John Kinnear,) are confined in a ward with other prisoners for slight offences; and that there is a yard attached to the said ward, for the several prisoners confined in that ward, to walk and take exercise in; but that such said several prisoners last-mentioned, are not permitted to walk for exercise or amusement in the yard of the said factory, or in any other yard, save that attached to their said ward; nor have debtors, or any other prisoners who are confined in the said Gaol, permission to walk or take exercise or amusement in any other yard of the said Gaol, save the yard attached to each ward respectively.

That in case the prisoners confined in the said Gaol, either as debtors, or for misdemeanors, or any other offence, were permitted to have the free range of the different yards of the said Gaol, or if females were to be indiscriminately admitted to them, much insubordination, indecorum, confusion, and mischief would be occasioned thereby; and that it would not be possible to keep the prisoners confined in the said Gaol, in a state of temperance, decorum, and decent and orderly behaviour; or to manage and govern the said Gaol in a proper manner, or consistent with morality, and the safe custody of the prisoners confined therein.

That Deponent verily believes, the apprehension of the said Henry Hunt that he shall meet with some bodily harm in the said Gaol, as stated in his affidavit, is without any foundation; that the said Henry Hunt appears to the Deponent, to be in as good health as he was when he first entered the said Gaol on the 17th of May last; that he hath not sustained any bodily injury or pecuniary losses, owing to any treatment or privations attributable to the said rules and regulations of the said Gaol, or the said orders which have been so made; and that the said

Henry Hunt, would not have made any complaint against the Sheriff, the Under Sheriff, the Magistrates of the said County, the said Edmund Broderip, or the Deponent, if the said order of the 6th day of July last had not been altered; he, the said Henry Hunt, having repeatedly expressed himself to that effect to Deponent before, and at the time of, the service on the Deponent of the rule obtained by him, the said Henry Hunt, against the said Sheriff and the Deponent, on the 22nd or 23rd day of November last, and since that time.

That the debtors' visiting-room, in which the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear are permitted to see such persons as are by the said order of the 16th day of October last, restricted from admission into their ward, is not the room or place where felons, convicts, and persons charged with and convicted of unnatural crimes, beastiality, and murder, see and meet their associates; nor have prisoners of that description access to the said debtors' visiting-room, unless for the purpose of consulting their solicitors on business.

That Deponent hath been informed and believes, that on the 13th day of December last, whilst the Deponent was absent from the said Gaol in the removal of prisoners, the said Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, the Sheriff, came to the said Gaol, and saw the said Henry Hunt, and entered the following order in the Magistrates' Journal of the said Gaol:—

"*Ilchester Gaol, Dec.* 15, 1820.

"Mr. Hunt is to be allowed to receive the visits of his *female* as well as male friends, from nine in the morning till 4 in the afternoon, in his private room.

(Signed) CHAS. W. BAMPFYLDE, High Sheriff."

And that some day after making the said order, the said

Mrs. Vince and Miss Gray applied for admission to the said Henry Hunt, and they were and since have been daily admitted to the said Henry Hunt, in his said apartment, on application for that purpose, without any hindrance or denial of the Deponent, or of the turnkey of the said Gaol, as Deponent verily believes.

The affidavit of EDWARD SHEPPARD, *a prisoner confined solely for debt in Ilchester Gaol, sworn 24th of Nov.* 1820.

That he knows Henry Hunt, late of Middleton-cottage, in the County of Hants, but now also a prisoner in the said Gaol for a misdemeanor.

That Deponent hath occasionally met the said Henry Hunt, in the room called the conversation-room of the said Gaol, and hath heard him say, that he was very happy; more so than he had been for many years; that every body was very civil and kind to him, and that he did not feel his imprisonment: or words to that or the like effect.

The affidavit of THOMAS DAVIS, *turnkey of the Gaol at Ilchester, sworn 24th of Nov.* 1820.

That on the 30th day of July last, Mrs. Vince visited Henry Hunt, late of Middleton-cottage, in the County of Hants, but then and still a prisoner in the said Gaol.

That the said Henry Hunt conducted the said Mrs. Vince to his sitting-room, and observed to her, that such room was as good as his sitting-room at home.

That Deponent was, at that time, in the daily habit of taking Mr. Hunt's dinner to him, and that Deponent hath frequently heard Mr. Hunt say to his visiters, he was very comfortable, and the people (meaning those having the care of the Gaol) were very kind to him.

Affidavit of AARON MOODY, *of Kingsdon, esquire, sworn 24th of Nov.* 1820.

That Deponent is one of the Magistrates named and deposed to by Henry Hunt, late of Middleton-cottage in the County of Hants, but now a prisoner in his Majesty's Gaol at Ilchester, in the County of Somerset, in and by the affidavit of said Henry Hunt, referred to by the rule obtained by him, from this Honourable Court, against the Sheriff of Somersetshire, and the keeper of said Gaol.

That Deponent, as one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, was present at a meeting of such Magistrates, on the 14th day of August last, when the order stated by the said affidavit to have been then made on the suggestion of Francis Drake, esq. was decided upon.

That such order was not made at the particular suggestion of the said Francis Drake, but by the body of Magistrates then assembled.

That said Henry Hunt stated to Deponent and the Rev. Dr. Colston, as visiting Magistrates, that a Miss Gray had property left her in Ireland, and that she had occasion to consult him, the said Henry Hunt, as her guardian, on the subject of such property; but that to the best of Deponent's recollection and belief, neither this Deponent or the Rev. Dr. Colston was ever applied to by or for Miss Gray, to allow her to see Henry Hunt.

That he was present at the Quarter Sessions at Taunton, on the 16th day of October, when the order of that date referred to, in and by the said affidavit of the said Henry Hunt, was also made; and that Francis Drake, esq. was not then present. That the said order was made after due consideration, and that according to the best of Deponent's judgment and belief, the same is essential to the good government and regulation of the said Gaol.

Affidavit of FRANCIS DRAKE, *esq. of Wells, sworn the 25th of Nov.* 1820.

That he was one of the Magistrates assembled at Wells, on the 14th of August last, as stated in the affidavit of the said Henry Hunt; that although the proceedings which then took place, did not originate with the Deponent, the order to which they ultimately led, met with his entire approbation and concurrence, manifested by his signature annexed thereto; but Deponent denies that the share which he took in making such order, originated in any desire to oppress the said Henry Hunt, or to deprive him of any indulgencies which are consistent with the good order and management of the said Gaol.

That Deponent hath been informed, that the said Henry Hunt had taken an improper advantage, of an order that had been made on the 6th day of July last, by introducing into the Gaol, a female visiter of the name of Vince, said to be the wife of a Mr. Vince, the said Henry Hunt being a married man; and that it appeared to Deponent that such visits were utterly inconsistent with public decorum, and with the due government of the Gaol, and with the rules and regulations of the

the same, which were adopted many years ago, as stated in the affidavit of William Bridle, the keeper of the said Gaol.

That Deponent hath not interfered in any manner or respect whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, with regard to the said Henry Hunt, except as aforesaid: and that he verily believes, that the indulgencies which the said Henry Hunt now enjoys, are greater than those which are allowed by the general rules of the Gaol, and such as no other prisoner for misdemeanors has been hitherto permitted to enjoy.

That Mr. Edmund Broderip, of Wells, neither is, or ever was, an agent of Deponent's; and that Deponent never had any conversation or communication whatever, directly or indirectly, with the said Edmund Broderip, the Sheriff of the County, the Under Sheriff, or the said William Bridle, respecting the said Henry Hunt, excepting only on the 14th day of August above mentioned, at the meeting of the Magistrates aforesaid, when the said Edmund Broderip was present on behalf of the Under Sheriff.

Further Affidavit of the said FRANCIS DRAKE, *esq. sworn 29th of November*, 1820.

That Deponent was not present at the last General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, holden for the said County; and that it is not true that the Deponent took any share, either directly or indirectly, or in any manner whatsoever, in any discussions which might have there arisen, touching any of the matters alluded to in the affidavit of the said Henry Hunt. And that Deponent did not even know that any such discussion had actually

taken place at such Session, until Saturday last, the 25th of November instant, when he saw the allegation of such a fact in the said affidavit of the said Henry Hunt.

The affidavit of JOHN QUANTOCK, *of Norton-under-Hamden, County of Somerset, esq. and* RICHARD THOMAS WHALLEY, *of Yeovilton, in the said County, Clerk, sworn 24th of Nov.* 1820.

Severally say, that they are two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the said County.

That the Justices of the Peace assembled at the General Quarter Sessions, held at Taunton, in and for the said County, on the 16th day of October last, did, by and with the consent and approbation of the High Sheriff of the said County, make their order respecting the said Henry Hunt and one John Kinnear, prisoners in his Majesty's Gaol of the said County: Whereby it was ordered, that certain orders, made by the said Justices of the said County, on the 6th day of July and 14th of August last past, relative to the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, which had been made by the visiting Magistrates of the said Gaol, and Magistrates of the said County, should be rescinded; and that the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear should be permitted to receive the respective wives and children, and also male visiters, in their own wards, the numbers not exceeding four persons at any one time, between the hours of nine in the forenoon and four in the afternoon, from Michaelmas to Lady-day, and from the hour of nine in the forenoon to the hour of seven in the afternoon, from Lady-day to Michaelmas: and that no female visiters (except as aforesaid) should be admitted to the said Henry Hunt and

John Kinnear, but at the usual hours, in the debtors' visiting-room, at the said Gaol, unless upon some urgent occasion, allowed by, and stated in, an order first obtained for that purpose, from one of the visiting Justices of the said Gaol, or the Sheriff of the said County.

Say, that they are the two of the visiting Magistrates named by the said Henry Hunt in his affidavit, and the paper-writing thereto annexed, respectively referred to by the rule obtained by the said Henry Hunt, against the Sheriff of Somersetshire, and the keeper of the said Gaol.

That Deponents, as such visiting Magistrates of the said Gaol, for the time being, (John Goodford, esq. the other visiting Magistrate, being also present,) were, on the 28th day of October last past, applied to by the said Henry Hunt, for an interpretation of the latter part of the said order, made on the said 16th day of that month, relating to the non-admission of females, unless upon some urgent occasion.

That Deponents, with the said John Goodford, did upon that occasion acquaint the said Henry Hunt, that although it was their wish to act in the most liberal manner towards a person in his, the said Henry Hunt's situation, they did not consider themselves authorized by the said order, to permit the *unrestricted* admission of females into his own ward; but that in case of emergency, such as private business of importance or sickness, an immediate order for that purpose would be granted, on application to either of the visiting Magistrates.

Say, that in their judgment, the said order of the 16th day of October last, is essential for the good government of the said Gaol.

The affidavit of EDMUND BRODERIP, *of Wells, in the County of Somerset, gentleman, sworn the 24th of November,* 1820.

That in the month of February last, Deponent was, by Gerard Martin Berkeley Napier, esq. Sheriff of the County of Somerset, appointed Under Sheriff of the said County; that in consequence of the death of the said Gerard Martin Berkeley Napier, which happened in the month of May last, Deponent performed or executed the office of Sheriff of the said County, for nearly six weeks, until Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, bart. the present Sheriff, was sworn into the office of Sheriff of the said County, who appointed William Melliar, of Wells, gentleman, to be his Under Sheriff.

That within a few days after the death of the said Gerard Martin Berkeley Napier, the said Henry Hunt was delivered into the custody of William Bridle, keeper of the Gaol at Ilchester, in the said County; and that early in the month of June last, the visiting Magistrates of the said Gaol, together with other acting Magistrates of the said County, and Deponent, met at the said Gaol, and gave orders and directions for the accommodation and comfort of the said Henry Hunt, which accommodations and comforts were afterwards, by subsequent orders of the Justices of the said County, considerably increased.

That after the order of the 14th day of August last, referred to in the affidavit of the said Henry Hunt, had been delivered to the said William Bridle, he, the said William Bridle, asked the Deponent's opinion as to the effect of the said order, which Deponent gave him accordingly.

That Deponent attended at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held at Taunton, on the 16th day

of October last, for and in the place of the said William Melliar, the Under Sheriff, who was then absent from the said County, to return the Jurors to the said General Quarter Sessions, (which Deponent is by the said Sheriff authorized to do, and to do any other official acts for the said William Melliar,) but Deponent denies that he then was, or now is, an agent of Francis Drake, esq. an acting magistrate of the said County, or that he is any way concerned with the said Francis Drake, or that the said Francis Drake was present at such last-mentioned Sessions. And Deponent denies, that in any personal interview he had with the said William Bridle, or in any letter which Deponent has written to the said William Bridle, relative to the said Henry Hunt, or in any other way whatsoever, he, Deponent, hath influenced or directed the said Wm. Bridle, to treat the said Henry Hunt in a cruel manner, as stated in the affidavit of the said Henry Hunt.

The affidavit of JOHN GOODFORD, *esq. of Yeovil, sworn the 10th of January,* 1821.

States, that he is one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the said County of Somerset; and that he was, on the 16th day of October last, appointed one of the visiting Magistrates of the Gaol of Ilchester, within the said County.

That he has seen the copy of an affidavit made on the 24th day of November last, by John Quantock, esq. and the Rev. Richard Thomas Whalley, respecting an order which was made and confirmed on the 16th day of October last, at the Michaelmas General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held at Taunton, within the said County, with regard to Henry Hunt and John Kinnear,

(prisoners in the Gaol of Ilchester aforesaid,) the contents of which affidavit he believes to be strictly true.

That at the time when the said John Quantock, esq. and Richard Thomas Whalley made their joint affidavit, relating to the order aforesaid, he had removed from his residence at Yeovil, aforesaid, to the City of Bath, on account of ill health; and that he was therefore at too great a distance from them, to allow of the possibility of any communication with them on the subject, or to admit of his being apprized of the circumstances, so as to enable him to prepare a separate affidavit, for the purpose of being laid before your honourable Court on the 21st day of November last.

OBSERVATIONS.

It will be seen by the foregoing affidavit of William Bridle, that the charge of Mr. Hunt's being placed in a damp cell, and his having been treated with cruelty is untrue. It will also appear, that the rules and orders for the government of the Gaol, were made many years before he was sent to Ilchester.

That the Magistrates (who, by the statute 32nd Geo. II. chap. 28, section 6, have alone the power to make proper rules and orders for the better government of Gaols and prisoners,) have enlarged and modified those rules and orders, in favor of Hunt and Kinnear, and greater liberty and indulgencies have been extended towards them than to any other prisoner in the Gaol, whether confined for debt, or any criminal charge. It will also be seen that the solitary confinement and the removal of the internal fastenings, which Hunt complains of, are satisfactorily accounted for.

CHAPTER X.

I trust my readers have patiently and carefully perused the foregoing affidavits, as they plainly and forcibly prove the falsehood of the statements Hunt has been giving to the world. For my own part, I am conscious that I gave the Orator no cause of offence, but that of enforcing the orders of the Magistrates. They very properly deemed it to be indecorous, that adultery should be carried on within the walls of a Gaol, and directed such intercourse to be prevented; the carrying that direction into execution, brought on me all the virulence, and rage, and venom of the infuriated prisoner.* From this period nothing was wanting, that malice and perjury could effect, to injure me; and I need only relate one circumstance, to shew the nature of the means employed against me.

A prisoner, of the name of William Chidley, had been discharged from the Gaol, and became a resident in Taunton. This man, whilst in confinement, was employed as a servant by Henry Hunt. On the day of his discharge, he brought me the paper subjoined in the

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* In a letter addressed to the Radicals, (in his Memoirs,) "On the 12th day of the second year after the Manchester Massacre," he complains of the Rules and Orders of the Gaol, and states, "I have now denominated this place the Ilchester Bastile, because, from the new restrictions imposed, and the cruel tortures inflicted upon me, without even the shadow of complaint having been preferred against me, it is made nearly to resemble the description we have heard of the Bastile in Paris, before the French Revolution." This is his first letter after the order of the 14th of August, all his previous letters are dated "*Ilchester Gaol;*" It is, therefore, the orders of the Magistrates, and not any act of mine, that has caused their Gaol to be so designated.

margin,* stating to me, that "I had better take care of myself, for that Hunt was determined to ruin me." I asked him, 'Why?' He said, "He did not know, but that he had heard Hunt frequently declare it;" and added, that "he had received money from him to treat the other prisoners, that day discharged, for the purpose of desiring them to tell him, whether they could testify any thing against me." I bade him 'Go, and do as Hunt had directed him;' but I have reason to know, the prisoners to a man, (ten in number,) declared they had no complaint to make whatsoever. The subjoined letter†

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* "TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

"*Ilchester Bastile, Jan.* 15*th*, 1821.

"This is to certify, that William Chedley, being a prisoner in this place, was appointed by the Gaoler to wait upon me as my servant, which he has done for nine weeks honestly, attentively, and faithfully; therefore, he is entitled to the kind consideration of all true Radicals.

"Given under my hand and seal, this fifteenth day of January, 1821.

"HENRY HUNT."

"*Wilton, Feb.* 23, 1821.

† "SIR,

"I saw Chudleigh some time after he was discharged from your Gaol, and he told me he brought a letter for Mr. Jacobs; but he met Mr. Shillebeer in the street, and told him that he had a letter from Mr. Hunt to Mr. Jacobs; Mr. Shillebeer desired him to give him the letter for Mr. Jacobs, which he did. A day or two after he met Mr. Shillebeer again in the street, and Shillebeer asked him, "If Mr. Hunt did not give him a character?" he told him 'He did, but he had not got it, for he left it with Mr. Bridle, as he thought a character would be of little service to him, coming from a prisoner in a Gaol.' Shillebeer asked him "If you refused to let him have it;" and he said, 'No: for I thought it would be of no service, and

from

from the keeper of the Gaol at Taunton, will fully corroborate this narration.

About eleven weeks afterwards, however, the before-mentioned Mr. Shillibeer, of Taunton, an agent of Hunt's, sends for this Chidley, plies him with liquor, gives him money, and at length induces him to sign a paper, of whose nature, the man, nearly intoxicated, is utterly ignorant. Some days after, Shillibeer again meets this man, gives him more money, and tells him, "*His petition is presented to the House of Commons.*" Chidley, amazed, enquires 'What petition?' and demands to know its import. On being informed, he energetically exclaimed, 'I never had cause of complaint against Mr. Bridle in my life, and you have deceived me.'

Such was the mode practised to procure petitions against me, to be forwarded to the House of Commons; and I humbly implore that Honorable House to cite me to their bar, to substantiate the fact.* If I mistake not, an imposition on that Honorable House is a *crime.* Let

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therefore I left it with Mr. Bridle;' and Chudleigh said, 'he told Shillebeer that you told him, he should have it at any time when he chose to send for it;' Chudleigh also told me, that Mr. Hunt asked him, "if there were not to be some more prisoners discharged besides himself?" he said, 'I believe there are:' then Mr. Hunt said, "I will give you some money to drink my health; and ask them if they have any complaint to make against the keeper or the turnkeys, and if they have, to let me know; and I will *work them for it*;" Chudleigh said, 'they all met in the town, but he did not hear any of them say they had any complaint to make.'

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"ALEXANDER GANE."

* This petition was presented by Mr. Hume, on the 2nd of April, 1821, and in the papers of the day, is set forth as the petition of A PRISONER, HEAVILY IRONED, AND SUFFERING HARDSHIPS IN ILCHESTER GAOL!

me have the means of drawing down just punishment on the heads of these infamous conspirators, and I am satisfied.

My chief foe has laboured hard to show to the world his real character, and he has not laboured in vain, for he has given it a high colouring.* However he may

* Hunt, in his Memoirs, page 310, 311, gives an account of the birth of his first child, and describes repeated assaults made on him, by those then present, to procure a wet nurse, &c. on which he states, "I heard all they had to say, but I stuck to my point like a hero." Again, "At the end of two days, the grand attack was made by three matrons, the nurse, and the doctor; they all came down stairs in a body, loudly declaring that they would not force the poor weak mother to destroy herself by such a course; that the child must certainly die; that it was starved already; that unless I would suffer them to send for a wet nurse in the morning, they would leave the house, and I might stay and kill the child myself, for that they would not stay to be witness of the murder. I saw through the premeditated assault, and was immovably silent; one said it was cruel, another that it was indecent, a third that it was hard-hearted, and a fourth that I did not deserve such a wife or child, for I wished to kill the one and break the heart of the other. I told them if they would remain below, I would go up and consult my wife. I found her bathed in tears for the safety of the child; I assured her the child was in perfect health, and it had been born then nearly three days. Having left the child comfortably asleep, I returned down stairs to the matrons; I told them I had no doubt but the mother and child would do very well, if they would leave her alone: this enraged them, they insisted, &c. 'Well,' said I very calmly but very determinedly, 'if it must be so it must; If you are of the same mind to-morrow, and the doctor confirms your opinion, I will kill the puppies, and it shall suck my beautiful setter, Juno, with all my heart, but by God, it shall never taste the milk of another woman, while its mother is alive and as well able to nurse it as she now is." Hunt is soon after spending his evening with some friends and he narrates, "About eleven o'clock a message was brought me that my child was very ill; I mounted my horse and reached my house, when I entered the room, Oh God! the child was lying dead

succeed in triumphing over innocence now, the day must arrive when he will meet retribution. I know no one description of men who have escaped his libellous abuse, excepting, only, his own wretched and deluded proselytes —the King—the venerable Ministers of our Holy Religion—the Ministers of our Government—the learned Judges of the land—and indeed all that is sacred and binding in society, are the continual objects of his vituperation and derision.

Extract from the Political Lecture on Heads.

Now such is the *snuffling petitioner's* friend,
Who aims to destroy, what he swears to defend;
The knave who occasion'd the bloodshed and woe,
Which the Manchester victims have shewn and still shew:
The High Priest of Riot, commotion and plunder,
The tyrant o'er *all* whom his threats can keep under;
The filthy accuser of innocent men,
For crimes which we scorn here to mention again;
The ruddy vicegerent of cobblers and thieves
The quack who derides all the FOOLS he deceives;
Who lives without shame with another man's wife,
And thinks fornication the zest of his life;
Who looks upon justice, and virtue, and truth,
As things of no value, or beauty forsooth:
Makes a jest of decorum, a joke of propriety,
And longs to unlink all the bonds of society:
But enough of this wretch—his detestable plots
Are only supported by blackguards and sots.

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in its mother's lap, the mother speechless, with her eyes rivetted upon her lifeless offspring."

Who would have thought that any man could be so depraved as to have acted thus; but having so acted, who would have thought his weakness would have betrayed him to the publication of it!

CHAPTER XI.

IN my last chapter I have succinctly declared to my readers, that the only cause of my becoming obnoxious to the prisoner Hunt, was my being the instrument to carry into effect, orders that happened to obstruct the gratification of his passions. Mean, and despicably revengeful, he conceived, probably, that the servant was more easily destroyed than the master; and, therefore, the servant should be attacked, whether innocent or guilty. Had he possessed either the feelings of a man, or the heart of a gentleman, he would have reflected, that if he was aggrieved, the grievance sprung from a higher power than myself. I was the mere organ of that power, bound to obey it, whether it issued mandates that confined him solitarily to his ward, or admitted to him all the rabble of society. But, no, the venom of the reptile was overflowing, and meanly fearing to attack the Magistrates, he must spit it out upon the head of the devoted Gaoler.

I had long been aware of the conspiracy that was hatching against me; I knew that the dæmon had long been brooding over the crocodile egg of mingled falsehood and villainy, his own brain had brought forth, and that the period of incubation was nearly at its close. Accordingly, in the month of April, 1821, appeared that work entitled, "A Peep into Ilchester Bastile;" a work

which I boldly affirm to be one entire falsehood from the beginning to the end.

At the time this celebrated pamphlet made its appearance, I was at Taunton attending the duty of the assizes; a copy of it was immediately forwarded to me by one of my officers, together with a statement that it had been industriously circulated in the Gaol, and that the prisoners were in a state of disorder and open mutiny. I immediately enclosed that same pamphlet, (so received by me,) to the Under Sheriff of the County, together with a letter, requesting that he would be pleased to lay the same before the Sheriff and Magistrates; and further praying that an immediate enquiry might be instituted into my conduct, in order that the falsehoods contained in the said pamphlet might be fully exposed, and the libellous writer brought to the judgment he merited.

It will be seen, by this circumstance, that I adopted a fair, open, and manly procedure: I knew the character of my accuser too well, to doubt, that any thing malignity could suggest, or perjury sustain, would be wanting to destroy me; but I knew, also, that my conscience acquitted me of all intentional error; and, that open investigation, if conducted with fairness and impartiality, would, must indeed, necessarily acquit me. That open investigation I immediately courted; and the High Sheriff appointed a day for the sitting of himself and a Committee of the Magistracy, to commence the proceeding.

Prior, however, to the arrival of the day in question, in consequence of the several petitions Hunt had got up and forwarded to the House of Commons, a Commission was issued under the Great Seal, to enquire into the treatment of the prisoners, and the state of the Gaol. Notwithstanding the knowledge of this Commission, the

Committee of Magistrates met at Ilchester on the 19th day of April, and proceeded into the investigation of my conduct. Mr. Hunt opened the business, and addressed the Sheriff and Magistrates, requesting the Under Sheriff and Clerk of the Peace not to interrupt him, as it was a Committee of the *Sheriff and Magistrates alone.* —The Under Sheriff and Clerk af the Peace, however, stated in reply, that they should act officially in their respective capacities. Mr. Hunt proceeded to state his case, and produce his witnesses. On the first day I had no person to interfere on my behalf, relying, that the Magistrates would protect me, and would see that a due course of proceedings was adopted. To my astonishment and grief, however, I thought I discovered amazing partiality shewn to my accuser; and I instantly imagined they feared implication on their own parts, and would, to avoid it, even coalesce with Hunt, to procure my ruin.

It was plain to me then, that my thirteen years of faithful and anxious services were forgetten—that I stood alone, exposed to the storm of malignity the infamy of my accuser had risen. I saw, that so far from receiving that protection I merited from the Committee, there were some amongst them, against whose wiliness I had to contend, and whose hostility towards me was obvious. I immediately, therefore, called in to my assistance my solicitor, Mr. White, who attended for me during the remainder of the proceedings. At the end of fourteen days, Hunt was pleased to notify that he had closed his case, and I was called on to produce my defence that day week. My solicitor remonstrated against the shortness of the period allotted me, but the Committee peremptorily refused to grant me an hour longer. Such was my first reward.

I instantly repaired to London, to obtain proper advice as to the course I should pursue. On my arrival there, I ascertained *the Commission* was going down instanter. Under these circumstances, I applied for the opinion of Counsel, whether it would be proper for me to advance my defence before the Committee, seeing that I should have to re-produce the same defence, and the same witnesses to support it, immediately, before a higher tribunal. I stated in the case submitted to my counsel, that I entertained the highest respect for the Magistrates composing the Committee, and I would not wish to adopt any course that might be considered disrespectful towards them; but, considering the manner in which the case had been conducted, managed, and advocated by my accuser, I submitted that my protection required that mode of defence, which the wisdom and practise of the law pointed out as the true road to justice.

I subjoin the opinion of my Counsel;* upon which I acted. It was clear, that as the Sheriff and Magistrates

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* "It being a matter of notoriety that his Majesty has been pleased, in pursuance of an address from the Commons House of Parliament, to order a Commission to issue to inquire into the state of Ilchester Gaol, and for the investigation of charges, imputing misconduct to Mr. Bridle; and as it is ascertained, that the Commissioners are forthwith to proceed on the enquiry specially delegated to them, we are of opinion, that it would be a departure from the known principles of justice, to require Mr. Bridle to disclose, to the party accusing him, the nature and proof of his defence, before such investigation legally commences. It is clear that the proceedings before the Committee of Magistrates will be no evidence before the Commissioners; and after Mr. Bridle has incurred the expense and labour of a long and arduous defence before the Magistrates, it will be useless and unavailing to him before the Commission. We have no

were a self-constituted Court, I had no power of prosecuting any perjurers that might be there brought against me; it was notorious, also, that a high and solemn Tribunal had been constituted by the Government to investigate my conduct, and that to require me to produce the same body of evidence, before *two Courts*, was entailing on me an expense my finances would not bear, and was, moreover, both cruel and unjust, independent also of the utter impossibility of my attending two Courts at the same time, for the Commissioners had now commenced their sittings.

Yet to this strait did the Committee wantonly reduce me; they impugned my motives; they rejected the opinion of my Counsel; they wilfully and determinately tergiversated the only means left me to procure true and sound justice; and finally, they delivered their verdict against me, without hearing my defence, without deigning to receive and peruse the defence I had made before the Commissioners on oath, an attested copy of which I offered to present them, and entailed on me the alternative of receiving judgment unheard, or the enormous expense of re-embodying my witnesses; an expense which they well knew I was utterly unable to bear.

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hesitation therefore, in advising Mr. Bridle respectfully to decline, under those circumstances, to enter on his defence before the Committee of Magistrates; and we are persuaded, that those gentlemen, on consideration, will perceive the unnecessary hardship of imposing on Mr. B. the labour and expense of proceedings which cannot accelerate or promote the ends of justice, and which an immediate and more regular investigation on oath, duly administered, will render nugatory.

"ABRAHAM MOORE,
"CHAS. FRED. WILLIAMS."

"*May* 22, 1821,
"*King's-Bench-Walks, Temple.*

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It was in vain I ardently, yet respectfully, protested against such conduct; (see appendix K;) *they passed their judgment on me unheard*, and my years of faithful, honest, and arduous services were all forgotten. I had spent the prime of my life, and wasted my best energies under their own eye, and within their own approbation; and thus was I treated, *because I would not throw away the last remainder of the little pittance I had so hardly gathered in their employ.*

I here subjoin the charges preferred against me, by Hunt, before the Committee, together with the decision given by that Committee on each distinct charge.

Charges preferred against Mr: Wm. Bridle, the Gaoler of the County, and Governor of the House of Correction, in his Majesty's Gaol at Ilchester, in the County of Somerset, by Henry Hunt, Esq. a Prisoner confined in the County Gaol, under a Sentence of the Court of King's Bench for two Years and six Months, for attending a peacable Meeting at Manchester, August 16, 1819.

"1st. Gross neglect of duty.

"2nd. Drunkenness within and without the Gaol.

"3d. Gambling in the Gaol with the prisoners.

"4th. Swearing blasphemous and shocking oaths in the Gaol.

"5th. Neglecting to attend divine service.

"6th. Opening the Gaol during the election and admitting the populace with flags, colours, and bands of music, dancing, himself and others, with women of the town, giving them liquor and making them drunk; and all this in the presence and sight of some of the felons, and other prisoners, and within the hearing of the whole.

"7th. Cruelty and injustice to the prisoners, male and female; and, amongst other things, withholding from them, during sickness and fevers, meat, wine, and other necessaries allowed by and charged to the County, and appropriating them to the use of himself, his family, and visiters.

"8th. Permitting, at other times, the necessaries charged to the County and intended for the sick prisoners, to pass through the hands of his brother and sister-law, the taskmaster and mistress, who had a large family that he knew were deprived of the common necessaries of life, in consequence of his having stopped back half their salary which the County had allowed them, and applied, without their consent, to pay off a real or pretended claim of his own.

"9th. For inflicting torture on the prisoners, male and female, and infants.

"10th. For compelling boys and men, for misdemeanors, to associate and sleep with felons, convicts, house-breakers, forgers, coiners, and even making boys sleep with a man convicted of beastiality.

"11th. For compelling well-behaved, though unfortunate, women, convicted of misdemeanors, to associate and sleep with felons, convicts, house-breakers, forgers, criminals of all sorts convicted of uttering forged notes, base coin, street-walkers, depraved and infectious, to the great injury of their morals, comfort, and health.

"12th. In suffering male and female prisoners to mingle together under his own roof, and their bastards to be supported at the County expense, without bringing them before the magistrates to be sworn to the fathers, and being strongly suspected, not only of connivance, but of participating in such irregularities.

"Lastly. At conniving at the prisoners being imposed upon; of knowing they had nothing but bad water to drink; and refusing their having other water, although he knew it was unwholesome and pernicious; and, in fact, of having been guilty of all those things charged in a publication, called "The Peep into Ilchester Bastile;" with the exception of one or two errors of the press."

(Signed) "H. HUNT."

Report of the Committee on the foregoing Charges.

"1st. Neglect of duty proved in several instances.

"2nd. Not proved.

"3d. Proved to have played cards with a prisoner.

"4th. Proved to have used oaths occasionally in the Gaol, but not of a blasphemous or shocking nature.

"5th. Proved that he did not regularly attend divine service.

"6th. Proved to have opened the Gaol doors during an election; to have admitted the populace with flags, colours, and bands of music; to have permitted dancing, and to have danced himself with a female inhabitant of the town of Ivelchester on that occasion; to have distributed liquor, but not to have made any person drunk.

"7th. Not proved.

"8th. Proved that necessaries charged to the county, and intended for the sick prisoners, did (according to the acknowledged regulations of the Gaol) pass through the hands of the taskmaster and matron; and, that part of their salaries was withheld, but it is not in proof that it was so withheld without their consent.

"9th. Proved to have applied a blister to the head of a prisoner named Gardiner, as a punishment; and, for a considerable length of time, to have unnecessarily handcuffed, day and night, with his hands behind him, a boy named Wheeler.

"10th. Proved to have permitted boys and men to associate together, which originated from the crowded state of the Gaol. Also proved to have allowed a boy to sleep with a man convicted of beastiality, contrary to an express written order that boys should not, under any consideration whatever, sleep with men.

"11th. Proved in some instances, but the crowded state of the Gaol, and want of separate accommodation, rendered it unavoidable.

"12th. Proved, in one instance, to have suffered four male prisoners and one female prisoner, to be employed together under his own roof; the former in county-work, and the latter as a domestic servant. The mothers* of the supposed bastard children, alluded to in this charge, could not be examined on oath as to the fathers of such children, inasmuch as the mothers at that time were convicted felons.

"Last charge. Not proved as to the respective matters particularized in this charge; and, with respect to "all those things charged in a publication called the Peep into Ilchester Bastile," we decline offering an opinion on so diffuse an accusation."

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* As a proof of the *general correctness* of this decision, I beg to say, that one of the women alluded to, and said to be incapable of examination on account of her being a *convicted felon*, was, at the time the Committee sat, and for fifteen months before, absolutely at large, and resident in Frome. It is worthy of remark also, that she had affiliated the child, having sworn it on a native of Ilchester.

On the 31st day of July it was communicated to me by the Clerk of the Peace, "the said Committee had come to the resolution, that I was unfit to hold the situation of keeper of the Prison,* and that I was about to be

* I subjoin the copy of a letter I addressed to the High Sheriff and Magistrates immediately I learned their decision, praying to be dismissed earlier than the period they had fixed on, and requesting to be informed the *grounds* on which they thought proper to discharge me. Yet it was absolutely the 19th of October before I could procure their decision on the different charges brought against me.

"To the High Sheriff and Visiting Magistrates. "*Ilchester Gaol, Aug.* 1, 1821.

"GENTLEMEN,

On Friday last you communicated to me, that an Order of Sessions was made for my being dismissed from my service as Governor of this Gaol, and that such order was to be put in force on the 3d of December next; at the same time you stated to me that Mr. Coles would inform me, by putting me in possession of a written document, the *cause* of the Sheriff and Magistrates in Sessions coming to this resolution. By yesterday's post I received a packet from Mr. Coles, containing the order in question; and the only cause therein assigned for my dismissal is, "That I am unfit to hold such a situation." This, with submission to you, Gentlemen, and with great deference and respect to the Magistrates in Sessions, is *not* the *cause;* this is the *order* made upon the report of the Committee, *and the report itself is the cause.* I have been accused before you, and the accusation, described in thirteen specific charges, has been published and made notorious to the world by the accuser. The world is anxious to be informed the result of your inquiry in a more honest manner than the publication that has already appeared. How far this may meet the views of the Sheriff and Magistrates, I must leave to their wisdom and discretion, but I submit to them that to keep any thing from me, that led them to the conclusion against me, will be imposing additional hardships and cruelties on my mind, which, unless my offences are numerous and desperate indeed, has already suffered enough. As a boon then I ask of the

discharged." The difference of conduct exemplified by this Committee towards myself and Henry Hunt, may be seen by the fact, that they made an official communication of their decision to him *immediately*, whilst I procured a copy thereof with the utmost difficulty, and at the end of a most protracted period.

Magistrates, that they will be pleased to let me know the amount of my misdoings, as far as the same has come to their knowledge, and that they will be pleased to direct the Clerk of the Peace to provide me with a copy of the report forthwith. I beg also to observe, that under my present distress, it would be an additional hardship, it would, in fact, be cruel, to compel me to remain here until the 3d of December; and, as I am so unfit to hold the situation, it may not, perhaps, be deemed unwise to dismiss me earlier; from my duty yet, be the task whatever it may, I have never slunk; and, therefore, I would not wish to throw the burthen of the assizes on a young and inexperienced officer, but attend to it myself, be the sacrifice ever so great; in saying this I hope the Magistrates will see, that I am actuated by no hostile motives, because their decision is against me; but that I am anxious to leave, as early as convenient, after that duty is performed, rather than be compelled to remove the remnant I have left, and to seek a new home so near the shortest day as the 3rd of December. If the Magistrates of themselves do not know any thing of the evidence I brought before the Commissioners, their officer, the Clerk of the Peace *does know*; he sat in Court to watch the progress of the proceedings, to protect the Magistrates, and to minute the evidence generally; from this gentleman, then they may learn, that during my defence, repeated interruptions in the examination of my witnesses took place, in order that the report on the state, the scite, the health, &c. of the Gaol, the water, the drains, and other things located with the Gaol, and not charges against me, be inquired into. This Mr. Coles will recollect I complained of as tending to increase my expense, which, with the distance some of my witnesses came, and the number at a time I had to bed and to board, (say at least forty,) was enormous. I beg to be excused for introducing this subject; my object in doing so is merely

I have now to ask that Committee why, seeing they decided I was unfit to hold the situation, they kept me in it so long? Did they fear the report of the Commissioners might put them to the blush for their hasty decision, and therefore wished to have me on the spot in readiness to reinstate me should it be so? Let the world judge of their motives. I only know, that it was owing entirely to my own repeated applications, that I got clear of the Gaol so early as the tenth of November. The same Committee who decided I was unfit to hold the situation of Gaoler in July, would have kept me in that situation until the following December, if I had not, of my own will, repeatedly protested against it. If, therefore, I was actually unfit, I accuse that Committee of a high breach of duty towards the County, in continuing me in a situation they had decided I was unworthy to fill.

But I have not yet done with them; I ask William Hanning, esq. the present High Sheriff, how his opinion of the crime of adultery has so quickly undergone a material change? That gentleman, on the 14th of August, 1820, coincided in the opinion of nineteen other of his brother Magistrates, that to carry on an adulterous inter-

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to show that these things have been explained *at my expense*, and I leave it in candour with the Magistrates, to bear such portion of the expense, or to make me such allowance as they, under *all* the circumstances of the case, shall think I am entitled to.

"I address this letter most respectfully, to the Sheriff and visiting Magistrates, and I call upon them, individually, to afford me such countenance and support only, as, upon their honour as gentlemen and their feelings as men, they conceive I am deserving of or entitled to.

"I am, Gentlemen,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"W. BRIDER."

course within the walls of a Gaol, was as indecorous as its practice without was improper, and signed an order to prevent it: but on the 27th day of July, 1821* he, the said William Hanning, esq. as High Sheriff of the County, of himself orders, that such intercourse between Mr. Hunt a married man, and Mrs. Vince, the wife of another man, *shall be permitted* in the Gaol under his charge.

I will ask that gentleman the reason of this change; but he will not reply—I fearlessly assert, therefore, that to turn away from himself the anger of the mighty Demagogue, was this revolution caused in his principles.

Henry Hunt indeed must have been hard to conciliate.—When he first advances his charges, he demands permission to have the power of ordering any of the prisoners into his own ward, whensoever he pleases, for examination: this is allowed him; but of this I do not specifically complain; although *every one must be aware of the power of subornation granted him by such permission*, with *such men* as *the population of a Gaol comprises*; and *subornation both by money and liquor was never wanting*. Fair and candid investigation,

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* "*Magistrates' Journal, July* 27.

"In conjunction with the opinion of many Magistrates, I do order that Mr. Hunt be permitted to see his male and female visiters, not exceeding four at one time in his ward.

(Signed) "W. HANNING."

"*Magistrates' Journal, Aug.* 10.

"The High Sheriff being present, it is ordered, that the four visiters permitted to have access to Mr. Hunt, are to be in addition to the members of his own family, viz. Mr. Hunt's Son, Mrs. Vince, and Miss Gray.

(Signed) "A. MOODY,
"VINCENT STUCKEY."

however,

however, was my object; of this permission, therefore, I do not complain; but I ask, why was such permission continued after the investigation was closed? This is a fact the world shall know—I find on reference to my Occurrence Book, that on Saturday, the 30th day of June, 1821, the Commissioners closed their labours, and quitted the Gaol—conceiving that the order before alluded to, was no longer necessary, I directed that the rules of the Gaol be acted up to; but on the following Wednesday, July 4, I am again ordered by William Hanning, esq. to continue to Hunt the power of seeing and examining whatsoever prisoners he pleases.

The world can now no longer be at a loss to conjecture how Hunt could arrive at what he terms his information, but what I term the perjuries he suborned. Surprise may, perhaps, be elicited at this narration, but the narration is true. There are some men so despicably constituted, that fear is their ruling constituent, and to it they would sacrifice, all that is beautiful in religion, and all that is adorning to society. Its leprous effect blasts all their actions, holds them up to the scorn of the age in which they live, and hands them down to posterity, objects of loathing, detestation, and contempt.

CHAPTER XII.

I have now briefly and summarily conducted my readers through a narration of the state of Ilchester Gaol, as I found it, to the pitch of perfection in which I left it. I have endeavoured to shew the diligence, the activity, the perseverance, I exemplified in the fulfilment of my duty. I have shewn also the nature of the reward I met with from the Committee of Magistrates appointed to investigate my conduct: and I intreat the reader to pause and candidly consider, whether I have or have not been causelessly, deeply, and irremediably injured. I now, of necessity, come to the investigation of the charges produced against me, before the Commissioners appointed under the Great Seal: a dissection of the characters brought forward in their support; and my defence and answer thereto.

This portion of my work, however, I am, for the present, unavoidably obliged to postpone: my reasons for so doing are imperious and obvious. In the first place, I am not yet acquainted with the report of the Commissioners, and, consequently, am at a loss for the tone and spirit of my reply. In the second place, in consequence

of the Parliament being about to meet much earlier than I expected, I am anxious to send this portion of my work into the world, in order to put the honorable members of that House in possession of a statement of facts that cannot fail to work in my favor. I have been most unjustly treated; I have been for the last eleven months the object of unceasing libel and venomous abuse. I have been the victim of as vile a conspiracy, as ever malignity hatched or perjury supported. The whole world knows that the Committee of Magistrates have punished me for what they were pleased to term my neglect; be it my object, therefore, to shew to the world what I have done to merit such a return.

As soon, however, as the report of the Commissioners shall reach me, my defence shall come forth. I am not unprovided with means. I have the Magistrates' Journal and my Occurrence Book; and, if it be necessary, every line shall be given to the world. I will sift the testimony of Hunt's crew to the very dregs. I will shew him and his conspirators naked to the world. There is not an act, not a means which he has used, but I am in possession of. And, as he owed his notoriety to a gang of deluded, unprincipled, and profligate wretches, in the first instance, so, through the use of such a gang, shall he be again plunged into infamous obscurity—*and my hand shall lift the veil:* my pen shall hold him up *as he is*, and consign him to that detestation and obloquy he so richly merits.

I now solemnly pledge myself to refute every charge that man has brought against me. I pledge myself to prove to the world, that I have really been the victim of as malignant a conspiracy as ever the wickedness of the human heart produced; and I only implore my country-

men to suspend their judgment until they have heard my defence in toto. That defence shall be most full; and, in the mean time, I intreat that what I have already set forth be most seriously considered, and the question weighed, whether a man who has effected what I have effected, can, by possibility, be fairly called a neglecter of his duty.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

Ilchester Gaol.

Extract from the TAUNTON COURIER, *December* 19, 1816.

IT will be recollected, that towards the end of the year 1814, a Deputation of the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, were appointed to inspect the Gaol of Gloucester, and such other Prisons as they might think fit to visit, with a view of acquiring a knowledge of the most approved modes of constructing and managing gaols, so that whatever excellence or improvement might be presented to their notice in the course of their visitation, it might be transferred to the several places of confinement within the City of London. A Circular from the Secretary of State's Office to the several Governors in England and Wales, secured to the Deputation the means of accomplishing the laudable object of their mission.

The Committee accordingly proceeded on their journey, and among other places visited the Gaol at Ilchester.

A body of Gentlemen—thus devoting themselves to an object which associates the service of the public with the interests of humanity, entitle themselves to the highest respect of Society. Their motives, disinterested and philanthropic, as unquestionably they were, shed a lustre upon their undertaking; and it is a duty which we most cheerfully perform, to tender them on behalf of the public, this tribute of its thankfulness and approbation.

A variety of circumstances will, however, often frustrate the due completion of the most honourable designs; nor should we be surprized to find, that in a Commission which embraced so wide a duty as that allotted to this Committee, instances occur to excite regret, that they either had it not in their power, or if they had, that they did not sufficiently avail themselves of the means of achieving their honourable duties, in a manner as fully satisfactory as could have been desired. If therefore, we take the liberty of pointing out some remarkable inaccuracies and misrepresentations in their Report, we trust, that in so doing, we shall only evince a solicitude for truth, and not be suspected of the remotest disposition to invalidate a statement, that has gone forth to the public, with all the recommendations of a pure motive and an honourable zeal.

The Committee, a few months ago, published their Report; and speaking of Ilchester County Gaol and Bridewell, detail a variety of representations, which in so extraordinary a degree militate against the facts, that the discrepancy must be matter of extreme surprise to those who are able to contrast their knowledge of them with the Committee's Report. How these errors could have arisen, would have been absolutely unaccountable, but from a reference to a Volume published by J. Nield, Esq. in 1812, entitled, "The State of the Prisons in England, Scotland, and Wales." By this it appears, that the London Committee have been so far misled, as to confide implicitly in the account published by Nield, grounded as it was on observations made long prior to his publication; for not only are the remarks in the Report of the London Committee the same as those of Nield's, but the very language in which they are conveyed is precisely the same:—The consequence of this is, that Ilchester Gaol has been reported according to the state in which it was found at the time of Nield's visit, and not according to its actual state at the period of the visitation of the London Committee.

That this is really the case, a few references to both publications will abundantly testify.

The London Committee begin by saying, (p. 88)—"The Gaol stands near the river, having a boundary wall round *part* of the building, with a *vegetable garden* inclosed." Nield says (p. 287) precisely the same. The fact is, that the wall goes round the *whole* of the building, and there is no vegetable garden whatever belonging to it; but there was a vegetable garden at the time of Nield's visit, though it has been sacrificed by the present Governor several years since, for the purpose of effecting those extensive and most important alterations, which have been in a great measure the result of his own suggestions.

Nield says, and the Committee say after him, that—on one side of the entrance there are *warm and cold baths.* There are no warm and cold baths. Large portable vessels, for the purposes of purification, are found better adapted to the purpose, and the baths have been long since removed.

"The Governor's house stands in the centre of the building, but it has a very imperfect view of the different parts of the Gaol; and through this house is the access to the chapel, the seats of which are not properly divided off, so as to keep one description of prisoners from another." This is another error of the Committee's through copying Nield; for in consequence of the alterations which have taken place since his Report, a very considerable part of the Prison is within the range of the Governor's eye from his house; and such part of it as does not present itself from thence, is commanded by the Task Master's and Turnkey's lodges. The Matron's lodge commands the female wards. From the first story of the Governor's house, he has a direct communication with the greater part of the Prison; the seats in the Chapel *are* divided off; the women are separated from and out of the view of the male prisoners by broad lattice-work, and are brought in by a private door immediately under the eye of the Governor and

Chaplain; the Debtors have their seats in the Gallery, the Felons below; and places are assigned to the different descriptions of Prisoners, who are also all properly classed and divided by lattice-work. An excellent choir, accompanied by several instruments, the performers being the Prisoners, assist in the religious services of the Chapel. The present arrangements of the Chapel have subsisted upwards of four years.

The Report states, that "there are several court-yards, with commodious arcades for the accommodation of Prisoners in wet weather." The *arcades* here spoken of were certainly to be found when Nield saw the Prison; but they were removed very soon after the present Governor's appointment in 1808, and the space they occupied has been very usefully and judiciously appropriated to day-rooms, and new wards, to facilitate the classification of prisoners according to their degree of offence. The Report says, "there are five court-yards." There are *sixteen* court-yards.

The Report says, "The Prisoners are permitted to play at Balls, and other pastimes, for the sake of exercise." This is wholly a mistake, no games whatever being allowed.

"All the Prisoners" (continues the Report) "even those for the Sessions, are both ironed before and after trial." This remark is also very incautiously made. Only Convicts and Felons are ironed.

The Report says, "The Women's Debtor's Court is separated from the Men's Felons' Court, by a dwarf wall and single iron palisades only, through which they can see and converse with each other." This is a most surprising error. The two Courts are at a considerable distance, separated by lofty walls, and as to "a dwarf wall and iron palisades," there is nothing of the kind to be seen!

The Report says, "The Engine House for supplying the Prison with water is in the garden." The Engine House cer-

tainly used to stand in this place, but long before the Committee's visit. The Engine House was then pulled down—"the Garden" was covered with flag stones, and the spot where the Engine House formerly stood, converted into an excellent laundry and store-rooms!

The extraordinary variance we have in the above-cited instances pointed out, between the statements made by the Committee and the facts as they are found to be, must be conclusive against the adoption of the Report as an authentic document. To account for its errors is not perhaps very difficult, when it is considered, that the whole time devoted by the Committee to the inspection of this extensive Gaol, did not exceed one hour and an half! It is highly probable, therefore, that having consulted Nield's Book prior to their arrival, and from which they could have had no idea of meeting with any circumstance worthy their attention in the Gaol, they were not prepared to devote their time to its actual state. This we are the more inclined to believe, since we find that their dinner was ordered by the Committee at the Inn, within a space of time, from the moment of leaving it, considerably too short to allow more than a very rapid perambulation of it. Not having time to make observations on the excellencies of its interior management, and finding nothing whatever to reprove, they appear to have been satisfied with what they saw, confiding in Nield's general accuracy to supply whatever they might be deficient in particular detail.

Had the Committee been able in the prosecution of their object, to devote a more scrupulous attention to the regulations of Ilchester Gaol, had their time allowed them, by an inspection of the plans to be found there of its former state, to contrast it with its present condition, they would have had abundant reasons for believing that in the whole circuit of their visitation, there were very few, if any, Gaols to be found, wherein the best-valued opinions on the subject of Prison dis-

cipline are so beneficially exemplified as in that of Ilchester. To adapt it to this, they would have discovered that an uncommon degree of attention, an enlightened zeal, and an unremitting perseverance could alone have rendered it available to its present purposes. They would have found a system of active and profitable industry pervading the Gaol, at once in part indemnifying the public for the expences it incurs, and what is still better, affording it a reasonable security against the repetition of crime, by the habits of sobriety, diligence, and useful labour, to which its objects are familiarized. They would have seen handicraft trades practised with the skill of superior workmanship, in the most useful varieties, and some of the higher branches of manufacture, exhibiting a perfection which might be envied by the owners of factories beyond the boundaries of a Gaol. They would have been informed, that for the facilities of carrying on these occupations, the interior of the Gaol has undergone so complete a local transformation, that it is now no more like what it was at the time when Nield described it, than it was at the time the London Committee saw it, like their Report. Buildings have been pulled down, and new ones raised—sewers have been covered over, and the space which before was a nuisance, added to the interior convenience of the Gaol. Workshops have been erected, and duly provided with implements of and articles for manufacture. The wards properly divided—court-yards paved and walled—sleeping rooms healthfully built, securely contrived, and properly provided. In short, a system of management and a subordination of government throughout, which has been the result only of the most anxious solicitude for the promotion of the ends of public justice, combined with the most consistent regard for the welfare of the unhappy individuals consigned within its walls. Even these are not denied the means of redress, should they experience improper treatment, for which purpose large printed notices are affixed in every chamber of the Prison,

pointing out the mode of proceeding, should any case of complaint arise. The Committee might have been informed, and have actually witnessed all this, and much more, to challenge approbation, had their enquiries been less succinct, and had their visit not been limited to the very inadequate period of an hour and an half.

The Governor of this Gaol in a notice of its improvements, necessarily presents himself to attention. The County Magistrates have it is true, done themselves infinite honour by their unceasing exertions to render the different Gaols as perfect as their respective capabilities will admit, and admirably successful they have unquestionably been. Much, however, of the improvement which has taken place, owes its adoption to the conduct of the present Governor of Ilchester Gaol, who by his skilful suggestions and vigilant superintendance has been of very important service in bringing the Prison into its present highly improved condition. The buildings which have been erected by the Prisoners under his sole and unassisted direction, without any professional interference, display even a superiority of architecture over other parts of the Gaol in which the labours of regular workmen have been employed; and the avidity with which he has seized on temporary opportunities of obtaining instruction for the Prisoners in their various branches of industry, shews how properly he appreciates the duties of his appointment.—His reputation as a humane, active, and meritorious officer is indeed universally acknowledged.

The commendation bestowed by Mr. Justice Park, upon the system adopted in this Gaol, at the last Assizes for this County, induced the Magistrates of Norfolk to apply to Mr. Bridle, the Governor, for information as to the employment of the Prisoners. The letter inserted in our last number was the answer to that application, and the following is the additional correspondence that took place on the occasion:—

Letter from W. Simpson, Esq. Treasurer of the County of Norfolk, to the Governor of Ilchester Gaol, dated Norwich, Sept, 28th, 1816.

"SIR,

"I laid your admirable letter before the Committee of Magistrates for regulating the County Gaol, which met this day, and I am directed by them to acquaint you, that they were much gratified at the perusal of it, as well as by the interesting information which it contained, and I have to express to you their thanks for the same. As it is the intention of the Committee to lay your letter before the next Sessions, I request that you will send me per coach, the pattern of your manufactures, which you offered me previous to the Sessions, when very probably I shall trouble you again."

Letter from Mr. W. Bridle, Governor of Ilchester Gaol, to W. Simpson, Esq. dated Oct. 2nd, 1816.

"SIR,

"I have received your favour of the 28th ult. and as required therein, I forward you per first coach, patterns as samples of our manufactures here.

No. 1. Linsey made from the raw materials, of which male prisoners in the House of Correction and Bridewells are cloathed.

No. 2. Linsey made in like manner, of which all female prisoners in this Gaol, and House of Correction and Bridewells are cloathed.

No. 3. Dowlas made from yarn spun at a neighbouring manufactory, and supplied by the work in this Gaol, in ready made garments, to the Bridewells in this county.

No. 4. Dowlas made in like manner, for the House of Correction here.

No. 5. Ticking made in like manner for beds, mattresses, &c. for this Gaol and House of Correction and the Bridewells.

No. 6.

No. 6. Pattern of a stocking made from the raw materials, worn by all prisoners in the House of Correction here, and in the Bridewells.

No. 7. Cap made in like manner, and worn by all male prisoners in the House of Correction and Bridewells.

A white cotton night cap. Two cotton doileys.

"It is intended to extend our manufactures, and to make the Dowlas, Ticking, &c. from raw materials, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. The night cap and doileys are a species of labour introduced for the employment of boys, and was with gloves, mits, &c. made for sale. The number of hands employed in the present building, obliges us to suspend this branch of manufacture for a time. I shall with pleasure attend to any further communication you may please to favour me with.

"P. S. I am not aware that a choir of singers formed entirely of prisoners are to be found in Gaols generally, some I know sing the Morning and Evening Hymn, but by the assistance of the Magistrates who have from a private fund given me books and instruments, I have been enabled to raise a choir superior to most in the county. The Services, Psalms, and Anthems, in full choir, are regularly sung, fitting the subject to the day; if it happens that an unfortunate creature is left to suffer the sentence of the law, the subject is taken from some solemn verse suitable to the occasion, than which nothing operates stronger on the feelings of the congregation, or rouses the mind of the unhappy sufferer to a sense of his approaching fate. W. B."

From W. Simpson, Esq. to the Governor, dated Norwich, Oct. 11th, 1816.

"Sir,

"The patterns came safe to hand, and the Magistrates are obliged to you for them, they will be laid before our Sessions on Thursday next. Do me the favour of informing me previous

to that day, the sale price of such of the articles as are sold, and the cost price of those made for your own consumption."

From the Governor to W. Simpson, Esq. dated Ilchester Gaol, Oct. 14th, 1816.

"SIR,

"In my description of the patterns sent you of our manufactures, I stated the making of caps, gloves, &c. to have been introduced for the employment of boys, and that it was found necessary for a time to suspend this branch of manufacture during the completion of certain buildings going on in the Gaol by prison labour, the sale of these articles has not therefore been very extensive, the prices of those sold are caps, 1s. 6d. to 2s.—doileys, 1s. 6d.—gloves, mits, &c. 10d. to 1s. 6d. The principal article of our manufacture for sale are shoes, which have been sold from one to fourteen shillings per pair. All the other articles of which I sent you patterns, are for the consumption of the Gaol establishment, and are valued at 2s. 0½d. per yard, Linsey 3-quarters wide, for men's and women's dresses; both patterns of Dowlas, 1s. 4d. per yard; Worsted, 2s. 11¼d. per pound; Stockings, 2s. 5½d. per pair; and Ticking 3-quarters wide, 1s. 2½d. per yard, on all of which we experience a great public saving.—Our manufactures are in general in an infant state, and that accounts for nothing having been yet manufactured by the looms for sale."

From W. Simpson, Esq. to the Governor, dated Norwich, Oct. 23rd, 1816.

"SIR,

"Your letters and patterns, were laid before a numerous Bench of Magistrates at our Sessions last week, and received the highest approbation; and in consequence, it was directed that Mr. Johnson, our gaoler, should proceed to Ilchester, for the purpose of examining the manufactories, and of obtaining from you all necessary information, and he expects to be with you on Tuesday or Wednesday next."

(B.)

Somerset, (TO WIT.) } AT *the General Quarter Session of the Peace of our Lord the King, held at the Castle of Taunton, in and for the County of Somerset, on Monday the Nineteenth Day of October, in the Fifty-eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord* GEORGE *the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and in the Year of our Lord,* 1818, *before* Sir John Palmer Acland, Sir John Coxe Hippisley, Baronets, *and others their Companions, Justices of our said Lord the King, assigned to keep the Peace of our said Lord the King, in and for the County of Somerset aforesaid, and also to hear and determine divers Felonies, Trespasses, and other Misdemeanors committed in the said County.*

ORDERED, *That Three Dark Blue Cloths* be manufactured by the Prisoners in the Gaol at Ivelchester, for the Tables in the Crown and Nisi Prius Courts, and Grand Jury Room, in the Taunton Assize Hall.*

By the Court,

COLES, *Clerk of the Peace.*

(C.)

The following are Copies of a few, amongst the host of Letters received by me from different Magistrates of other

* These Cloths were manufactured accordingly, and the excellence of their texture and beauty of material, excited the admiration and surprize of every one. They are still in existence and speak for themselves.

Counties. They will, at least, serve to shew, that my mode of governance was held in general estimation.

FROM J. T. PRICE, ESQ.

"*Neath Abbey*, 17*th* 11*mo*. 1818.

"ESTEEMED FRIEND,

"The gratification and instruction I received when I lately ran through your Gaol at Ilchester, encouraged me on my way through Cardiff the following day, to visit the County Gaol there, and to make notes of the qualification, &c. of each Prisoner, in order to enable me to judge and to report to the Superintending Committee of Magistrates, what kind of employments, and what course of proceeding had best to be adopted in order to establish industrious and moral habits in the persons so unhappily becoming the objects for imprisonment. The investigation I made, has quite convinced me that the object may be easily accomplished by going properly to work. I had an interview with one of the most active Magistrates after my visit to the Gaol, and since that a Letter from him, as the organ of the Committee which met three or four days since.

"They have come to the conclusion, to obtain fresh and more full powers from the next Quarter Sessions of this County, powers by which they may be enabled to alter, amend, and add buildings, such as may be necessary; and to obtain such an Assistant as may be required. Mean time, I take the liberty to solicit from thee some further information for our assistance.

"I will in the first place state, that the present Gaoler is far advanced in years, and has not been accustomed to the thing now aimed at, employing and in instructing the Prisoners; and I have my fears, that it will ultimately be found, that he is not quite up to it, although he is very willing to do all he can. I wish to query, Whether thou thinks *a Task Master*

competent to undertake the whole department of employing and instructing, and extending towards the Prisoners, that kind of care which has a tendency *to correct*, can be obtained? He would have in great measure to devise the sort of employ, to see the work performed, and as far as practicable, to assist in the disposal or otherwise of any commodity then prepared, so that the undertaking might, in a pecuniary point of view, not become burthensome to the County. And if such an one could be had, whether thou knows of one, thou canst recommend, and what pecuniary compensation would be expected?

"2dly. Whether thou thinks an active, intelligent, and competent Person might not be had to fill the office of Gaoler, and see the work performed as well with the assistance of his Turnkey, who might, perhaps, act as Task Master as well, in a small Gaol where only from thirty to forty prisoners are confined?

"3dly. What plan is adopted and best to be adopted, for adjudging the value of Prisoners' labour, and in what proportion are they rewarded, and what proportion is best to be allotted for their benefit in any new institution?

"4thly. What daily allowance, and the kind of provision is found sufficient and proper?

"Other queries may arise, which I may hereafter take the liberty of proposing, if I am not likely to be too troublesome. The favour of a reply to this, ever will oblige

"Thine sincerely,

"JOSEPH PRICE."

FROM WALTER COFFIN, ESQ.

"*Landaff Court, Cardiff, Jan.* 16, 1819.

"SIR,

"Mr. Joseph T. Price, of Neath Abbey, has laid before the Visiting Committee of the Glamorganshire County Gaol, your

Letter of the 24th of November; as one of that Committee allow me to thank you for the valuable information it contains, and on the behalf of the remaining part of it, to avail ourselves of the assistance you so kindly offer. I will at once put you in possession of our present situation, and then it will be in your power to inform me whether you are in a situation to recommend us a Keeper for our Gaol. Mr. Price has already informed you of the number of prisoners, &c.

"We came to a resolution this week at our Quarter Sessions, that the new High Sheriff should be requested to confer with the Gaol Committee, on the appointment of a New Gaoler; and that the Committee should have power, in case they should be satisfied with the Gaoler, to engage him a Salary not exceeding 200*l.* per annum. 20*l.* a year is now allowed the Gaoler for paying a Turnkey of his own appointment, in addition to his salary of 140*l.* But I have no doubt, that on the recommendation of the Committee, the Court will allow the New Gaoler, in addition to his salary, 50*l.* for a Turnkey, to be appointed by himself, provided the Committee are always satisfied with the conduct of such Turnkey. There are accommodations in the Prison for both the Turnkey and Governor.

"We wish to be prepared with a Governor to replace the old one, immediately on the change of Sheriffs; for we have no reason to expect (the old one being discharged for rather unpleasant circumstances to himself) that he will stay a day longer than his time, to accommodate us. Unfortunately our Debtors are confined in the same Gaol with the Criminals, which makes it an indispensable requisite, that the Gaoler should give the Sheriff security for 3000*l.* This you will be so good as always to keep in mind. The risk is small, indeed, for we have scarcely any Debtors but those who almost voluntarily come there for the benefit of the Insolvent Act.—You see, we want a Governor and his Assistant, who are both competent and willing to introduce and carry into effect, the

new Prison Discipline, and above all, the employment of the Prisoners. I beg the favour of an answer at your earliest convenience.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"WALTER COFFIN."

FROM WALTER COFFIN, ESQ.

"*Landaff Court, January* 31, 1819.

"SIR,

"I am favoured with your Letter of the 22d, and as yesterday was the first day I had an opportunity of laying it before the rest of the Committee for Visiting the County Gaol, I could not sooner have given you any decided answer.

"I am requested by the Committee to offer you their best thanks for your great readiness in forwarding their views, and to assure you, from every account they hear of the state of your Prison, that no one's recommendation would, with them, stand higher than your own; but from a circumstance that took place yesterday, it will not be in their power to avail themselves of it.

"I beg to remain, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"WALTER COFFIN."

FROM H. LEACH, ESQ.

"*Milford, Pembrokeshire, April* 17, 1819.

"SIR,

"The services which you have rendered the County of Somerset, and the Kingdom in general, by the example you have set of the practical application of those principles of Prison Discipline, to which mankind have at length began to

open their eyes, renders it, I am quite sure, unnecessary for me to apologize for addressing you.

"We are building a new prison and entirely new modelling the old one, for the purposes of a House of Correction, under the direction of a Committee of Magistrates, of which I have the honour to be Chairman. I have now before me a rough draft of rules and regulations for its future government, and to assist me in their formation, I shall be much obliged if you will do me the favour to send me in a parcel by the coach, a copy of yours, which I take it for granted are printed—Be so good also to let me know the exact quantity and quality of food given to the different classes—Have you a mill for grinding corn and malt, and to the work of how many is it adapted—Where did you get the Iron Bedsteads, of what description are they, and what price can they be procured for, are they cast iron, or wrought, and are they altogether, or composed of different pieces to be put together. I am very anxious to see your prison, and shall if possible endeavour to do so this Summer. Pray are there any coaches which pass through Ilchester from Bath or Bristol, or both, and what days?

"I shall feel very much obliged by your favouring me with a Letter as early as possible, as I am about to leave home on a journey.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your faithful and obedient Servant,

"H. LEACH."

"Please to direct H. Leach,
Milford, South Wales."

"P. S. Do not wait to send a letter with the parcel containing the regulations, as that may be detained."

FROM

FROM THE HONOURABLE D. P. BOUVERIE.

"*The House of Correction, Devizes, Jan.* 7, 1820.

"SIR,

"Having been much gratified at the latter part of last Summer by the examination of the Prison under your care, every part of which you shewed me, I trouble you with this Letter to request that you would have the kindness to send me the Copy of a Sheet of each of the Books, in which your accounts with the prisoners is kept. I am one of the Visiting Magistrates of this Prison, and we want the Paper I have requested you to send us, as a guide for the putting our own accounts on a better footing than they have hitherto been. If you will take care the weight of your Letter does not exceed an ounce, I should be obliged to you to put your Letter under a cover to E. G. Estcourt, Esq. Devizes.

"I am, your obedient Servant,

"D. PLEYDELL BOUVERIE."

FROM THE HONOURABLE D. P. BOUVERIE.

"*The House of Correction, Devizes, Jan.* 15, 1820.

"SIR,

"I beg leave to thank you for your Letter, and the Copy of those parts of your Books which I had requested of you; we have found it of great use in arranging our books for keeping accounts of the Prisoners' earnings as you do, which method we have just been adopting.

"I am your obedient Servant,

"D. PLEYDELL BOUVERIE."

(D.)

The following Notes were handed to me in succession, by the principal turnkey, Pike; addressed to me, and written by James Innis, who had been a very respectable young man, (a resident of Bath) but who was committed to Gaol for Forgery.

Innis was subsequently transported to Botany Bay; but I must record, that through his instrumentality, one of the most daring and diabolical Plots ever entered into by the prisoners, was made known and frustrated. It may be some consolation to the friends of this unhappy young man, to know, that during his residence in Ilchester Gaol, his conduct was orderly, and excellent. Under his peculiar circumstances, I had no other power of rewarding him, save that of recommending him to the Officers of the Colony, he was about to be consigned to; and I have but little doubt that he will ere long become a valuable and respectable member of society.

"SIR, *Sunday Morning.*

"The unremitted attention that I have received during my confinement under your charge, lays me under an indispensable necessity of informing you that a very unpleasant stratagem is purposed to be put into execution about Chapel time. The suspicion that they have of my stability, obliges me to defer a detail at this time, but I can only say, that the question has been put to me whether I will assist or no. A communication has been carried on from both yards on the subject. I trust that you will not give up your author,

"I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

"J. Innis."

"I presume that you surmise to what I allude."

"The plot is deferred until to-morrow evening, at locking-up time, to embrace the opportunity of Mr. Bridle's absence at the Sessions. The whole gang are to go up with the first lot, and lock your officers in the cells, and proceed accordingly."

"It is not, I assure you, from any motive of extricating myself that I have made this confession, but my principles would not admit of my acting otherwise. The circumstances attending the case are simply these: A few days ago, I obtained the perusal of a Note that was thrown over from the Felons' Ward, and which was much to the following effect: 'There are a few true Englishmen among us, that will stick to it, and the sooner the better; for we be damn'd if we don't try for our liberty.' After which I heard nothing further until this morning, (with the exception of a few hints,) when I was asked if I would join in fighting our way out of the Gaol; for that during Chapel, they would jump up, and accost your Officers in the following manner. 'Now, you bloody B——s, Death or Liberty.' That they should take the keys away from you, and lock the Officers, &c. in the Chapel, then assist one another in knocking off their irons; cut the rope of the alarm-bell, and make their escape as quick as possible; but owing to some occurrence they have deferred it until to-morrow night, as I have already stated; but, God knows, if they will put it in execution; yet it is my candid opinion from their being so determined, that the attempt will be made some time or other. Their time is now entirely taken up on the subject. I have no objections to confess what I have said before the men themselves, if required, and provided I have a fair opportunity; but my reason for being so tenacious at this time is, that provided they have any suspicion of my giving you this information, is, that they might revenge their spite before I can be rendered any assistance; for what should I be among such a parcel of ruffians. The principal ones in this Ward, are Portsmouth and Sealy."

"I have been informed that in consequence of a few *Funkers*, they will wait till they can obtain a supply of *Trumps*. You may, however, depend on my giving you every information as soon as any change takes place."

The following Note was found in the Female Ward, having been thrown from the Ward occupied by the Convicts about to break Gaol.

"we want to knaw haw the woman came of that went to Mr Hunt yesterday far we think she will have something done far her dont send any answer far there are so many Spliters here without you can find some way that will do Hunt far ever Hunt far ever Hunt far ever"

(E.)

MAGISTRATES' JOURNAL,

April 6th, 1820.

PRESENT,

JOHN GOODFORD, Esq. AARON MOODY, Esq.

AND OTHERS.

"Parts of the Prison on inspection, appearing to be in a disordered and unclean state, the Governor was remonstrated with on account thereof; who imputes the neglect to the Task Master, he himself having been absent at the Assizes. The Task Master was admonished accordingly, and the Governor particularly cautioned to guard against a recurrence of a like nature, the health of the Prisoners so much depending upon Cleanliness."

Such is the only entry in the Magistrates' Journal, at all reflecting on the Cleanliness and Order of the Prison; and I must confess, when I first discovered such an entry had absolutely been made, I was much astonished. Be it understood, I had informed the Magistrates of my having been absent from

the Gaol twelve days on duty, and was but just returned. I was, therefore, the more hurt that they should thus affix in their Journal, a stigma upon me.

And now let me describe the Uncleanliness and Disorder of which they complained.. A Pair of Small-clothes was seen lying on the Bed of a Misdemeanor Prisoner, and the Beds in the Female Debtors' Ward, had not been rolled up!

By the bye, the Magistrates were guilty of a slight lapse with regard to the last-mentioned part, in considering the Female's Beds not being rolled up, a proof of disorder. There were no Orders that they should be. It would have been a breach of common decorum to give such Orders with respect to *their* Beds. They had never been rolled up, nor are they rolled up to the present day.

I was for a long time at a loss how to account for this act of unmerited severity; but at length I discovered, one of the Magistrates who dictated and caused this famous entry, was offended with me, because *he had been told*, I had laughed at his personal deformity!

I can only regret that he did not follow a more manly and just procedure. Had he questioned me on the subject, I could have proved I had been belied—then he would have acted with *justice*. As it is, let the world judge him.

(F.)

By the bye, I had recommended some Prisoners as deserving of remission of their sentences, and it so happened, that they received their pardons shortly before I quitted the Gaol. Hunt immediately takes upon himself the credit of this act, and has the impudence to tell the world, that they were pardoned at his suggestion. An Independant Freeholder of the County of Somerset, seeing this circumstance related in one of the Bath Papers, and doubting its truth, enquired of some

of the Magistrates into the matter, and published the following true relation, in the Bath and Cheltenham Gazette of the 18th December, 1821.

To the Editor of the Bath and Cheltenham Gazette.

SIR,—The Bath Journal of the 10th inst. having given to the world the following singular statement, the truth of which I could not for one moment bring myself to believe, it being as monstrous as it is impudent; and well knowing that neither the learned Baron (Graham) nor the Noble Lord at the head of the Home Department, would condescend to contradict so gross an outrage upon decency and probability. As a Freeholder of Somerset, and an Englishman enjoying the protection of the laws of my country, I applied by Letter to several Magistrates of this County, for an explanation of the fact; and my inquiries have proved that the assertion contained in the statement in question, is as false as it is barefaced. I shall first quote the Paragraph, and then prove its falsehood, by subjoining a Copy of an Official Document, signed by "William Hamilton," the Under Secretary to the Lords Justices, during the absence of His Majesty. The Paragraph runs thus:

"In consequence of a letter which Mr. Hunt addressed "to Baron Graham, pardons, and remission of sentences, "have been sent down to six convicts, whose cases he stated "to the worthy Judge. Of these, five were of the number "of his witnesses."

The Letter of Mr. Hamilton, which flatly contradicts this statement, is as follows:

GENTLEMEN, *Whitehall*, 11 *Oct.* 1821.

Lord Sidmouth having laid before the Lords Justices your letter of the 24th ultimo, accompanied with a list of male and

female transports now in the Gaol of Ilchester, I am to acquaint you that their Excellencies have, upon due consideration of all the circumstances of the respective cases of the convicts in question, been pleased to order Hannah Adams, Jacob Pow, Robert Gibbs, and Robert Steele, to be free pardoned.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

WILLIAM HAMILTON.

To the Visiting Magistrates of the Gaol at Ilchester.

I am, Sir, &c. J. T. HILL.

Bath, Dec. 17.

☞ In the Paragraph above adverted to, we likewise read as follows:

" The following facts afford a striking proof of the benefit accruing to the County of Somerset, from the late investigation:—The amount of the whole Rates collected for the Quarter before Mr. Hunt's " Peep" came out, was 7229*l.* 3*s.* 5½*d.*; the Quarter after the " Peep" was published, it fell to 5408*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; and on the first Quarter after the investigation was ended, the amount was reduced to 2162*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*"

The credit due to this statement, says the *Taunton Courier*, will be duly estimated by the following facts:

" The amount of Rates ordered at the Michaelmas Session, 1820, and payable at the Epiphany Session, 1821, was 7029*l.* 4*s.* 8½*d.* The amount of Rates ordered at the Epiphany Session, 1821, and payable at the Easter Session following, was 5407*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* The difference between the sum ordered at the Michaelmas Session, 1820, and the following Epiphany Session, is amply accounted for by the Assizes happening between the two Sessions, when very heavy sums were necessarily expended for the prosecution of Felons, and for their convey-

ance from the three prisons in the county to the Assize town (a distance of many miles,) and for their conveyance back again after trial. As the reduced Rate of 5407*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* was ordered before the publication of the "Peep," it having been ordered at the Epiphany Session, 1821, the Rate could have had no reference whatever to it, or to the late investigation at Ilchester Gaol."

This statement from its unfortunately happening to be true, drew down upon the writer some of Hunt's usual ribaldry, published in the Bath Journal, the same paper that contained Hunt's previous falsehood. It was however useless, and whoever Mr. J. T. Hill is, (I have not the pleasure of knowing him,) I thank him for becoming the means of exposing one more of Hunt's falsehoods.

(G.)

The escape of the Person alluded to, took place under the following circumstances:

His name was Edward Ball, and he had been committed to the Gaol for stealing poultry. This man was among the first infected with Typhus Fever, when it made its appearance in 1817, and my readers will recollect, that when I found the contagion rapidly spreading, I posted away to the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions, for instructions, as related in chapter the ninth. During my absence, he became much worse, and was removed to the Temporary Hospital, just established in the Manufactory. By order of the Surgeon, his door and windows were left open to admit of free ventilation, night and day. He took advantage of the circumstance, and ill as he was, effectually made his escape. The whole occurrence took place in my absence.

(H.)

On reference to my papers, I find, that between July, 1808, and November, 1821, I have conducted the numbers hereunder stated, to their trials, viz.

To and from Wells.....	1221
Taunton	1650
Bridgewater....	858

The distance from the Gaol to these Towns respectively, is

To Wells.....	18 miles.
Taunton	24 miles.
Bridgewater..	24 miles.

I have, therefore, rode with these Prisoners, calculated as one man, 82,170 miles!

I must add, that not one penny expence was ever entailed by me upon the County, over and above the mileage fixed and allowed me by the first Order, made on my assuming the Keepership in July, 1808.

(I.)

IN THE KING's BENCH.

The Affidavit of the Prisoner, HENRY HUNT, *sworn November* 17, 1820.

"That on the 15th May last, Deponent was sentenced by this Court to be imprisoned in Ilchester Gaol for Two Years and Six Months; when upon Deponent's inquiring of Mr. Justice Bailey, what was to be the nature of his imprisonment, and whether it was to be solitary, the learned Judge

in reply, intimated, that the Court made no such Order; neither had the Court any intention of inflicting any further punishment than that of safe custody. And the learned Judge emphatically added, that if the Deponent should have any reason to complain of his treatment, that an application to the Court would be attended to.

"That on Deponent's arrival at the Gaol on the 17th day of May, at ten o'clock at night, he was placed by the Gaoler in a cold, damp Ward or Cell, with *two Prisoners* habited in the Gaol dress*, where there were three straw bags placed upon three Gaol trucks, one of which was pointed out by the Gaoler as the place of rest for Deponent.

"That for the first fortnight, Deponent was allowed neither fire-irons nor fender. That for seven weeks, he was confined within the pestilential walls of a small yard, about ten yards square, which materially affected the health of Deponent, the effects of which he still feels.

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* By his *own* publication of the Evidence lately adduced before the Commissioners, he convicts himself of perjury:

"*John Wyatt cross-examined by Hunt.*"

"Do you recollect our first meeting?"—'Yes, perfectly well.'

"What was the other Prisoner's name who was present!"—'Emery.'

"Were you two standing in the bed-room in a Gaol dress?"—'Emery *had no Gaol dress, I had.*'

Vide the Evidence published for Hunt, by Dolby, p. 225.

It must be needless, indeed, for me to point out all the falsehoods of the wretched Orator. They are so glaring, that no comment is required—for his perjury in regard to his bed and ward, see my own Affidavit, Chapter X.

"That during this time, his Friends were excluded except at three separate hours of the day, and not allowed to see him at all after four o'clock in the afternoon.

"That in consequence of this prohibition, Deponent suffered great pecuniary losses, his affairs being left in a very deranged state; Deponent not having expected that any sentence of imprisonment would have been passed upon him.

"That on the 6th of July, a body of Magistrates attended what is called the Gaol Sessions, held in the Prison; and they made an Order after consulting the Keeper of the Gaol, that the Friends of Deponent should be admitted to see him in his Ward from nine o'clock in the morning till sun-set, with which Order, Deponent expressed himself perfectly satisfied. This regulation continued to be put in force to the mutual satisfaction of Deponent, the Visiting Magistrates, Aaron Moody, Esq. and the Rev. Dr. Colston, as well as the Keeper of the Gaol and all his Officers, till the 14th August; when, as Deponent is informed and verily believes, upon the suggestion of Francis Drake, Esq. of Wells, who is a Magistrate of the County, and one of the Grand Jury at the Assizes, an Order was made (without any reason being assigned, and without there being any sufficient cause) to exclude all Female Visitors from the Ward of the said Deponent, and they should only be permitted to see him at the double grating, at the same time and place where felons, convicts, and prisoners, charged with and convicted of unnatural crimes, beastiality, and murder, see and meet their associates. In consequence of this harsh and unnecessarily cruel treatment, Deponent's family consisting of two Females, one of them Deponent's Ward, who had come to Ilchester from London to see him, was locked out of the Gaol without any notice being given to them or Deponent, or any cause assigned for the same; and in the most brutal and savage manner, they were refused

access to Deponent, who was never even permitted to see them to take leave of them.

"That since that time, Deponent has been treated in the most cruel manner; and amongst other things, he has been frequently locked up for hours together in his dungeon, in solitary confinement in the day time. In consequence of this treatment, Deponent not only suffered great mental torture and bodily injury, but he has sustained great pecuniary losses, by being thus deprived of all communication in person with his family, who have the sole care and management of the little remaining part of his property that he has saved from the ravages and wreck of his fortune, occasioned by the persecutions he has endured; thus inflicting on Deponent, a punishment much more ruinous than any fine the Court could have imposed.

"That Deponent's Ward, who is solely dependant on him for protection and support, became at this time, by the death of her grandmother, entitled to certain Estates in Ireland, of the yearly value of 800*l.* and upwards, which was bequeathed her by the will of her grandfather; and she having received a letter from her late relation's agent, stating, that the said Estates were seized and usurped by a Person in no way entitled to them, she came to Ilchester with her deeds, and papers, and the wills of her late mother and grandfather, in order to consult and advise with Deponent, how to proceed so as to counteract such illegal proceedings. Yet although Deponent informed the said Visiting Magistrates of this fact, she was not permitted to have access to him. In consequence of such cruel treatment, Deponent's Ward has already suffered, and will ultimately suffer great pecuniary loss, as the trouble, difficulty, and expence in recovering the said Estates will be greatly increased for want of timely proceedings, which were wholly prevented by the unjust, cruel, and unnecessary prohi-

bition of the said Female Minor from seeing and consulting with Deponent, her sole guardian and protector.

"That by an Order made at the late Sessions at Taunton, purporting to be an Order of Sessions, with the consent and approbation of the Sheriff of the County, all Female Visitors are still excluded from visiting Deponent, but it is left by said Order to the discretion of the Visiting Magistrates, or the Sheriff, to admit Females, if they think proper, upon an application being made to them, for that purpose. Whereupon Deponent applied to the Visiting Magistrates, Mr. Goodford, of Yeovil, and the Rev. Mr. Whalley, of Yeovilton, to permit his Family to visit him at the same hour that Deponent's Male Friends are admitted to see him, in case they should come to Ilchester for a week or a fortnight; which is between the hours of 9 o'clock in the morning, and 4 in the afternoon; but which reasonable request, was peremptorily refused by the said Mr. Goodford, and the Rev. Mr. Whalley, although the Keeper of the Prison, Mr. William Bridle, unequivocally declared to the said Visiting Magistrates, that he had not the slightest cause of complaint to make against Deponent.

"That Deponent never violated any of the Rules and Regulations laid down for him by the said Magistrates, nor has there ever been any complaint made against Deponent. And that when Deponent's Family and Friends visited him, they never violated any of the Rules and Regulations of the Gaol, but conducted themselves with the strictest propriety, and never caused the slightest trouble or inconvenience, either to the said Keeper or his Officers, as he declared to the said Magistrates, and the said Mr. Bridle further declared to the said Magistrates, that by Deponent's Family and Female Friends visiting Deponent, the safe custody of his person would not be in the remotest degree endangered.

"Deponent unwilling to trouble this Court, while there was any probability of otherwise gaining redress from this cruel, wanton, and unnecessary torture, wrote a Letter to Sir Charles Bampfylde, the Sheriff, a Copy of which was thereunto annexed, requesting the Sheriff's permission to see his Family, in whose custody Deponent conceives he legally is, but the Sheriff in his answer, a Copy of which is thereunto annexed, has refused to interfere with the custody of Deponent, in violation of the Statutes 11 and 12 Wm. III. cap. 10 and 14; Edw. III. cap. 10, notwithstanding which Statutes, no Sheriff or Undersheriff, has ever been to the said Gaol, since Deponent has been imprisoned therein.

"That Deponent is informed, and verily believes, that neither the Sheriff, nor his Deputy the Under-Sheriff, had any thing to do with the making or sanctioning the said Order of Sessions, made at Taunton, as neither the Sheriff or Under-Sheriff was present upon that occasion. But Deponent is informed, and verily believes, that a person by the name of Edmund Broderip, of Wells, an Agent of the above named Francis Drake, Esq. did interfere and prejudice Deponent at the said Sessions.

"That said Edmund Broderip, has interfered with the Custody of Deponent; and that he has had personal interviews with the Keeper of the said Gaol; and that he has written to the said Gaoler, directing him to treat Deponent in the most cruel manner, and for which cruelties inflicted upon Deponent, the said Keeper has produced the Letter of the said Edmund Broderip as his justification to the Visiting Magistrates, Aaron Moody, Esq.* and the Rev. Dr. Colston, although the said Edmund Broderip is neither Under-Sheriff, nor a Magistrate.

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* The fact is, that not clearly understanding the Order myself, I applied to Mr. Broderip for his opinion on it. He gave me a written

"That this invidious distinction of excluding Females from visiting him, a distinction which was never before made for any other Prisoner in the said Gaol, and as Deponent believes in no other Gaol, appears to be an illegal punishment, inflicted upon Deponent, and a new sentence imposed by the aforesaid Magistrates, ten times more severe than this Court intended, or the law will admit; and by this conduct of the Magistrates and the said Edmund Broderip, who appears to have gained an influence over the Keeper of the said Gaol, in consequence of his being alternately the Under-Sheriff of this County, with his partners, in violation of the Statutes 42d Edw. III. c. 9, confirmed by 23d Henry VI. c. 7 and 8, and by Henry V. c. 4, Deponent hath been and is by such conduct, made to suffer more punishment in this Gaol in one month than his co-defendants suffer in one year in Lincoln Gaol, where no such cruel and unnecessary hardships and mal-treatment, has, as Deponent is informed and verily believes, been adopted or permitted.

"That in consequence of these cruel acts, and some other suspicious circumstances, and especially the recent removal of two bolts, the interior fastenings of the Cell or Ward of Deponent, whereby he is exposed to attack in the night time, he is really and truly apprehensive of serious bodily harm.

"Deponent therefore prays, that he may be brought before this Honourable Court by a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to shew cause, why he should not be removed out of the custody of the said Francis Drake, Esq. and the said Edmund Broderip; or to obtain an Order of the Court to relieve him from any other punishment than that awarded by the Court, namely, safe

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opinion, which I placed in the hands of Mr. Moody.—*Mr. Moody placed it in the hands of Henry Hunt!* I shall not comment upon the motive that thus induced Mr. Moody to violate the confidence, *to a Prisoner*, that as a Visiting Magistrate I was bound to repose in him.

custody; and particularly, that he the Deponent may be allowed to have his Family and Female Friends to visit him at reasonable hours, the same as his Male Friends, so long as they conduct themselves with propriety, violate none of the Rules of the Gaol, and cause no inconvenience to the Officers thereof."

(K.)

Copy of PROTEST delivered by me to the Magistrates, touching their Reporting upon the Charges preferred against me, without receiving the attested Copy of the Evidence produced by me before the Commissioners under the Great Seal, or waiting the Report of the said Commissioners:

"*Ilchester Gaol, July* 27, 1821.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I most respectfully, but not without confidence, beg leave to offer my humble Protest against any decision hostile to my interest or character, founded on the investigation before the Committee of Magistrates, without taking into consideration the Evidence tendered by me in my defence.* I am aware of

* Although I did not intend to mention in this work any part of the Evidence taken before either the Committee of Magistrates or the Commissioners, yet I hope I may be excused if I briefly note by way of sample that of Mr. John Robertson, one of the Surgeons Extraordinary to Henry Hunt, Esquire.

Before the Committee he swears, "I attended a person of the name of Davis, a debtor. I was called to him about ten o'clock in the morning, when I came I found him in a confirmed apoplexy. When I came there, I understood he had been ill SOME HOURS, the Constable of the Ward and others told me. In all cases of apoplexy TEN MINUTES are of the greatest importance, or EVEN ONE MINUTE. If I had been called in on the spur of the moment, there was every probability, at least it was possible, success would have attended my exertions to save him!!" Before the Commissioners he swears, "I recollect attending Davis, a debtor, I was called to him BETWEEN TWO AND THREE O'CLOCK in the morning, I found him in a state of apoplexy, scarcely any signs of life were apparent in him!!"

the offer of the Committee to hear any witnesses I would call, but that offer was made to a Person, who had almost, at that moment, finished a long, laborious, and expensive Defence to the same Charges before an authorized and solemn Tribunal, in the presence of and under the cross-examination of his Prosecutor; which Defence and the Investigation which led to it, has mainly consumed the little all which thirteen years'

Mr. John Westcott a very respectable man slept in the same room with Davis the night he was taken ill; he was discharged while the investigation was going on. Being no longer under the influence of fear, (which Hunt asserted all in my custody to feel) he came voluntarily before the Commissioners and deposed as follows: "I have been a debtor in the gaol *twelve months, and thirteen days.* I am now discharged, I knew Davis, a debtor, very well; I slept in his room; he went to bed in GOOD HEALTH about half past eight; he was taken ill ABOUT TWO; he never spoke afterwards. I alarmed the Constable and he called the Turnkey; SOON AFTER THAT DR. ROBERTSON ATTENDED and provided medicines; HE CAME AGAIN ABOUT SEVEN and bled him, AND THEN AGAIN ABOUT TEN."

[The language made use of by this medical attendant, on his visit to a dying man, is too desperate and too foul to be repeated; and therefore it is that Hunt has omitted Mr. Westcott's name altogether in the book published by him under the title of "The Gaol Evidence." This I declare to be a very moderate sample of the villainy used against me, but it may enable the reader, to form something like an opinion of the treatment I have received; of the perjuries brought into force against me; and of the wise, liberal, and honourable conduct of the Committee in deciding and reporting upon the *ex-parte* statement of SUCH evidence, and that too, after the Commissioners had superseded their enquiry in hearing the same matter over again, with all the additions that could be made out of it by the previous examination; and this too I am obliged to put up with until I am favoured with a Copy of the Commissioners' Report, the receipt of that Document will afford me much pleasure, as it will give me the power of knowing the amount of my errors.]

services had hardly earned. I am sensible, that in a Court of Justice, such Evidence could not be read, except by consent; but the investigation of the Magistrates being a gratuitous enquiry for their own satisfaction, they were not fettered (nor did they in their own proceedings so consider themselves) by the strict rules of Courts of Law; and the duty they undertook and the meritorious object of the Enquiry might, I humbly submit, be well discharged, by receiving testimony from sources and under restrictions satisfactory to their own consciences. The evidence which I respectfully tendered to the Committee, was given under a sanction more binding and solemn than any that could be offered before them, and I intreat the Committee to remember, that to compel me again to encounter the expence I had already with difficulty and distress, incurred, was to impose on me an impossible duty, which my means denied me the power to discharge. Under these circumstances, I humbly memorialize the Magistrates to review their former decision and rejection of my Evidence, and not permit the non-consent of my Prosecutor to deprive them of the only practicable source of information within the power of the accused to give! I will only add, that this is the request and memorial of an old Officer of the Magistrates, to be allowed to vindicate himself by the only means that a long and ruinous prosecution has left him, and that a decision to reject the Evidence tendered, operates as a judgment upon hearing *one side only*. I am persuaded, that the Magistrates will do me the justice to believe, that in this representation, I have no view or motive, but a desire, that the truth may be

attained; and I should sincerely deprecate my misfortune, if in anxiety to defend my character and interests, I unintentionally incurred the displeasure of a single individual.

"I am, Gentlemen,

"Your very obedient Servant,

"W. BRIDLE."

Binns and Robinson, Printers, Bath.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE—MONDAY.

12 Sept. BOW-STREET. 1843.

A few minutes before the closing of the court on Saturday evening an elderly man of good address, but evidently reduced to great distress, and leaning on crutches, who gave the name of *William Bridle*, was placed at the bar before Mr. Twyford, charged with breaking windows in the Home-office, under the following circumstances:—

Joseph Leton, a porter employed at the Home-office, being sworn, said, about four o'clock the defendant entered the hall, and having sat down, he was asked his business, when he said he wanted to see the chief secretary (Sir James Graham) on business, respecting which he had been referred to him by Sir Robert Peel. After remaining a short time he was allowed to proceed up stairs, and after the lapse of a few minutes he returned, saying he was directed to put on paper the substance of the business he wished to transact. Witness accordingly furnished him with paper, and after he wrote a note he was suffered to take it up stairs and deliver it himself; but he was not long absent, and on his return he looked up at the fan-light over the middle door, and deliberately broke three panes of glass with his crutch. The circumstance naturally attracted the notice of several persons, and when the defendant was called to an account for his conduct, he appeared very much excited and said, "Take me to prison if you like." The glass was valued at 6s., and the property of her Majesty.

In answer to the charge, the defendant said he had committed the offence for the purpose of getting protection, for he was reduced to a state of destitution, and had he not done so, it was his intention to have broken a street lamp, in order that he might be taken into custody.

Mr. Twyford told him such conduct could not be passed over, and had it appeared on the evidence that he intended any bodily harm to any person, he should have instantly called upon him to put in bail, but such not being the case, it remained for him to say who he was, and why he acted in such a manner.

The defendant, apparently anxious to enter into a history of his past life, said some years back he had been governor of Ilchester gaol, at the time when the notorious Henry Hunt was confined there, and as he did not think proper in the discharge of his public duty to comply with all his demands, he contrived to trump up a charge of misconduct against him in the management of the prison. The matter caused great sensation at the time, principally owing to electioneering squabbles, and the several magistrates who were opposed to his interests had the case brought before the Court of Queen's Bench, when a decision was given in his (defendant's) favour. On that occasion Mr. Acland, his uncle Sir Thomas Acland, and Sir Abraham Elton acted as his friends; but the majority of the magistrates, who were influenced by party motives, directed a subsequent inquiry to be instituted, and succeeded in having him discharged from his situation, which, as a natural consequence, ended in his ruin, and he had since exhausted all his means in seeking redress.

The defendant here handed in letters from his friends, approving of the steps he had taken at the time, and congratulating him upon the decision come to by the court.

Mr. Twyford expressed a hope, should he not call upon him to enter bail, that he would not again attempt to urge his claims, real or imaginary, in a similar manner.

The defendant said he had expended immense sums in bringing his case legally before the proper authorities, and his impression was that Sir James Graham was actuated by—

Mr. Twyford observed he could hear nothing reflecting upon a person not present, and his duty was merely to adjudicate upon the case according to the evidence adduced.

The defendant declared he intended no harm to any person, and he was totally unable to pay for the damage he had done.

Mr. Twyford then ordered him to pay the sum of 6s., and in default be sent for six days to prison.

The defendant was then removed from the bar.