MUNI	nueno a
kitchen Sales with targe double doors, and drawers on top, finished either light or antique, and thoroughly well made	Moquelle Rugs. One hundred different styles, comprising the very richest qualities imaginable, worth
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China Clasets Hand-polished, solid oak, \$1275 solid large drawer at the bot-	Diuch Face Chaire
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1	Pictures. Hundreds to select from at half \$128	Oil Cook Stoves We carry a full line of Novel- ty oil stoves; just the thing for those who object to gaso.

# Formerly PEOPLE'S MAMMOTH INSTALLMENT HOUSE.

Plain Words About Prison Discipline from a Veteran Prison Reformer.

UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS ATTAINED

The Place of the Convict, the Injured Party and the Prison-Keeper-The Prison in Politics-Causes of Crime, Etc.

(Copyrighted.)

Crime is, in the estimation of the law, a public injury. For this reason the public takes notice of it and claims the exclusive right to punish it.

But every crime is also a private wrong.
In the early history of mankind the natural reaction against crime took the form of pri vate vengeance. The inconveniences of such The inconveniences of such a system as that are palpable. In the firs place, the individual who fancied himself in jured was unable to distinguish between criminal and noncriminal actions, on part of his adversary; and, besides, he had no measure of retribution, other than his personal passion or interest. In the course of time regulations were established, in the form of customs, which finally crystallized into laws, limiting the right of private ven-geance, and finally, in all civilized countries, denying it aftogether.

PARTIES, IN PUNISHMENT OF CRIME.

Now the person in whose place I venture to ask the render to put himself is not one person, but three. In the punishment of crime the three parties to the transaction are the party wronged, the party who did the wrong and the party who medi-ates between them. According to the modern theory, the party wronged is society, or the state; the party who did the wrong is the convicted criminal; and the mediator between these two is the prison warden, into whose custody the prisoner is committed for the term of his incarceration. Let us begin with the case of the convict

We will assume that his conviction is just. There are of course innocent men in prison, but their number is comparatively insignifi-If not guilty of the specific acts for they were tried and sentencedburglary for instance—they have been guilty of other acts of the same character, and belong by instinct and habit to the crin An innocent man in prison is either a fool or else he is the victim of some ex-ceptional combination of circumstances. For the innocent man in prison we all feel com-passion, but the convict who merits his pun-ishment in the eye of the law is too generally regarded as without the pale of human

But, if you had been in the convict's place, do you imagine that you could or would have acted otherwise, and that you would have risen superior to the fate which involved him in destruction? To put yourself in his place you must imagine yourself endowed with his heredity. The inheritance of most criminals is defective nervous or ization, lack of mental balance, depraved appetites and dull moral perceptions.

THE PLACE OF THE CONVICT.

It is true that black sheep are found in the best families, and that some of the worst men have parents of undoubted virtue and integrity; but, on the theory of atavism, when we consider the great number of every man's ancestors, and that in no very remote degree, it is easy to suppose, though it might be difficult to prove, that there is in these freaks of inheritance a reversion to some earlier type, or at least that the elements earlier type, or at least that the elements derived from various ancestors have been badly mixed, and that in their combination they have formed a new and dangerous moral compound. In order to judge of any man according to truth his whole family history needs to be known for at least 100 years. Until you know the criminal's history and compare it with your own you are not in a position to say how far you could have been influenced to the choice of evil rather than good by a nature thus con-

Again, you must place yourself in the prisoner's environment, and that from his sarliest childhood. What were his maternal

atmosphere was were the examples set before him? were his dearest friends and most trusted adviser? With the same training that he received it is possible that you might have become even a worse man than he.

On this point, finally, you must in imagination reconstruct and subject yourself to the convict's peculiar and terrible tempta-It is necessary to understand, no the prisoner's original constitution and his education, physical, mental and moral, but to conceive of the precise relation and attitude existing between himself and the social whole, at the moment when he committed his first offense, and at the moment when he committed the particular offense for which he was tried and sen-tenced. It would be unjust to suppose that the error was all on his side, and that those who antagonized him and excited him to a criminal reaction were wholly free from In speaking thus I must not be understood

to express any sympathy with crime. The Christian religion teaches us to distinguish between the sinner and his sin. Nor am eeking to find an excuse for his conduc which will relieve him from his moral and legal responsibility. Least of all do I regard his right to consideration as paramount. All that I ask on his behalf is fair play, which you would desire if you were in his place. You would feel an instinctive opposition to being judged with undue severity and, on account of your errors, gither by excess or defect, regarded as wholly and hopelessly bad. As a man may be sane on some subjects and insane on others, so most of us are good and bad in spots. When so ciety, outraged beyond endurance, takes possession of a criminal and excludes him from contact with the world at large, he has a natural and inalienable right to such treatment as will correct his errors, so far that is possible, by the development of his better nature. THE PLACE OF THE INJURED PARTY

And now put yourself in the place of the injured party. Think of the man whose safe has been blown open, or of the woman whose husband has been murdered, or who has herself been outraged in her woman-hood. Any sentimental view of crime and criminals, which leaves this element of the question out, is mawkish and detrimental to the social welfare. The criminal is in no to the social welfare. The criminal is in no sense a hero, whatever may have been his audacity and disregard of personal consequences to himself. Such courage as he may have displayed is spasmodic, and at best physical rather than moral. If he has seemed not to think of himself this is because of his inherent leads of the inherent leads. cause of his inherent lack of imagination and foresight. In the gratification of a momentary impulse he lost sight of conse-quences, or foolishly supposed he could avoid them by his ingenuity or his good uck. Our first and highest sympathy forever due to the man who has been in-

It is the fashion of the hour to decry ven coance, and to insist that retribution has no place in the criminal code. If the refusal to avenge one's self has root in the senti-ment of love and pity, if it grows out of the moral consciousness that the indulgence of this passion is detrimental to character, it is outward expression of the noblest human sentiment, that of forgiveness of injuries. But it is often, on the contrary, merely weakness, timidity, irresolution, and betrays a real lack of manhood, covering itself from reprobation with the hypocritical manitle of superior piety. Unquestionably, the criminal law in its inception was founded upon the conviction that wrong needs to be redressed; that the man who made others suffer deserves to suffer in his turn. It was the subis outward expression of the noblest human serves to suffer in his turn. It was the sub-stitution of a public, measured method of securing such redress for the private warfare securing such redress for the private warfare which had been tolerated in the incheate period of human history. Nature is organized on the retributory principle. The deed returns at last upon the doer. Action and reaction are equal and contrary. The mills of the gods grind slowly, but the character of the grist depends upon what is put in the hopper. The criminal code which should have in it no regard for justice would offend the moral sense of all men capable of conthe moral sense of all men capable of cor-

THE PLACE OF THE PRISON KEEPER. So that we must at last put ourselves in the place of the prison keeper. In the prison there is no further room for vindic-tive treatment. The law exhausted its vin-

the interest of society ceases to be an inter est in opposition to that of the prisoner and the two become identical. Society demands, or should demand, what the convict has a right to demand on his own part, namely, his

But if you were in charge of a penit ntirry you would soon discover that this is not the You would be expected to hold your pris oners, to prevent them from escaping prior to the expiration of sentence; that goes with out saynig. You would be expected to keep the prison with the same regard for orde and neatness which is displayed by proprietor of a large establishment, whether a hotel or a mill. You would be required to exercise and to maintain discipling in the sense of compelling obedience to all nece sary and proper orders. But you would find yourself often in a quandary how to make the lawless observe strict rules without com-pulsion, how to compel them to obedience without the use of physical force, and ho inflict the necessary physical pain withou subjecting yourself to the charge of brutal ity. Many things, too, would be demanded of you, not strictly in the line of your duty

as a public official. I do. not refer to the implied obligation to make the prison pay, as it is called, by the organization and development of prison industries. You would find this no profitable employment of convicts manifeste by those trades with which the industrie selected come into greater or less compo tition. This opposition is not confined the special trades affected, but extends through all ramifications of all organized labor. The financial interests of a prison and the higher interests of the prisoners are not always in harmony with each other especially where the supposed necessity for pecuniary returns suggests the expedience of leasing convicts to private parties of hiring their labor to contractors.

THE PRISON IN POLITICS.

But I refer to the improper and degrading use of the prison as one of the potent fac tors in machine politics. The peculiarity o intense partisanship is that it begets a zea not according to knowledge, in whose in-tense heat all considerations other than that of party success shrivel like a leaf in the flames. If a warden is given his position as a reward for party services (which is very apt to be the case), he is in so far disqualified for the highest success by the very tastes and aptitudes which fit him to be a party leader. But whatever may be his fitness for his place it is certain that under a political administration of prisoners will be turned out whenever the control the government passes into the hands of the opposite party or even of a differenfaction of his own party. He has there-fore little inducement to master the busi-ness entrusted to his hands. Worse than that, the subordinate positions in his gift are regarded as counters in the game, and, unless he himself has the sense and skill to play them for all they are worth, these minor appointments will be dictated to him and he will be forced to put up with incom-petency if not with disloyalty. There can be no prison reform in the United States until the divorce of the prison system from practi-cal politics is pronounced with such authority as to prevent any subsequent remarriage CAUSES OF CRIME.

I do not say that the first duty of a warde I do not say that the first duty of a warden is to reform his prisoners, nor expect of him a degree of sucess in that direction which transcends reasonable expectation, in view of the well known persistence of the criminal type of character, which reasists every influence for good which may be brought to bear upon it. But to make all possible efforts for their reformation is his possible efforts for their reformation is his duty, and he should regard it as his priv-The four most common proxi ilege, also. mate causes of crime are the habit of self-indulgence and insubordination to lawfu indulgence and insubordination to lawful authority, ignorance of a trade, imperfect intellectual development and a biunted or perverted conscience. To counteract these he has the right and the power to enforce obedience, to compel the prisoner to labor, and to impart mental and moral instruction. The excellence of a prison as a reformatory agency depends upon the skill and force with which he applies these agencies to individuals, according to their personal temperament, habits and espacities. The question whether this can best be The question whether this can best be

impressions in infancy? Who were the dictive function, in the fulmination of the done where all prisoners are isolated from companions of his youth? By what social sentence against the convict. From the mocach other by confinement in separate cells, or where they are in association, under proper regulations, is one concerning which the best authorities are not agreed, perhaps it can never be conclusively settled. The former system is followed in the Eastern penitentiary of Philadelphia, and is prevalent to a large degree in Europe the United States this system has been abandoned clsewhere, for reasons which it would make this article too long to discuss here. But there is no difference of opinion among experts as to the necessity for individual treatment under either system. ing too much to routine for reformatory re

DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY OF REFORM.

The difficulty in all attempts to reform men, in or out of prison, is that of securifig their co-operation in the reformatory process. In prison many-circumstances conspire to excite the prisoner to the most deter mined effort of which he is capable not to yield to any influence for good. What mo-tive can we appeal to, in his case, to overcome the resistance? The motives which actuate mankind may all be reduced to two, hope and fear. What does the prisoner de sire most ardently if not his freedom? is to this that we must appeal, and there but one way in which it can be effectually done, namely, by making the date of discharge depend upon his conduct while in prison. The "good time" laws in most states are a step in this direction, but they operate in one direction only, that of short ening the sentence, and that to a limited amount; their only influence is to make the prisoner observe rules. What is needed is power to hold him until he is reformed. We enter here upon the threshold of a large subject, which cannot be disposed of in a few sentences. But it is clear as anything can be that the reform of criminal juris-prudence and of prison discipline lies along the road indicated, namely, the ultimate substitution of indefinite for definite terms of imprisonment for crime. There are so many independent lines of reasoning which lead up to that, the inconsistencies and absurdities of our existing penal codes, the inequity of punishment as administered by the courts, the abuse of the pardoning power the unsatisfactory results of our presensystem in so many ways. The analogy be-tween the insane and the criminal diatheses, from a medical point of view, points in the same direction. It is not surprising that this suggestion has taken a strong hold upon the public mind.

KIND WORDS FOR BROCKWAY. The man who, of all living men, has done nost to convince it boughtful and unprejudiced students that there are possibilities of reform both of prisoners and of prisoners deemed at one time beyond hope is my friend Mr. Brockway of the Elmira reformatory now under fire and cloud. Let me close by asking you to put yourself in his place, and ask yourself whether the treatment which has been accorded him would seem to you fair if applied to you. I have known him intimately for a quarter of a century, and he is as different a man from the portrait of him which is sought to be palmed off upon the public in his name as it is pos sible to imagine. How would you like after a life of devation, and after having earned by faithful and competent service reputation second, in its sphere, to that o none, to be condesnined on the testimon of convicts by a court martial composed one man unfitted for the position and func-tions of a judge, under the pressure o opinion formed by a large expenditur-money by an influential journal, wit having a chance to refute the evidence ad-duced or even to cross examine the we-nesses? All honest men, it seems to me, ought to rejoice that the wrong done him in this respect is to be partially righted, and that the great state of New York is not to be disgraced by an act of manifest injus-tice to a man who has attracted the admir-ation of the civilized world and added a fresh laurel to the chaplet which adorns her brow by branding him as a brute with out a fair hearing.

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Thrilling Experience in Slave Days Recalled by a Participant.

LETTER AND DAGGER FROM JOHN BROWN

Born a Human Chattel in Maryland, Later a Successful Fugitive, Now Enjoying Peaceful Old Age in Nebraska.

Few people in Norfolk, Neb., are aware hat living in their midst is a person whose life has been closely associated with that of Fred Douglass, who knew John Brown, the martyr; has conversed and shook hands with William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips Stephen F. Foster and Samuel Bowles; was an intimate acquaintance of Maria Baker and Lydia M. Childs. The generation that lived during the days of these grand old abolitionists has nearly passed away. Occasionally one is met who knew some of these men and women, but very few, if any, who were acquainted with all of them. Fred Douglass is the last of a class of men who, twenty years before the first gun blazed above Fort Sumter, had stirred the northern heart to a realization of the terrible wrong of human slav-At 410 Second street, Norfolk,

old colored lady, mother-in-law of Rev. W. H. Vanderzee, whose life, if written would make interesting reading. Seventy four years ago, relates the News, Mrs. Ruth Adams first saw the light of day in a little Maryland cabin. She was born a slave, as were her father and mother before her. The first work she remembers of doing was to care for the children of her master. As she grew to womanhood, and continued in the occupation of nurse, to the increasing family of her master, she was enabled, with the help of the older daughters of her master, to read and write. With her acquirement of this knowledge came a longing to escape from bondage, although her servitude was pleasant compared with the lot of many of the other slaves in the neighborhood. Escaping from slavery in 1844 was no easy matter even from the border states. To assist a fugitive slave in escaping from bondage, the lash and the bloodhound was considered a moral crime by many who regarded the black man in the same light the law of the land designated him-the chattel of his white master. But there were not wanting in the north thousands of men and women who looked upor the negro as a human being, entitled to hu man sympathy. It was not so much a ques tion of law with the old abolitionist as it was a question of morals. They did not believe in the divine right of kings, neither did they believe that slavery was a divine institution, sanctioned by God, as one of the leading churches of the country had declared. FLIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

In the 24th year of her life Mrs. Adams formed the acquaintance of a free negro i the employ of the underground railway. A that time this railway extended from the boundary line between Pennsylvania and Maryland through to Canada. As soon as a slave crossed the Pennsylvania line he was taken in hand by the guide or engineer, hurried on the way during the night and secreted from pursuers in the day time and the next night was off again in charge of another guide in the direction of Canada and freedom. And so the race was kept up night after night until British bayonet guarded the fugitives from the stinging lash of the slave catcher. One dark night Ruth Adams left the home of her master forever, in charge of her dusky guide, and started on the road to freedom. Twelve miles were traveled the first night. On the following night, in charge of a plous Quaker, she crossed the Maryland line into Pennsylvania, and for the first time planted her feet, with a prayer to God, upon the soil of free state. From now on escape was

It was while stopping at West Chester that Mrs. Adams met Fred Douglass, then a young man, delivering speeches against slavery under the auspices of an anti-slavery society. Dauglass heard of Mrs. Adams and was taken to the house where she was stop-ping. He at once thought he recognized in the young lady his sister, whom he had lost all track of years before. So confident was he that the fugitive was his own sister that he offered her a home with himself and wife in Massachusetts. It was while living in Lynn, Mass., as a member of Mr. Doug-lass' family, that Mrs. Adams, through Douglass' personal relations with the prominen leaders of that state, formed the acquain-tance of William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips and other leading anti-slavery men of the day. At the solicitation of Lydia M. Childs, she became a member of an anti-slavery society whose object was to assist runaway slaves and furnish them with money and transportation to Canada or to points in New England where public sentiment would protect them from capture. AT DOUGLASS' HOME.

During her stay in the Douglass family

she taught Mrs. Douglass and her children to read and write. Mr. Douglass went to England on a lecturing tour, and during his absence all the letters from across the waters were answered by Mrs. Adams. The waters were answered by the condition of the let-ters written her by Mr. Douglass, also a fancy box made of finely polished wood sent by Douglass while stopping in London. Stick-ing between the tape on the inside of the cover is a card containing these words: my sister, from her brother, Fred Douglass After Mr. Douglass returned from abroad Mrs. Adams was married, the ceremony being performed in the Douglass home, Mr. Douglass himself giving the bride away and making the happy couple several presents, among them a handsome silk dress which he purchased while abroad. It was not un-til several years after this event that Douglass discovered that Mrs. Adams was not his sister, but through all the years of his eventful life he had never forgotten Ruth Adams, and has always cherished for her a brotherly feeling. They have never lost track of each other, and although Fred Douglass had carned a name and a place in hearts of his race and has grown wealthy and resides on and owns the hom of his old master, the very place from which he escaped from bondage nearly sixty years ago, he still finds time to write an occasional letter to his Norfolk friend. A FRIEND IN JOHN BROWN.

After her marriage Mr. and Mrs. Adams went to Springfield, Mass., to reside. Here two children were born, one of them now the wife of Rev. Vanderzee. It was shortly wife of Rev. Vanderzer. It was shortly after the birth of her youngest child that Chief Justice Taney rendered a decision declaring the fugitive slave law constitutional. Great was the indignation throughout the north when this decision was handed down. Mr. Adams, having obtained free papers from his master several years previous, could not be molested, but Mrs. Adams was lighted to any time to be dragged back to lable at any time to be dragged back to dayory. It was about this time that sho net John Brown. "He called at ou liable at any time slavery. It was about this time that she slavery. It was about this time that she met John Brown. "He called at our home." said Mrs. Adams to the News reporter, "and presented my husband with this dagger, saying, 'use this only in defense of your family." The dagger is now in possession of Mrs. Adams, and is an object of veneration. Not many months after this event John Brown and his followers raided Harpers Ferry, where he was captured and imprisoned. During his conceptured and imprisoned. captured and imprisoned. During his con-finement and just prior to his death he an-swered a letter written by Miss Howles which Mrs. Adams was kind enough to alwhich Mrs. Adams was kind enough to allow the News representative to copy. This letter was among the last John Brown ever penned, for in five days afterwards his soul started on that historic march of which millions past and present have sung and millions will sing in the future. The letter is as follows:

ENCOURAGING WORDS.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., Nov. 27, '59,-My Dear Miss: Your most kind letter of 18th inst. is received. Although I have not at all been low spirited nor cast down in feeling since being in prison and under a sentence which I am fully aware is soon to be carried out, it is exceedingly gratifying to learn from frie that there are not wanting in this generation some to symbathize with me, and appreciate my motives; even now that our wished suc-

still trusting that neither my life nor my death will prove a total loss. As regards both, however, I may mistake. It affords me some satisfaction to feel conscious of at least trying to better the condition of those who are always on the underhill side, and I am in hopes of being able to meet consequences without a murmur. I am endeavoring to get ready for another field of action where no defeat befalls the truly brave. That God reigns and most wisely controls all events, might, it would seem, reconcile those who believe it. Too much that appears to be very disastrous. I am one who has tried to believe that, and I still keep trying. Those who die for the truth will prove to be con-querers at last, so I continue hoping on till I shall find that the truth must finally prevail. I do not feel in the least degree despondent nor disgraced by my circumstances, and I entreat my friends not to grieve on my account. JOHN BROWN. count. JOHN BROWN. After the death of John Brown, Mr. and

Mrs. Adams, at the earnest solicitation of friends, went to Hayti, where they remained until the close of the war, and then returned to the United States. Her husband died in 1868 from a disease contracted while living in

Mrs. Adams takes modest pride in narrating the events of her life which have associ-ated her with men of national reputation. Her declining years are happy ones. She is tenderly cared for by her daughter and son-in-law. For fifty years she has been a mem-ber of the church, always looking cheerfully forward to the time when the Master makes the final summons for her to join the friends of years ago who devoted their earthly career to the freedom and elevation of the

Cook's Imperial. World's fair "highest award, excellent champagne; good efferves-cence, agreeable bouquet, delicious flavor."

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

of Utica, N. Y., has a bright and observing 4-year-old daughter. She has a brother a few years older of whom she is very fond, and who, for her amusement, sometimes draws pictures on slate or paper. A few evenings ago he was thus engaged, and essayed to draw an elephant. He shaped the body, head and legs, and before adding the proboses stopped a moment to look at it. he little girl had been watch ng every stroke of the pencil with great interest, waiting patiently for him to finish, and when he stopped, and she thought he was done, exclaimed: "Why, Johnnie, you fordot to put

Dr. Thirdly-I am glad to hear, my son, that you refused to fight Willie Snipper. Johnny-Yes, sir, it's wicked to fight, and then Willie's father is a tailor, and besides he's bigger than I am.

Tottle (aged 5)-I wonder why babies is always born in de niglit-time. Lottle (aged 7, a little wiser)—Don't you know? It's cop\* they wants to make sure of findin' their

During a call that little 4-year-old Mary

was making with her mother, a slice of cake was given to her. "Now, what are you going to say to the lady?" asked the mother. "Is you dot any more?" asked little Mary, de-

'Minnie, you an' Tessie mustn't talk about slappin' each other's faces," said the eldest of the little girls, chidingly, "The neighbors'll think this is a grand opry company.

Teacher-How is the earth divided? Bright Boy-Sometimes by earthquakes.

Rheumatism Cured in Three Days. "I have been afflicted all winter with rheumatism in the back. At times it was so severe that I could not stand up straight, but was drawn over on one side, George A. Mills of Lebanon, Conn. "I tried different remedies, but without relief, until about six weeks ag: when I bought a bottlo of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. After using it for three days, according to directions, my rheumatism was gone, find has not re-turned since. I have since recommended it and given it to others, and know they have been benefited by its use." For sale by