

S E C T I O N I V .

A N A C C O U N T O F F O R E I G N
P R I S O N S .

I DESIGNED to publish the Account of our Prisons in the Spring 1775, after I returned from Scotland, and Ireland. But conjecturing that something useful to my purpose, might be collected abroad, I laid aside my papers, and travelled into France, Flanders, Holland, and Germany. I flattered myself that my labour was not quite fruitless: and repeated my visit to these countries, and also to Switzerland, last summer.

I SHALL not give an account of every foreign prison I saw, whether it had any thing peculiar or not: this would be tedious and uninformative. Nor do I mention the frauds which I observed, or from the evasive answers of Keepers, had reason to suspect. The redress and investigation of foreign abuses was not my object.

I N

S E C T . I V . F R A N C E .

79

I N my relation I shall follow the order of my last journey, and begin with

F R A N C E .

I N or near PARIS are the *Conciergerie*, *Grand and Petit Châtelet*, *Fort l'Evêque*, the *Bicêtre*; and some others. PARIS.

MY first question at each prison commonly was, "Whether the Gaoler or Keeper resided in the House?" and the answer was always in the affirmative.

MOST Prisons in the city have three or four gates; from 4 to 4½ feet high; separated from each other by a little area or court. Within the inner gate is, in some prisons, a *Turnstile*. The number and lowness of the gates (at each of which you must stoop) and the turnstiles, effectually prevent the prisoners rushing out.

I N most of the prisons there are five or six *Turnkeys*; viz. two or three at the gates: one walking in the yard, to prevent conferring and plotting (a circumstance to which French Gaolers are very attentive): one at the womens ward: and every day one of them is abroad, or otherwise
at

at leisure. This liberty they have in rotation. They are strictly prohibited, under severe penalties, from receiving any thing of the prisoners, directly or indirectly, on any pretence whatever. The Gaoler is obliged to board them; and to pay each of them at least one hundred livres a year. It must be paid quarterly, in presence of the Deputy of the Attorney-General.

I was surprized at seeing that none of the prisoners were in *Irons*. No Gaoler (I was informed) may put them on a prisoner, without an express order from the Judge. And yet in some of the Prisons, there were more criminals than in any of our London Gaols. When I was first there, the number had been recently increased by an insurrection on account of the scarcity of corn. My Reader will perhaps presently see reason to conclude, that the manner in which Prisons are conducted makes the confinement more tolerable, and chains less needful. Indeed it was evident, from the very appearance of the prisoners in most of the Gaols, that humane attention was paid to them.

Most of the courts are paved; and they are washed three or four times a day. One would hardly believe how this freshens the air in the upper rooms. I felt this very sensibly once and again when I was in the chambers: and an Englishman, who had the misfortune to be a prisoner, made the same remark. But I seldom or ever found in any French Prison that
offensive

offensive smell which I had often perceived in English Gaols. I sometimes thought these courts were the cleanest places in Paris. One circumstance that contributes to it, besides the number of Turnkeys, is, that most of them are near the river.

PRISONERS, especially criminals, attend Mass every day, and the Gaoler or a Turnkey with them: but such of them as are Protestants are excused. No person is admitted into any Prison during the time of Divine Service.

As condemned criminals generally throw off all reserve, and by relating their various adventures and success prove pernicious tutors to young and less practised offenders; care is taken to prevent this mischief, by sending those who are sentenced to the Gallies, to a separate Prison at the *Port de St. Bernard*: where they are kept till there is a proper number of them to be carried off. Some continue there many months; but their term commences two days after sentence. I heard that about two hundred were sent from that Prison to *Marseilles* and *Toulon*, a week or two before I was there.

To prevent the frequent consequences of desperation, no one condemned to death by the inferior court, is without hopes of life, till the Parliament, to which he commonly appeals, confirms or reverses the sentence: and they never

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make

make known their decision, till the morning of the day on which a prisoner is to suffer. Then they publish a confirmation of the former sentence; and it is sold in the streets.

THE chambers are opened at seven in the morning from November 1st to Easter; at six from Easter to November; and shut in the evening at six from November 1st to Easter; at seven from Easter to November. But debtors have an hour more at night. This they commonly spend in the court; as they do not choose to be there in the day-time, among felons. Common-fide prisoners are obliged to come out of their night-rooms at the fore-mentioned morning-hours. Experience having shewn, that idleness and lying in bed, are productive of the *Scurvy* and other distempers. Women are kept quite separate from men. Where there is but one court-yard, as in the *Conciergerie*, they have the use of it from twelve till two; and the men are shut up. I happened to be in that prison at those hours. The court is fifty-five yards by thirty-eight; and has a fine piazza on three sides; on one side the piazza is double. This was the largest prison in the city before the fire in January 1776: but the *Grand Châtelet* is now larger, and has more prisoners; viz. 371. In this prison (the *Conciergerie*) and the *Petit Châtelet*, I observed the Infirmaries were the uppermost rooms: the best situation, as one of the Gaolers observed, "both for air, and to prevent the spreading of any infectious

infectious distemper." Men and women had separate sick wards.

TAKING *Garnish*, or Footing, is strictly prohibited. If prisoners demand of a new comer any thing of that sort, on whatever pretence; if in order to obtain it they distress him by hiding his cloaths, &c. they are shut up for a fortnight in a dark dungeon, and suffer other punishment. They are obnoxious to the same chastisement for hiding one another's cloaths, or being otherwise injurious.

THE daily allowance to criminals is a pound and half of good bread, and some soup. The soup is not made, nor is any other provision dressed, in the prisons. They have clean linen once a week, from a Society, which was instituted about the year 1753. The occasion of it was the prevalence of a contagious disease which in France they call *Le Scorbut*, the *Scurvy*. This distemper was found to proceed from the prisons; and to spread in the *Hôtel Dieu*, whither prisoners that had it were removed. The cause of it was generally thought to be *Want of Cleanliness in Prisons*; where several of those confined had worn their linen for many months, and infected the most healthy new-comers that were put in the room with them. Eight hundred were ill of it at once in the Hospital of *St. Louis*, to which all that were sick of it in the *Hôtel Dieu* had been carried. By the Abbé Breton's exerting himself on this occasion, a

fund was raised to support Prisoners in the *Grand Châtelet* with clean linen every week. This put an effectual stop to the malady in that Prison. Numbers afterwards joined the Society: the KING and QUEEN honoured it with their contributions: and the charity extended to three other Prisons; so that at last seven hundred prisoners were provided for in the same manner, and a stock of linen requisite for that purpose, viz. five thousand shirts, was completed. The elder prisoners have charge of the linen that is in the Prison; they receive and return it, and are gratified by the Society; which continues to the present time*. Besides this, there is scarce a Prison in the city that has not a Patroness †; a Lady of character, who voluntarily takes care that those in the infirmaries be properly attended; gives them firing; supplies them and the felons in dungeons with linen; does many kind offices to the prisoners in general; and by soliciting the charity of others, procures not only the relief and comforts mentioned already, but soup twice a week, and meat once a fortnight.

THERE is also annually at each Prison somewhat like our Charity Sermons; i. e. Public Service in the Chapel, and a Collection.

* For a farther account of this most useful institution, see *Code de la Police*. Paris, 1767. Tom. I. p. 510, &c.

† *Treforieres ou Dames de charité.*

THOSE

THOSE who sleep on straw, pay the Gaoler no fee at entrance, or discharge; but they pay one sou or halfpenny a day; and have clean straw once a month: those in the dungeons, once a fortnight. These are seldom let out; never in the yard.

THE Chamber-Rents are all regulated. Those who sleep on beds pay ten sous entrance, and the same when discharged. If they lie alone, they pay five sous a day, if two in a bed, three sous each. The Gaoler finds them clean sheets in summer once in three weeks; in winter once a month. Those who board with him, and have a bed, not a room to themselves, pay a sum not exceeding three livres a day (2s. 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$): but nothing at entrance or discharge. Such boarders as have a chamber to themselves and firing, pay twenty sous a week more: if no fire-place fifteen sous. Both these sorts have clean sheets in summer once a fortnight; in winter, in three weeks. The Gaoler's servants attend them. There are also half-boarders; and some who have an entire chamber, but no board*.

ALL the Regulations are read in the Chapel to Prisoners, the first Sunday of every month, by the Chaplain; and they hang

* I HAD the curiosity to procure Lists of these different sorts of Prisoners in the sundry Prisons. One of them I will here transcribe as a specimen; viz. In the *Conciergerie* there were, June 1st, 1776,

On

hang up in the Prison for common inspection. If any Prisoner tears, or otherwise damages them, he suffers corporal punishment: if a Register or Gaoler does so, he is fined twenty livres: if a Turnkey, he is discharged.

THE discipline observed is so exact, that at the late fire in the *Conciergerie*, the numerous prisoners (as I was informed) were removed without any confusion, or a single escape: There are good rules for preserving peace; for suppressing profaneness; for prohibiting Gaolers or Turnkeys abusing prisoners by beating them or otherwise*; forbidding their furnishing them with wine or spirituous

On Straw,	Men,	99
	Women,	22
In the Infirmary,	Men,	13
	Women,	14
In the Dungeons,	Men,	25
Boarders and Half-Boarders,		13
Such as boarded themselves,		16
		202

BOARDERS pay in this Prison 45 livres a month; Half-Boarders $22\frac{1}{2}$ livres: those who board themselves $7\frac{1}{2}$ livres. There were six Turnkeys.

* MONSIEUR *Guy du Rousseaud de la Combe*, in his *Traité des Matieres Criminelles*, Paris, 1769, quarto, 6th edition, cites at page 339, an Arrêt of Parliament in the last century, that condemned a Gaoler to be hanged, because he let a prisoner perish for want of food.

liquors,

liquors, so as to cause excess, drunkenness, &c. Keepers are punished for this when known to the Magistrates, by a fine for the first offence; and for the second by stripes.

THEY are allowed to sell some things to their prisoners: but the quality, quantity and price must be such as the ordinances of police define and require.

GAOLERS and Turnkeys are obliged to visit once a day at least, all the dungeons. I was sorry to find the humanity which is so conspicuous in the forementioned, and other excellent rules, so deficient as to continue the use of those subterraneous abodes; which are totally dark, and beyond imagination horrid and dreadful. Poor creatures are confined in them night and day for weeks, for months together. They visit these, I say, daily: and if they find any prisoners sick, they must acquaint the Physician and Surgeon; who visit them; and if needful, order them to more wholesome rooms till they recover.

KEEPERS are not tempted by paying for their places, to oppress their prisoners: to remove all pretext for so doing, rents which they formerly paid to the Crown are remitted; and the leases given up.

As for DEBTORS, their number is small. Of the 202 Prisoners in the *Conciergerie*, but six were Debtors. In some

some other Prisons there were a few more. This perhaps is owing to the following good laws. Every Bailiff who arrests and imprisons a *Debtor*, must pay to the Gaoler in advance a month's aliment or subsistence, i. e. ten livres ten sous, equal to nine shillings English (provisions being at Paris cheaper in general than at London): and if the like sum be not paid within fourteen days after the end of every month, the prisoner is set at liberty. Besides this, the *Debtor* pays no costs of arrests, &c. The whole of them falls on the Creditor: and so do all expences occasioned by his sickness, or death.

As the best Regulations are liable to be abused, prisoners are not thought sufficiently provided for by *enacting* good Laws: the *execution* of them is carefully attended to. The Substitutes of the *Attorney-General* visit the Prisons once a week, to inquire if the rules be observed; to hear complaints of prisoners; to see if the sick be properly attended; and the like.—Besides this, the *Parliament of Paris* sends to all the Prisons five times a year two or three *Counsellors* with a *Substitute* of the *Attorney-General*, and two Clerks. They go at *Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide, one day before 15th August, Simon and Jude*. There is in each Prison (as in other Foreign Gaols) a room for their reception called the *Council-Chamber*. It is occupied at other times by the Head-Gaoler.

THE

THE arrival of this deputation is announced by boys, who, though offenders, are allowed to do little errands in the Prison: these go round the yard and into every room, giving notice of it aloud. The Deputies go, without the Gaoler or Turnkeys, into every room and dungeon, and

1. THEY ask the prisoners one by one, if they have any complaint to make of the Gaoler or his servants. But they never meddle with those who are confined by an order from the KING.

2. THEY receive the petitions of criminals who have been detained too long without trial.

3. IN case of debts not exceeding two thousand livres (about ninety pounds) if the debtor can raise a third part of his debt, and no more, they receive it for the creditors. How they clear him of the remaining two thirds, I will shew presently. They take notes of these matters in the Prison: and give an account of all to the *Parliament*, at their general public meeting a day or two after.

IN behalf of criminals who have not been tried, the Parliament commonly orders the *Attorney-General* to write in their name to the inferior Judges, inquiring into the causes of delay, or ordering expedition. If a prisoner be acquitted, he is discharged within twenty-four hours.

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THE Laws of France do not in ordinary cases admit a *Debtor* to bail without the consent of his *Creditor*. But in the case mentioned above, the *Parliament* obliges creditors to accept of bail for the remainder of debts under two thousand livres. And even this bail seems a matter of mere form; for they sometimes take for bail men that are insolvent. I believe there is no standing law for this; and that it is rather an immemorial custom: because the *Parliament* enacts a particular law for each case as it occurs. In France there are no insolvent Acts.

THE Deputies hear no complaints of the Gaoler against his prisoners. When he has any to make, he applies to the *Chief Justice*, by whose order the prisoner was committed. If he was imprisoned by an order from the KING, he applies to the *Lieutenant-General* of the *Police*; if without such an order, to the *Lieutenant-Criminal*, &c.

BESIDES the Deputation now mentioned, the *Parliament* appoints to each Prison one of their own body, a Counsellor. They always choose a Gentleman of fortune and good character: he is called *Commissaire de la Prison*. His business is much like that of the Deputation; and his office perpetual. By frequent discourse with prisoners I learned, that these officers are very humane to the distressed. They can (as the *Parliament*) oblige creditors to accept one third part
of

of debts under two thousand livres: but they use this power with much caution.

THE BICETRE is upon a small eminence about two miles from *Paris*; if it were only a prison, I should call it an enormous one. But this for men, like the *Hopital general* for women, is indeed a kind of general Hospital. Of about four thousand men that are within its walls, not one half are prisoners. The majority are; The *Poor*, who wear a coarse brown uniform, and seem as miserable as the poor in some of our country work-houses: the *Insane*: and men that have the venereal disease. Each sort is in a court and apartments totally separate from the other, and from *Criminals*. These are confined, some in little rooms about eight feet square, window $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 2, with a grate, but not many glazed. By counting the windows on one side of the House, I reckoned there must be five hundred of those rooms: there is but one prisoner in each. These pay two hundred livres a year for their board. There are others in two large rooms called *La Force*, on the other side of the court-yard *La Cour Royale*, which are crowded with prisoners. Over these two rooms is a *general Infirmary*: and over that, an Infirmary for the *Scurvy*; a distemper very common and fatal among them.

IN the middle of *La Cour Royale* are eight dreadful dungeons down sixteen steps: each about thirteen feet by nine:

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with two strong doors; three chains fastened to the wall; and a stone funnel at one corner of each cell, for air. From the situation of these dreary caverns, and the difficulty I found in procuring admittance, I conclude hardly any other stranger ever saw them: that is my reason, and I hope will be an apology, for mentioning the particulars.

PRISONERS make straw-boxes, tooth-picks, &c. and sell them to visitants. I viewed the men with some attention; and observed in the looks of many a settled melancholy: many others looked very sickly. This Prison seems not so well managed as those in the city: it is very dirty: no fire-place in any of the rooms: and in the severe cold last winter, several hundreds perished.

WATER in plenty was thought of such importance here, that they have a stone well which is a curiosity. It was built in 1735; is fifteen feet diameter, and near seventy yards deep. The two *Buckets* hold each about three hogheads: they are drawn up by horses, and empty themselves into a *Reservoir*, sixty-four feet square, and nine deep. A bucket is drawn up in five minutes. They work sixteen hours every day, not excepting Sundays; and draw daily about five hundred hogheads. Three horses work at a time, and twelve are kept for the service.

HOPITAL
GENERAL.

THE HOPITAL GENERAL, near the city, is for women
and

and girls. The latter are employed on the finest embroidery. Numbers of poor; and a sisterhood of religious. Many criminals, quite separate from the others, and not seen by strangers. The House was cleaner, and seemed better conducted than the *Bicêtre* upon the same foundation.

THE BASTILE may occur to some of my readers, as an object concerning which some information would be acceptable. All that I can give them is, that I knocked hard at the outer gate, and immediately went forward through the guard to the draw-bridge before the entrance of the Castle. I was some time viewing this building, which is round, and surrounded by a large moat. None of the windows look outwards, but only towards a small area; and if the state prisoners are ever permitted to take the fresh air, it must be on the leads, which have high parapets. But whilst I was contemplating this gloomy mansion, an officer came out of the Castle much surprized; and I was forced to retreat through the mute guard, and thus regained that freedom, which for one locked up within those walls it is next to impossible to obtain.

BASTILE.

MANY of my readers, acquainted with the strict police of France, would have supposed that the other Prisons would have been as inaccessible to a visitant as the *Bastile*. And indeed my first application for admittance at the *Grand Châtelet* was unsuccessful. But fortunately remarking the
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tenth Article* of the Arrêt 1717, I pleaded it before the *Commissaire de la Prison* to whom I was referred, and by its means gained admision as well into that Prison, as those of *Petit Châtelet* and *Fort l'Evêque*, and had an opportunity of seeing almost every individual confined in them.

PROVINCES. IN the PROVINCIAL GAOLS I saw little worth noting to imitate or avoid, but what has been already mentioned at *Paris*. These also have charitable Patronesses, or Patrons, who take care that the prisoners be not defrauded of their allowance; and procure them farther relief. But these Prisons do not seem to be so carefully inspected as those in the city; although the Acts of Parliament for regulation of both are for the most part similar; and were made in the same year, 1717 †. They are drawn up with sound judgment, and accurate knowledge of the complex subject. I found many articles of them in the laws of other nations; but

* THE Article is as follows.

Les Geoliers conduiront les personnes qui viendront faire des charitez dans les lieux de la prison où elles desireront les distribuer, ce qu'elles pourront faire elles-mêmes sur le preau ou dans la cour; mais les aumosnes ne pourront estre distribuées dans les cachots noirs que par les mains du Geolier, en presence des personnes qui les porteront.

† THEY are printed in quarto. The Act for the City is dated 18th June: it contains thirty-nine Articles. The title is *Arrest de la Cour de Parlement, portant Reglement*

but cannot say whether the French Acts were compiled from them, or followed by them.

THE 32d Article of the Act for the Provinces requires that Prisons be "*au raiz de chaussee*"*; *level with the ground*. Yet at *Chalons*, and some other towns, I saw many prisoners in dungeons; larger indeed, but in other respects not much better than those at Paris. In the four horrid ones at the *Prison de St. Joseph* (formerly a Convent) at *Lyons*, June 1776, were twenty-nine criminals: the heat so excessive, that few of them had any other garment on than merely their shirts. Some of them were sick: none of them looked healthy. In the nine other rooms of that Gaol there were one hundred and twenty-eight prisoners; of which number twenty-two were women. To the *Pierrecize*, a state prison at *Lyons*, you ascend by more than two hundred steps: among the few prisoners in it, I sat talking a while with one who said he was in the fiftieth year of his confinement.

LYONS.

Reglement general pour les Prisons, droits et fonctions des Greffiers des Geoles, Geoliers et Guichetiers des dites Prisons: Avec le Tarif des droits attribuez ausdits Geoliers. The Act for the Provinces, dated 1st September, has the same title, except the Tarif. It contains thirty-three Articles.

* THE foundation of this was probably the first Article upon Prisons in the excellent Criminal Ordonnance of Louis XIV. 1670, which directs that they shall be so disposed that *the health of prisoners shall not be incommoded*.

I dwell

I dwell perhaps too long on France. Yet I cannot leave it, without stopping a minute longer at Lyons; to give a short account of an Hospital there.

HOTEL
DIEU.

THE HOTEL DIEU is by the river's side (the Rhone). The principal building is in the form of a cross: near three hundred feet from end to end both ways. The wards thirty-two feet wide, and twenty-five feet high: with apertures between the joists of the floor above; and two tier of windows: in many of them two casements. Three rows of iron bedsteads in each ward. Under a dome in the centre is an octagon altar, in view from every part of the cross. Prayers, which are read there twice a day, can be heard through the wards. This part of the House is for those that have *Fevers*. There are other wards for *Lying-in Women*; for the *Wounded*; for *Foundlings*; for the *Insane*: all separate: and a room for surgical operations. The cross-wards are so airy, as not to be in the least offensive: and yet there are, in another part of the House, two large upper rooms still more airy and pleasant, *Chambres de Convalescence*: to these they remove patients that are recovering: and those whom I saw there said they were very refreshing. They come down from them at meals to a Refectory or Hall. These rooms soon complete the patients recovery; and seem an excellent precaution against the slow hectic fever, of which our Hospital-Physicians so frequently complain; and it is chiefly

chiefly on account of these that I mention the House*. The whole was clean and quiet. There are eight Chaplains; nine Physicians and Surgeons; and twelve Sisters. These are ladies of a religious order, dressed in a neat uniform, who make up, as well as administer all the medicines prescribed; for which purpose there is an Elaboratory and Apothecary's shop, consisting of five or six apartments, the neatest and most elegantly fitted up that can be conceived.

BEFORE the Cantons, I will mention, what is not indeed any part of Switzerland, the little Republic of

G E N E V A.

HERE were only five *Criminals*; none of them in irons. Their allowance about six-pence a day: for which they have a pound of good bread, some soup, and half a pint of

* I was induced to take such particular notice of this Hospital, from the recollection of something similar to these *Chambres de Convalescence* proposed by my ingenious friend Mr. Aikin of Warrington, in his *Thoughts on Hospitals*. I had not the pamphlet then with me, but have since turned to the passage, and find he advises that "all patients capable of sitting up, should remain through the day in large airy halls."

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wine.

wine. They looked healthy. Here, as in the Swiss-Cantons, men and women are kept separate. For the last year or two no capital punishment. If a criminal flies from justice, they call him in form three days, and after trial, execute him in effigy.

No *Debtors*: and there seldom are any. A creditor must allow his debtor in prison as much as felons have from the public: upon failure, the gaoler gives notice, and then discharges the prisoner. Besides, there are *sumptuary* laws in this state. And though the government is in general mild, there is a severe law against bankrupts, and insolvents; which renders incapable of all honours, and deprives of freedom, not only the debtor himself, but his children after him: except such of them as pay their quota of the debts*.

IN those of the CANTONS to which I went, *Felons* have each a room to themselves, "that they may not," said the Keepers, "*tutor one another*." None were in irons: they are kept in rooms more or less strong and lightsome, according to the crimes they are charged with. But the Prisons are in general very strong. The rooms are num-

* See *Edits de la Republique de Geneve*, 1735.

bered.

bered, and the keys marked with the same numbers. In most of them a *German Stove*. The common allowance six-pence a day. In some Cantons there were no prisoners of this sort. The principal reason of it is, the great care that is taken to give children, even the poorest, a moral and religious education. Another thing which contributes to the same intention, is the laudable police of speedy justice. A criminal has notice of his death, not the manner of it, but a short time before he is to suffer: and he is then indulged with his choice of food, wine, &c. Women are not hanged, but beheaded. Every new executioner has a new sword; and in the Arsenal at *Bern* I saw several old ones hung up in order. In the Houses of Correction many of the prisoners were women; whom I saw at work.

THE most numerous prisoners are the *Galley-Slaves*; improperly so called, for there are no Gallies belonging to Switzerland.

AT LAUSANNE I visited a Prison, in which LAUSANNE. there were at that time no prisoners. There were dungeons, but on entering each of them the Keeper observed that we were not yet upon the ground, but there were cellars underneath. On conversing with Dr. *Tiffot*, he expressed his surprize at our Gaol-Distemper; said "I should not find it in Switzerland:" and added that "he had not heard of it's being any where but in England."

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England." When I mentioned the late Act of Parliament for preserving the health of our prisoners, he approved of it highly, especially the clauses which require *white-washing the rooms and keeping them clean.*—I did not (as the Doctor said I should not) find the Gaol-Fever in Switzerland: nor did I find it any where else abroad*.

BERN.

IN BERN, the principal Canton, there was in one Prison (the *Schallenhaus*) one hundred and twenty-four Galley-Slaves. They have not each a room to themselves; but there is some distinction of the more and less criminal, both in their rooms and work. Most of them are employed in cleaning the streets, and public walks; removing the rubbish of building; and the snow and ice in winter. The city is one of the cleanest I have seen. Four or five are chained to a small waggon and draw; others, more at liberty, sweep, load, &c. These are known by an *Iron Collar*, with a hook projecting above their heads: weight about five pounds: I saw one riveted on a criminal in about two minutes. They work in summer from seven to eleven, and from one to six; in winter from eight to eleven, and from one to four. I asked

* SIR JOHN PRINGLE, President of the Royal Society, in his Discourse at the Anniversary Meeting, 30th November 1776, informs us at page 16, that "The late Dr. Mounsey, F. R. S. who had lived long in *Russia*, and had been *Archiater* under two successive Sovereigns---happening to be at *Moscow* when he perused the *Observations on the Jail-Fever*---was induced to compare what he read in that Treatise with what he should see in the several Prisons of that large city: but to his surprize, after visiting them all, and finding them full of malefactors (for
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asked them, "Whether they would choose to work so; or be confined within doors?" "*Much rather,*" they said, "*work thus.*" The less criminal are in separate wards. They work within doors, spinning, &c. in a large room; and have not the iron collar. The Prison is not commodious, nor kept clean. The daily allowance two pounds of bread, and twice a day a pint and half of soup, made of barley, beans, &c. they fetch it from the City-Hospital. In their leisure-hours they make trifles to sell, mend shoes &c. and deliver them as they pass on at work. They are not suffered to practise *Gaming* of any sort. Indeed this is forbidden to all the common people; as playing for any considerable sum is to those of higher rank. The Keeper and Turnkey are to see that the prisoners perform their devotions every morning and evening. The Chaplains pray with them and instruct them on Sunday and Thursday. Once a month other Clergymen superintend the service. No visitant admitted on Sunday. Great care taken of the sick. No sutling place to be kept in this House of Correction. The Keeper is strictly forbidden to sell the prisoners wine, brandy, or other provisions; and required en-

" the late Empress then suffered none---to be put to death) he could discover
" no fever among them, nor learn that any acute distemper peculiar to Jails had
" ever been known there.---Upon his return to *St. Petersburg* he made the same
" inquiry there, and with the same result."

I SHALL just remark here that the *Scorbut* in the French Prisons may probably be a species of the Gaol-Distemper; but I did not see any persons actually ill of it while I was abroad; otherwise I think I should have been able to have recognized it.

tirely

tirely to forego any such emolument. The bedding and cloathing are minutely described, both as to quality and value. I have a copy of all the Orders, twenty-seven in number, dated March 14. 1741. These which I have mentioned may serve for a specimen. Some of the slaves are women: their ward is totally separate from that of the men.

IN *La Prison ordinaire* some rooms are planked all round. Eight of them are very close and strong. Doors of oak $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, plated with iron; three hinges, a lock and two padlocks. In a closet, were the cloaths of a person that was murdered, kept to confront the guilty when apprehended: and some stolen goods, to be owned. Here were no prisoners. A criminal who can pay is allowed to expend 7 batz 2 kreutzer, about a shilling daily, for two meals of soup and good bread. To one that is poor, the Government allows half that sum. To all who are condemned, they allow a shilling a day for eight days before they suffer. These allowances are specified on a paper hung up in the Gaol. There also hangs up a serious exhortation concerning the awful nature of an *Oath*; and the forms of sundry oaths to be taken. I procured copies of the whole, but will transcribe only one oath, as follows: --- "*Ma deposition, dont lecture m'a été faite à présent, je la confirme devant la face du Dieu tout puissant, tout sachant et vray, pour contenir la verité, ainsi que je desire que Dieu me soit en aide sur la fin de mes jours. Sans dol ni*"
"fraude."

"*fraude.*"—"My deposition, which has now been read to me I confirm before the face of God omnipotent, omniscient and true, to contain the truth, as I desire that God may be my help at the end of my days. Without deceit or fraud." Perjury, I was told, is very uncommon among them*.

IN this city I had some discourse with the celebrated Dr. *Haller*. He ascribed the sickness in English Gaols to their being over-crowded.

AT SOLOTHURN the Prison (dated in front 1756) is built SOLOTHURN. of a sort of marble from a quarry near the town. Many of the stones are six feet by two or three, and above a foot thick. The Gaoler said, "He always took off the irons from criminals that came to him chained hands and feet." There are fifteen rooms about nine feet square, and eight feet high: with a coach roof. The partition walls are all of the same sort of marble: the window is in the upper part of

* IN Scotland also this crime is not frequent. When I was there January 1775, there were no trials: but by inquiring of Gentlemen well-versed in the business of their Courts, I learned that the oath and the form of administering it, are very solemn. The Judge, as well as the Witness standing, holding up his right hand &c. After a witness has given his evidence, it is read to him, that he may correct or explain it; and then he signs it. The whole process is carried on with great deliberation. Judges on the Circuit are obliged to stay five nights at every town where they open their commission. Acquitted prisoners are immediately discharged.

FOREIGN PRISONS.

the wall, two feet by six inches: German stoves in most of the rooms. For those guilty of less heinous crimes, there are rooms not quite so strong, and more lightsome. Allowance a pound of bread, and twice a day soup.

THE Magistrates thought a *constant supply of water* within the Prison-walls so needful, that although there is a fountain in the street about ten yards from the Prison-door, they have placed another in the court-yard, dated 1769.

BASIL.

AT BASIL the Gaol for felons is in one of towers. No prisoners; but many rooms ready with clean straw and blankets. Each prisoner (they said) has a room to himself, in which he is constantly shut up, except when conducted to the Council-Chamber for examination. One of the strongest rooms by the great clock is about six feet high: the (trap) door is in the flat roof: the prisoner goes down by a ladder, which is then taken up: his victuals are put in at a wicket on one side. When I was in the room, and took notice of the uncommon strength of it, the Gaoler told me a prisoner had lately made his escape from it. I could not devise what method he took; but heard it was this. He had a spoon for soup, which he sharpened to cut out a piece from the timber of his room: then by practice he acquired the art of striking his door, just when the great clock struck, to drown the noise: and in fifteen days he forced all the bolts, &c. But attempting to let himself
down

SECT. IV. G E R M A N Y.

down from the vast height by a rope which he found, the rope failed him; and by falling he broke so many of his bones, that the Surgeons pronounced his recovery impossible. But his bones were set; and with proper care he did recover, and was pardoned.

G E R M A N Y.

THE Germans, well aware of the necessity of *Cleanliness* in Prisons, have very judiciously chosen to build them in situations most conducive to it; that is, *near Rivers*: as at *Hanover, Zell, Hamburgh, Bremen, Cologne, Mentz* and many other places.

IN the Gaols that I saw there were but few prisoners, except those called; improperly, *Galley-Slaves*. One cause of this, here as in Switzerland, is a speedy trial after commitment.

THE Galley-Slaves have every where a Prison to themselves. They work on the *Roads, the Fortifications, Chalk-Hills*, and other public service; for four, seven, ten, fifteen,
P
teen,

teen, twenty years, according to their crimes: and are cloathed, as well as fed, by the Government. At *Wesel*, which belongs to the KING of *Prussia*, there were ninety-eight of these slaves: they have two pounds of bread a day, and the value of three halfpence English every day they work.

I SAW no under-ground dungeons in any of the new Prisons in *Germany*: nor indeed in any new Prison abroad. At *Lunenburg* the dungeons are disused: and instead of them are built additional rooms up stairs: one for each prisoner. And in most of the Gaols each criminal is alone in his room; which is more or less strong, lightsome, and airy, as the crime he is charged with is more or less atrocious.

ONE often sees the doors of fundry rooms marked *Ethiopia, India, Italy, France, England, &c.* In those rooms, parents, by the authority of the Magistrates, confine for a certain term dissolute children: and if they are inquired after, the answer is, they are gone to *Italy, England, &c.*

I DO not remember any Prison in *Germany* (nor elsewhere abroad) in which *Felons* have not, either from the public allowance, or from charities, somewhat more to live on than bread and water. In some places a person goes on market-

market-days with a basket for prisoners: and I have seen him bring them a comfortable meal of fresh vegetables. But there are separate Prisons in which confinement for a week or two on bread and water is all the punishment for some petty offences. Perhaps, when a condemned criminal is only to live a day or two, such diet may be more proper than the indulgence with which the *Germans* treat prisoners, after sentence of death, which is commonly executed within forty-eight hours. The malefactor has then his choice of food, and wine, in a commodious room, into which his friends are admitted; and a Minister attends him during almost all his remaining hours.

AT STRASBURG I saw in one of the five towers three Debtors: they informed me that they were alimeted by their creditors; that they had two pounds of good bread a day, and soup equally good. I was much pleased to find so much of a liberal spirit prevail in this city, that in the Hospital there were separate chambers for Lutherans, in which they were allowed the attendance of their own Ministers.

STRAS-
BURG.

AT MENTZ, *La Porte de Fer*, which is for *Felons*, is five stories high: two rooms on a floor: a spacious landing-place in the middle, with opposite windows, for circulation of air. The rooms are double-floored with oak plank, full two inches thick; and each room has a double door only three

MENTZ.

feet nine inches high. These two circumstances contribute much to security. On one side the door is a small iron wicket, to put in the daily allowance: which is two pounds of bread, soup, and (except in Lent) a little meat. Only one prisoner is confined in each room, who has a pair of blankets; and once in a fortnight clean straw. This Gaol stands near the Rhine, and is not in the least offensive.

IN the House of Correction all was neat, and shewed the attention of the Regency. On my taking notice to the Keeper how clean his Prison was, he said "How can it be otherwise when we have so many women prisoners? Surely they may keep the House clean." Most of the flour for the city is ground at a mill in this Prison. The delinquents work at it two hours in the morning, and two in the afternoon. Over the door is carved a waggon drawn by two *Stags*, two *Lions*, and two wild *Boars*; with an inscription explaining the device, which is, that if wild beasts can be tamed to the yoke, we should not despair of reclaiming irregular men. I saw the same *bas relief* at one or two other Houses of Correction.

THERE is a separate Prison for *Debtors*, near the Fish-Market: *Le Port du Poisson*. No prisoners. When there are any, they have daily at the creditor's cost two pounds of bread, and about four-pence English.

EVERY

EVERY Prison at *Mentz* has in each room a German stove; which, in winter, is heated two or three times a day. Prisoners have clean linen once a week. On my observing to the *Brigadier of the Police* who went with me, how healthy his prisoners looked, he told me that "Some years ago, they were unhealthy; and the Regency removed them from the dungeons under ground: upon which they recovered; and had been remarkably healthy ever since." The dungeons are now totally disused.

IT was hardly necessary to inquire if the Prisons were inspected by proper Officers. The Keepers make a report every day to an attentive *Lieutenant of the Police*: and once in a fortnight the *Conseiller de Régence*, the *Secrétaire* and *Conseiller des Finances* visit every Prison; hear all complaints; and inquire if cloaths, or any thing necessary be wanting. None of the Keepers sell liquor; but prisoners may send out for a quart of beer a day. They are not allowed to have any spirituous liquors.

I HAVE related more particulars here, to give a specimen of the oeconomy observed in other *German Prisons*, most of them being governed upon the same principles; though not all with the same attention.

AT HANAU near *Hesse Cassel*, the Galley-Slaves (so called) HANAU. are distinguished into *Honnêtes* and *Desbonnêtes*. The former

former are condemned for three, four, seven, nine, fourteen years : but the term is sometimes shortened on account of good behaviour. These wear a brown uniform ; and a small chain from the girdle to one leg. The latter are for the most part such as have committed capital offences. These wear a white coat with one black sleeve ; and have a chain from the girdle to each leg : they never work out of the town ; and are put to the most disagreeable services in it. The hours of work for both sorts are in summer from five to eleven, and from one to six : in winter as the weather and length of days permit. Allowance, from 1st of April to Michaelmas, $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of bread a day : from Michaelmas to April, two pounds : and each man about two-pence English a day. From a charity they have half a florin (about twelve-pence halfpenny) a month. They are constantly visited by a Deputy from the Regency, who makes his report to the Colonel every morning : and the Colonel conveys it to the young Prince, when he resides at Hanau. Of his kindness to them, the prisoners seemed duly sensible ; and they spoke with grateful respect of the attention shewed them by the amiable *Princess* his deceased mother, whose memory will be long revered in that country.

I ASKED one and another of the *Honnêtes* who were at work on the road, " Whether they liked to be thus employed, or would rather choose to be confined in idle-
" nefs ?"

" nefs ?" They readily answered, " Much rather be thus abroad at work." On Saturday afternoon, these sweep the bridges, the entrances to the town &c. They have a *Guard* of four Soldiers (bayonets fixed), a Subaltern, and the Keeper. This is the guard, be the number of slaves more or less : when I saw them they were from ten to twelve.

AT six in the evening, in summer-time, they bring all their tools into a room in the Prison ; and go to their chambers : the *Desbonnêtes* on the ground floor ; the *Honnêtes* above. But in this Prison there is not a separate room for each man ; as in those to which they were at first committed. Each slave has, besides the cloaths above-mentioned, two pair of shoes ; two pair of stockings ; and two shirts. All are obliged to attend Divine Service on Sunday. The men on my repeated visits looked always healthy.

THE *Desbonnêtes* are not doomed to despair : but for good behaviour are sometimes promoted to the rank of *Honnêtes*. I conversed with one whom I found very cheerful for a late advancement of that kind : in consequence of it he was working on the road.

THERE is another Prison at *Hanau*, *La Tour de Margueretta* : so called from the first person confined in it. It has four rooms on each of the two floors ; but they were all empty.

AT

CASSEL. AT CASSEL there is also a Prison for Galley-Slaves, under similar management, but not so well conducted. One circumstance struck me as worthy of remark. In a fine new Church just built, there is a gallery with two separate seats for the *Honnêtes* and *Desbonnêtes*; though the whole number, when I was there, was only seventeen.

MANHEIM. AT MANHEIM Monsieur *Babo*, Counsellor to the Regency, very politely gave orders to shew me every room of *La Maison de Force*. Prisoners committed to this House are commonly received in form with what is called the *Bien-Venu* (Welcome). A machine is brought out in which are fastened their neck, hands, and feet. Then they are stripped; and have, according as the Magistrate orders—the *Grand Venu* of twenty to thirty stripes—the *Demi Venu* of eighteen to twenty—or the *Petit Venu* of twelve to fifteen: after this they kiss the threshold and go in. Some are treated with the same compliment at discharge. The like ceremony is observed at some other towns in *Germany*.

THE House was clean. Fifty-two men, and forty-nine women in several rooms: all at work; either at their own trades, as shoemakers, taylor, weavers, lapidaries; or at one of the manufactures of the House; which are coarse cloth and cards. Not one idle. They have but little time to earn any thing for themselves: yet though they work entirely

entirely for the House, their labour, I was informed, does not maintain it.

THE Rules and Orders are good. I have a copy of them all. The two last are to this effect. 11th. As it is of the utmost importance in such Houses as this, to observe all possible cleanliness; it is required of all persons to watch most strictly against all appearance of the contrary. Whoever sees the least offence of that kind, shall give immediate notice of it to the Inspector, upon pain of close confinement on bread and water, and the most rigorous chastisement. 12th. That no one may be able to plead ignorance of the Rules, one copy of them shall be given to every prisoner, and another hung up in his room; and they shall be read publicly every Sunday morning after Divine Service. It is ordered that the disobedient be punished; and that encouragement be given to the dutiful and diligent.

THE doors are all numbered; and the keys marked with the corresponding number. Allowance to most of the *Men* two pounds of bread, soup, and a quart of good beer; and, except in Lent, half a pound of meat. *Women* have a pound and half of bread: other articles as the men. The sick are indulged with white bread, veal, &c. They have all of them clean linen once a week: it is washed by the women prisoners. The Keeper makes every morning a re-

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port

port to Monsieur *Babo* of the state of his House as to numbers, health, &c.

A CAPUCHIN says Mass in the Chapel every morning. A gallery for men: another for women, with a blind before it: another for *Orphans*, of whom there are sixty-four in a sort of Hospital at one end of the Prison. Protestants and Jews are ordered to their private devotions: the latter are excused from working on their *Sabbath*.

HANOVER. THE Prison at HANOVER was built about thirty years ago. It is situated on the river *Leina*. There are eleven strong rooms, about ten feet square, and ten and a half high; with a bed of solid stone in each, eleven inches from the ground, and nine inches higher at the head. Over these are larger apartments for debtors &c. The rooms are warmed by stoves in winter. Criminals have a small chain: they are allowed straw to lie on, and two coverlids. When I visited the Prison there were seven criminals and one debtor. The Keeper sells no liquors, but has a salary. In the Council-Chamber are all the various Edicts in frames. There is a Torture-Chamber, but I with pleasure learned that the two cruel engines had not been used for four years.

LUNENBURG. I found the criminals here employed on a different work from any I had before seen: digging stone from

from a large chalk-hill called *Kalck-Berg*. Others were preparing it for the kiln, grinding, sifting, packing &c. in the warehouses. The casks are about three hundred weight. It is sent to *Hamburg* and other distant places, as it makes an excellent cement. Many other men were employed; but the criminals, of whom there were thirty-one, had a chain of about four pounds. Their allowance was a pound and half of bread, and three halfpence in money: provisions much cheaper than in England.

AT HAMBURGH *Felons* in the *Büttele* were all in irons. HAMBURGH. The common method of execution is decollation. The Executioner, who is Gaoler, shewed me the sword which, he said, he had made use of eight times.

AMONG the various engines of torture, or the question, which I have seen in *France* and other places, the most excruciating is kept and used in a deep cellar of this Prison. It ought to be buried ten thousand fathom deeper*. It is said the inventor was the first who suffered by it: the last was a woman, not two years ago.

HERE, as at some other towns, is a Prison for slight offences. The punishment, to be confined from a week to a month, and live on bread and water only. To prevent

* See the Marquis *Beccaria*, Chap. XVI.

the prisoners having any thing else, what money they bring with them is taken, and sealed up; but it is returned to them when discharged.

IN this great city, supposed to contain ninety thousand souls, there were but three *Debtors*: and in the neighbouring town ALTEHA, which belongs to the KING of DENMARK, but two.

IT will perhaps be expected that I should say something of the Houses of Correction at the great and opulent city of *Hamburg*. I was there near a week, and visited all the Prisons with every advantage, through the kindness of my friend, Senator *Voght*. In the great House of Correction, which is a sort of Work-house, and *not* reckoned *infamous*, various kinds of work were carrying on; as knitting, spinning, weaving linen, hair, and wool, rasping logwood and hartshorn. A regular book is kept of the earnings, one fourth of which, I was informed, was given to each, as they worked more or less. This House is governed by eight Directors, who must be married men. Two of them visit it every Wednesday and Saturday; on the latter day along with the Ladies, who deliver out the women's work, and have a room for the purpose. Many hundreds are confined here. In the great room I saw about three hundred women and girls all busily employed both times I was there.

there. Although the House is situated near the *Alster*, and visited by Ladies, I cannot say much in favour of its neatness or cleanliness.

IN the *Spin-House*, which is accounted *infamous*, even the men were not obliged to rasp logwood, but were employed in spinning, in more lightsome rooms than those of the other House. In this were seventy-three prisoners.

AT BREMEN the Prison for *Debtors* has four rooms; BREMEN. but the Magistrate who accompanied me, Dr. *Hornwinckel*, assured me not one of them had been occupied for above thirty years, till very lately; when one was fitted up for a debtor, who was confined in it a few weeks. Over the door of this Prison is inscribed

Hic fraudum terminus esto.

THAT there were few *Debtors*, or none at all, in such towns as *Mentz*, *Coblentz*, *Manheim*, &c. may be ascribed to their being places of but *little trade*. In such large trading cities as *Hamburg*, and *Bremen*, it seems owing to the little credit that is given—the expence of alimment &c. falling on the creditor—the being deprived of every kind of amusement and diversion while in Prison—and the disgrace of being there.

DEBTORS

DEBTORS are not permitted in any German cities that I have seen, to have their wives and children living with them in Prison.

THE House of Correction at *Bremen*, situated on the *Weser*, is indeed a *House of Industry*; yet very quiet. There were eleven men, and twenty-eight women, all at work; except a woman who had broke her leg. The stronger and less docile men rasp *Logwood*: others weave a set task of *Hair Carpets*, &c. The Keeper appoints a weaver in the House to instruct every new comer, who generally teaches him the art in a short time. The women's apartments were very clean: their work is spinning, knitting, &c. The Keeper has a salary; and sells nothing.

I SAT an afternoon with Dr. *Duntze* of *Bremen*, who told me he was in London in 1753 and 54 with an inquisitive friend, a German. They went into *Newgate* to observe the effects of the *Ventilator*; and were struck with an offensive smell in one of the rooms. Next day they were both indisposed. The Doctor's complaint turned out a kind of jaundice. After a few days confinement he visited his friend, and found him excessively low; and in a short time he died with every symptom of the *Gaol-Fever*.

ZELL. AT ZELL in the Electorate of *Hanover*, is a large House of Correction; and

AT

AT CASSEL is another, with a work-room one hundred and ten feet by twenty-five, and twelve feet high. It was built by CHARLES, grandfather to the present Landgrave. I shall not, however, enter into a minute detail of the discipline in these two, and other Houses of the same sort in *Germany*. Those in *Holland* and *Flanders* are better conducted: and my account of them shall be more particular.

H O L L A N D.

PRISONS in the UNITED PROVINCES are so quiet, and most of them so clean, that a visitor can hardly believe he is in a Gaol. They are commonly (except the Rasp-Houses) white-washed once or twice a year: and a prisoner told me it was no small refreshment to go into their rooms after such a thorough cleaning. A Physician and Surgeon is appointed to every Prison; and prisoners are in general healthy.

IN most of the Prisons for *Criminals* there are so many rooms that each prisoner is kept separate. They never go out

FOREIGN PRISONS.

out of their rooms: each has a bedstead, straw, and coverlid. But there are few criminals, except those in the *Rasp-Houses* and *Spin-Houses*. In all the seven Provinces seldom more executions in a year than from four to six*. One reason of this, I believe, is the awful solemnity of executions, which are performed in presence of the Magistrates, with great order and seriousness, and great effect on the spectators. I did not see the process in *Holland*; but it was particularly described to me, and was similar to what I had been witness of in another place abroad.

THE common method of execution is decollation by a broad sword. For the more atrocious crimes, such as premeditated murder &c. the malefactor is broken on the wheel; or rather on a cross laid flat upon the scaffold. But a description of the manner of this execution, which is finished by a *Coup de Grace* on the breast, would not be agreeable to any of my readers.

DEBTORS also are but few. The Magistrates do not approve of confining in idleness any that may be usefully employed. And when one is imprisoned, the Creditor must pay the Gaoler for his maintenance, from eight to eighteen stivers a day, according to the Debtor's former condition in

* I WAS told in Scotland that the number of executions there is nearly the same.

life.

SECT. IV. . . . H O L L A N D.

life. The aliment must be paid every week: in default whereof, the Gaoler gives eight days notice; and if within that time, the money, or security for it, be not brought, the debtor is discharged.

ANOTHER reason is, that the situation is very disgraceful. But perhaps the principal cause that debtors, as well as capital offenders, are few, is the great care that is taken to train up the children of the poor, and indeed of all others, to industry. No debtors have their wives and children living with them in Prison: but occasional visits in the day-time are not forbidden. You do not hear in the streets as you pass by a Prison, what I have been rallied for abroad, the cry of *poor hungry starving Debtors*.

THE States do not transport criminals: but men are put to labour in the *Rasp-Houses*, and women to proper work in the *Spin-Houses*: upon this professed maxim, *Make them diligent and they will be honest*. The rasping logwood, which was formerly the principal work done by the men criminals, is now in many places performed at the mills, much cheaper: and the *Dutch*, finding woollen manufactures more profitable, have within these last twelve years, set up several of them in those Houses of Correction. In some, the work does not only maintain the prisoners; but they have a little extra-time to earn somewhat for their better living in Prison, or for their benefit afterwards.

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GREAT

GREAT care is taken to give them moral and religious instruction, and reform their manners, for their own and the public good. The *Chaplain* (such there is in every House of Correction) does not only perform public worship, but privately instructs the prisoners, catechises them every week &c. and I am well informed that many come out sober and honest*. Some have even chosen to continue and work in the House after their discharge.

OFFENDERS are sentenced to these Houses, according to their crimes, for seven, ten, fifteen, twenty years and upwards: but, to prevent despair, seldom for life. As an encouragement to sobriety and industry, those who distinguish themselves by such behaviour, are discharged before the expiration of their term. A prisoner who gives information of an intended escape is favoured much in this respect: his term is considerably shortened. A little before the election of new Magistrates, those who are in office inspect these Prisons; and inquire of the Keeper which pri-

* I HAVE heard in England that a countryman of ours, who was a prisoner in the Rasp-House at *Amsterdam* several years, was permitted to work at his own trade, shoe-making; and by being constantly kept employed, was quite cured of the vices which brought him to confinement. My informant added, that the prisoner received at his release a surplus of his earnings, which enabled him to set up in *London*; where he lived in credit, and at dinner commonly drank "Health to his worthy Masters at the Rasp-House."

soners,

soners, of those who have been confined a few years, have been diligent and orderly; and of the Minister, which of them have been most attentive to public and private instructions. According to the accounts, they contract the appointed time of punishment: so that fourteen years will sometimes be reduced to eight or ten; and twelve years to six or seven. This practice of abridging the time of punishment upon reformation is in every view wise and beneficial. Indeed, I have some reason to think that criminals are often doomed to a longer term, with an intention to make such deductions upon their amendment.

I WAS informed that the work done in some of these Houses of Correction (especially where the men are employed in rasping) does not maintain them: though the men that are robust earn from eight to ten stivers a day; and healthy women by spinning &c. from four to six. But some earn less; those who are infirm very little: none however are quite idle but the sick. This is surely excellent policy; for besides guarding against the pernicious effects of idleness in a Prison, and breaking criminals to habits of industry, if work so constant does not support the Houses, how much heavier would be the public burden, maintaining the numerous offenders in these Prisons, if, as in many of our Bridewells, no work at all were done there?

In *Holland*, as well as in *Germany*, there are private
R 2 rooms

rooms in most of the Houses of Correction, in which young persons of a vicious and profligate turn are confined on the representation of their parents, till they shew signs of amendment.

AMSTER-
DAM.

AT AMSTERDAM the Prison is under the *Stadt-House*. Debtors and felons quite separate. No court-yard. Visitants may converse with debtors at the lattices of their rooms, from nine to twelve in the forenoon. The debtor may buy an anchor of wine to deposite with the Keeper (who sells liquors): he is allowed to call for a bottle of it a day, paying the Keeper two stivers a bottle.

IN this city they compute 250,000 souls*; about one third of those in *London*: yet in 1775 I found but eighteen debtors, in 1776 only fifteen.

THE rooms for criminals are down fifteen steps: ten feet by nine: in each, one prisoner only: a bedstead &c. door-

* IN the *Stadt-House* there is hung up to public view, a board shewing the mortality for the last two years, and for the last week, viz.

Deaths in	1774,	—	—	6649
	1775,	—	—	7895
August 6th,	1776,	—	—	120

THE year 1775 was very sickly.—Sir *William Petty* in his *Traacts*, page 186, gives for the year 1685 the number of Burials in *Amsterdam*. 6245.

way

way twenty-two inches wide; door four inches thick: the condemned rooms have an iron door besides. In the latter a criminal is never left alone: two prisoners from the Rasp-House are always with him, to prevent his destroying himself. They rejoice at the service; for if they discharge it faithfully, their reward is an abridgment of their allotted term. I was credibly informed, that there was no execution here for the last two years: and that for a hundred years past there have not been, *communibus annis*, more than one a year. It is generally performed within forty-eight hours after sentence.

IN the *Stadt-House* there were six delinquents. Their allowance is nine stivers a day, for which the Keeper gives them—in the morning, four good slices of bread and butter—at dinner, rice soup, and two slices of bread—at supper, milk—besides about a quart of beer a day; and on Sunday three quarters of a pound of meat. He also pays for their weekly shaving, and for washing their linen. In some other Provinces the allowance is the same: in some, more. One of the Magistrates, with whom I was conversing upon the subject of English Prisons, said “Nourish your prisoners well, and keep them in dry rooms, and they will be healthy.”

AT the RASP-HOUSE over the gate is, in *das relief*, a device somewhat

RASP-
HOUSE.

somewhat like that at *Mentz*. At the inner gate is (as at other Rasp-Houfes) a representation of two men rasping *Logwood*: which is here their principal employment. Yet regard is had not only to their degree of guilt, but to their strength: for I saw two men winding filk or thread. This last summer there were fifty-four prisoners. In some rooms, where they also sleep, were ten or twelve men rasping an appointed task. Others were in the warehoufes, sorting and weighing; others bringing the wood to those rooms. If any one be idle, or refractory &c. he is shut up in a place of closer confinement under ground. I saw one who was so punished for burning logwood: he told me his sentence was for six weeks. On careful inquiry, I learned, that what has been said of a cellar, in which such transgressors are put to pump or drown, *is not fact*. Hours of work from six to twelve, and from one to four. In extra-hours they make tobacco-boxes &c. which they sell to visitants, who pay two stivers to go in. They are daily visited by the Medical Faculty; and have in general a healthy look. I wished to know more particulars of this famous Prison; but could scarce ever get from the *cautious old Keeper* a direct answer to any one question: though I paid him five visits with that intent. I could not go into the rooms till last time I was there, when a Magistrate accompanied me. The Keeper was still as much upon the reserve as before: but without asking him, I saw his prison was dirty.

IN

SPIN-
HOUSE.

IN the SPIN-HOUSE (*Spin-buis*) you see a number of women criminals (there were thirty-two) some of whom had been the most abandoned; sitting in presence of the *Mistress*, quiet and orderly at their different sorts of work; spinning, plain work &c. Of the latter sort much is sent in from the city. Hours of work from six to twelve, and from one to eight. I saw them go from work to dinner: the Keeper as they call him *Father* presided. First they sang a Psalm: then they went in order down to a neat dining-room; where they seated themselves at two tables; and several dishes of boiled barley, agreeably sweetened, were set before them. The Father struck with a hammer: then in profound silence all stood up; and one of them read with propriety, a Prayer about four or five minutes. Then they sat down cheerful; and each filled her bowl, from a large dish which contained enough for four of them. Then one brought on a waiter slices of bread and butter, and served each prisoner.

As I staid longer than a common visitant, one of the prisoners went up to the *Mistress* with the timid modesty of a suppliant, and asked leave to offer me the plate. The leave was granted. The *Mistress* keeps what is given, till it amounts to a sum sufficient to purchase a little *Tea* or *Coffee*, for all to partake.

HERE (as at some other towns in *Holland*) is a Prison or Work-house

Work-house for slighter offences; where prisoners are employed in *Spinning, weaving coarse Carpets, picking Oakum &c.*

DOL-
HUIS.

I WILL just mention the DOL-HUIS, an Hospital for the *Insane*: because it would (in my opinion) be a good plan for a Bridewell, with the addition of working rooms. The ground plot is rectangular: the Keeper's house takes up one of the shorter sides: the other three sides have, on the ground-floor, rooms in the recess of a walk full eight feet wide, under arcades; inclosed from the area or garden by a wall to the height of four feet: the upper part to the crown of the arch, open. Each person has a separate room, with two doors; the inner door is latticed; the outer, frequently stands open. Over the doors is an aperture in the wall, about a foot square. These rooms are for the *Poor*. Above are larger rooms for those whose friends can pay for them. Common visitants are not allowed to go up: but, injudiciously, every one that pays four stivers is admitted below. The windows all round open to the court-yard, none outwards.

HAGUE.

AT the HAGUE I was honoured with the very polite assistance of Sir *Joseph Yorke*. A Magistrate accompanied me to the Prison; where all was quiet and in order. The same Gentleman presented me with a copy of Instructions to the Sheriff of the Court; a copy of Rules for Officers of the

the Attorney-General; and with a M. S. copy on several sheets, of forty-four Rules for the Management of the Prison. The Gaoler is never suffered to sleep out of the House, but with the express consent of the Court, or the Advocate &c. and when that leave is, on any special occasion granted, he must provide a Substitute approved by the Court &c. This Substitute is sworn to his temporary office. If any prisoner escapes, whether by the immediate fault of the Keeper, or the fault of his servants, he is to suffer the punishment that was due to the prisoner. He may not keep a tavern or alehouse: nor play at cards &c. with his prisoners: nor accept of any treat or gift from them, directly or indirectly, during their confinement or afterwards. He must keep the Prison neat and clean: furnish fresh straw once a week; and in winter coverlids. The Attorney-General or his Deputy is to see that all this be duly performed. The Keeper is to supply prisoners with good bread, soup, and beer. Those who pay eighteen stivers a day (or what other sum the Magistrates shall allow them to expend) are to have provision proportioned to that price. Visitants are not permitted to be in the Prison from eleven in the morning, till two: and are dismissed in the evening at six in summer, at four in winter. None to be admitted on Saturday: nor in time of Divine Service on Sunday. Candles to be taken away at nine. The Keeper to guard against accidents by fire.

S

THE

THE Rules for Officers of the Attorney-General, and of the Sheriff have an admirable effect in preserving peace, and order. There are thirty-two of them. I cannot forbear abstracting a few. No officer to stir out of town without special leave: and while in town each must always give notice where he may be found. In case of fire they must immediately repair to the Court-Gate for instructions. Arrests of delinquents must be performed quietly. No officer to serve or watch instead of another. Neglect of duty through drunkenness is punished with living in Prison on bread and water at their own expence for three days, eight days, and at last, with discharge. They may not keep company with any persons in public houses &c. Giving ill language is punished by a fine: quarrels, at discretion of the Magistrates. Not giving information of defaulters is punished with discharge. They are to guard against being guilty of ill behaviour of any sort, that no dishonour may be cast upon the Court of Judicature. Each officer to have a copy of the Rules, and keep it to shew on demand, on pain of a fine. The whole to be read to them all together by the Sheriff once a month.

GRONINGEN.

AT GRONINGEN the *Rasp* and *Spin-House* together, has on the ground-floor rooms for men. In the floor above it are four apertures two feet by three and a half each into the wool warehouse above. These were lately made by the advice of a judicious Physician (a Professor), who thought the

the men's rooms not sufficiently airy, though they have opposite windows; the men sleeping as well as working in them: on which account they are still somewhat offensive. Women have a work-room, and a lodging-room quite separate: both of them very clean. All the prisoners are employed on a woollen manufacture.

AT LEWARDEN the *Rasp-House* had in it thirty-four men: a few of them rasping *Logwood*, with an instrument composed of ten saws united: others combing and spinning black wool: others spinning twine; weaving sacks, and coarse linen cloth &c. At their leisure they make shoe-pegs, tobacco-stoppers, sugar-saucers of brass wire &c. and sell them to visitants. In the *Spin-House* adjoining, were thirty-six women: all at work, preparing thread &c. except one, whom the Mistress, going up with me from her breakfast, found idle in a warehouse; and not only rated her for it sufficiently, but entertained me with her murmurs upon the offence a good while after; from whence I concluded the fault was not a very common one.

LEWARDEN.

AT UTRECHT no prisoners in the *Stadt-House*. The Keeper told me the allowance was twelve stivers a day: "for, said he, confinement here is not meant as punishment; but only as safe custody till trial*." After which,

UTRECHT.

* THE same observation I remember was made to me by the Keeper at *Nimeguen*, where the allowance is ten stivers. Here also were no prisoners.

“some who are to be punished by a short imprisonment are sent to another Prison, where they live on bread and water only.” He said a woman who had been his prisoner, was that day sentenced to be so punished for a fortnight: but he added, “She will have a sufficient quantity; and if she be ill, her food will be altered.”

DELFT. AT DELFT there were near ninety in the *House of Correction*: men and women quite separate: all neat and clean, and looked healthy. They told me their allowance was five stivers a day*. All employed on a woollen manufacture—women spinning, carding &c.—men weaving from coarse to very fine Cloth: their task, to earn thirty-five stivers a week. Some earn a small surplus; but they have only half of it. A Burgomaster, to whom I mentioned that circumstance, said it was the truth. They do not put more than eight or ten men to work in one room: for when large numbers are together, one idle person corrupts more; and there is not generally so much work done. Here also, if a prisoner has behaved well for a few years, and given proofs of amendment, the Magistrates begin to abridge the time for which he was sentenced. One whom I saw very cheerful,

* A GUINEA 252d. is = 11 guilders 11 stivers = 231 stivers (for 20 stivers is a guilder) therefore stivers are to pence as $\frac{231}{252} = \frac{11}{12}$: i. e. 11 stivers is equal to a shilling.

told

told me the cause of his joy was that a year had lately been taken from his term.

AT ROTTERDAM in the Prison under the *Stadt-House* were neither debtors nor felons. In the *Rasp and Spin-House* about forty men and a hundred women. The former, three or four in a room, making *Fishing-Nets*, carding *Wool*, sorting *Coffee* &c. Women mostly employed on a manufacture of *Worsted*, spinning, and working at a great wheel like those which at *Derby* are turned by water.

ROTTER-
DAM.

THE PEST-HOUSE across the *Maes* opposite *Rotterdam* is a spacious building in a small isle. It is nearly a square of one hundred and thirty feet: has four spacious wards which are about thirty feet wide and twenty high. I mention this edifice, not only as it occurred to me that it would be a good plan for a House of Correction, being airy, and built round a court in which is a basin of water communicating with the *Maes*; but on account of the sentiments of veneration it inspired, when I trod on the ground under which such piles of my brave countrymen lie buried; it having been used as a Military Hospital after the siege of *Bergen-op-Zoom*.

PEST-
HOUSE.

FLAN-

F L A N D E R S.

THE FRENCH PROVINCES here and in the *Netherlands* are chiefly governed by the same *Arrêt de Parlement* as their Provinces in *France*. I will therefore mention only one circumstance at *Arras* in *Artois* which was different from what I had seen in *France*. Of one hundred and thirty-nine prisoners in this Gaol, I saw two in the court-yard who had irons. But upon asking one of them the reason of it, he told me "it was for attempting an escape."

IN the AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS I found the Prisons in general clean; and no sickness prevailing in any one of them: and yet few of the Prisons have a court-yard: in most of them every prisoner is confined to his room. In some places, as at *Antwerp* &c. the allowance to *Criminals* is scanty; a pound of bread a day, and a pound of butter a week: but the deficiency is fully made up by supplies from the Monasteries &c. Debtors very few: alimented by creditors.

AT

AT BRUSSELS twenty-four *Felons*: daily allowance two pounds of bread (*pain de munition*) and some soup: on Sunday, except in Lent, a pound of meat. A Keeper of the House of Correction was lately committed to this Gaol for abuse of his trust. *Debtors* are sent to another Prison: the creditor is obliged to advance a month's aliment. In that Prison I saw an Englishman who had his wife and two or three children with him; but they were not permitted to stay at night.

VILFORDE. The House of Correction now building near this town for all the provinces of *Austrian Brabant*, is upon the largest scale of any structure of the kind that I have seen. It is situated upon the great canal leading to *Brussels*; and is almost surrounded by water. The ground plot, a plan of which I have by me, is rectangular, except a sweep before the court of the Governor's house. The longer sides are about two hundred and ten yards; the shorter about one hundred and sixty-seven. At the back of one of the longer sides, fronting the West, I counted eighty windows on a floor. There are the same number opposite, looking inwards towards the courts. Each of these belongs to a separate room or cell, near six feet and a half by five and a half, and eight feet high; and a long passage eight feet and a half wide runs through each floor, into which all the opposite rooms open. Two floors of this side are finished, making three hundred and twenty rooms; there are

FOREIGN PRISONS.

are two more, as yet unfinished, of the same number of rooms. Each of the two shorter sides has one hundred and seventy-six rooms, of the same size as the others, and on as many floors. Part of these sides are finished; so that, including some rooms on each side the Governor's house, about five hundred are now ready of the nine hundred and ninety-two. On some vacant ground at the shorter sides more rooms will be built if wanted. Of so great importance is it wisely judged by these Provinces to keep every prisoner at night by himself, that this vast number of rooms is contrived that each may lodge *one person only*.

ON each side the gate of the court before the Governor's house is a Porter's lodge. Prisoners will pass this way to their respective wards behind the House. Those committed for life will be quite separate from those who are for a limited term: and men totally so from women; not only in their *Wards, Work-rooms, and Refectories*; but also in two distinct *Chapels*. These Chapels are octagons of about thirty-five feet; and on each floor the prisoners will have a room looking into them. The work-rooms are numerous; about forty feet by twenty: some up stairs, others under ground for weaving fine linen: but no prisoners are to sleep under ground. *Staircases* all stone, six feet wide: some dark cells for confining the refractory. A *Kitchen* forty-seven feet by thirty-four: *Bakehouse*, and *Slaughterhouse* large in proportion, and commodious. Convenient apartments for
several

SECT. IV. FLANDERS.

several Chaplains: and proper rooms for a military guard. No prisoners as yet: and two spacious Infirmaries designed, are not begun.

AT MECHLIN one of the best rooms in the Prison is for *Debtors*: but none in it. Three criminals up stairs: no dungeons. Allowance, two sixpenny loaves and a pound of butter weekly: on Sunday a pound of meat, and some soup: three pints of small beer daily. Straw, and two blankets. Firing from the 1st of November to the 1st of May. Clean linen every week from a charity. I will not describe the mode of *Torture*.

AT BRUGES there is to the Prison a court-yard for *Criminals*, and another for *Debtors*: but the former are never let out. Each sort has a daily allowance in money, about three-pence halfpenny English: provisions rather cheaper than in *London*: a clean shirt every week. *Debtors* have the allowance from their *Creditors*; who also pay the Keeper a small fee at the entrance of the prisoner, and a penny a day during his confinement. No under-ground dungeons. Two things are remarkable in this Prison, and well worth imitating. One is the care they take of the *Sick*. There are two Medical Books, one for the City, the other for the *Seigneuries* or Lordships of Parishes, which are governed by different Magistrates, but the Prison is common to both. The Physician at every visit enters his
T prescription

in the respective Book, which is carried to the Apothecary; who after copying the *Recipe*, sends the book back again; and it is kept in the room where the Magistrates meet to hold a Court of Judicature, inspect the Prison &c. I spent some hours in looking over them. The prescriptions are written with regularity for many years past. *Bark* and *Cordials* were almost constant ingredients in the *Recipe*. They are not troubled with infectious distempers; but perhaps the Physicians are somewhat apprehensive of them, and order those preventives with success. The Physician orders a Surgeon to attend when the case requires one: and at his order also the Keeper provides for the sick, *Soup*, *white Bread* &c. the Magistrates allowing for this *Fourteen-pence* a day, to continue till countermanded by the Physician. Some sick prisoners have been many weeks thus liberally provided for.

THE other exemplary practice is their care of Legacies and Donations. In the Council-Chamber, under a picture representing visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, and releasing the prisoner, there is in a frame a printed List of all Charities given or bequeathed to the Prisoners from the year 1315 to 1734; with the names and intentions of the several Donors: and in another small frame is a memorial of the time at which each bequest is to be distributed.

GHENT. AT GHENT in the Prison at the superb *Maison de Ville*
each

each criminal has from the city about four-pence halfpenny English, a day: and provision being there about one third cheaper than in *London*, some of them save a little out of that allowance after paying for the weekly washing of their linen.

IN the State Prison, governed by other Magistrates, criminals have four-pence a day. In each of those Prisons the Keeper has from the Magistrates two-pence a day for the custody of every prisoner. In the two Prisons, four debtors.

HERE is a Prison belonging to the rich Monastery of *Benedictines* in the *Abbey of St. Peter*. There are now thirty-five of the fraternity: who have many Lordships, and part of the City in their jurisdiction. The Prison joins to the Abbot's Court-House. Three dreary dungeons down nineteen steps: a little window in each: no prisoners. I went down; but my noting the dimensions of the windows &c. so enraged the Keeper, that he would not indulge my curiosity any farther.

THE *House of Correction* for the *City of Ghent* is not so commodiously built, nor kept so clean as some other Flemish Prisons: but there are very good Rules of Oeconomy, of which I have a copy. Every prisoner is examined at his first coming; and if he be not healthy, he is

FOREIGN PRISONS.

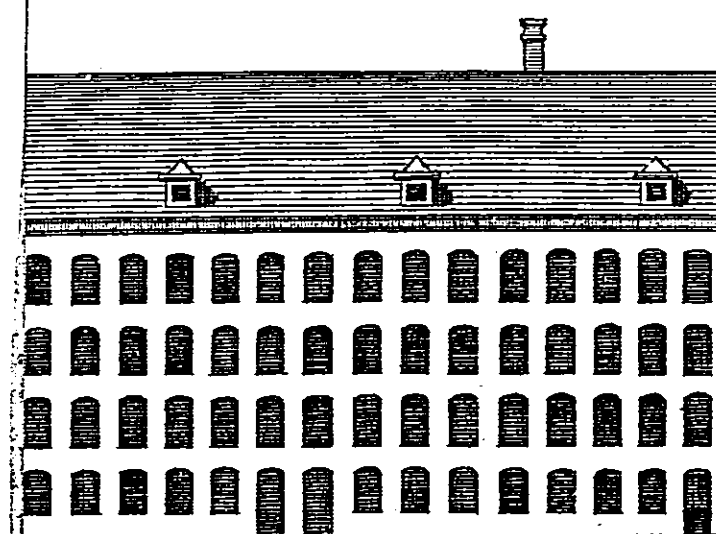
not put among those that are so. That the Keeper may not be tempted to oppress his prisoners, he is exempted from all *Taxes*. The prisoners have a set task of different sorts of work: the profits of extra-work their own. The Magistrates meet in the Prison once a week to inspect it; and to appoint the sort and quantity of provision for every day of the week ensuing. They order the Physician to see that the sick have broth, and other nourishment proper for them. The Keeper provides it and is paid by the Magistrates. I happened to go into the Prison while they were there, and saw them employed as above.

I BEG leave here, on account of the humanity of its institution, to digress from my subject by taking notice of a Nunnery in this place. The *Hospitable Mansion* is not inhabited solely by Nuns; it is destined to the reception of men who are insane, and sick aged women. The insane have, when requisite, assistance from their own sex; and the tenderness with which both these and the poor women are treated by the sisters, gave me no little pleasure.

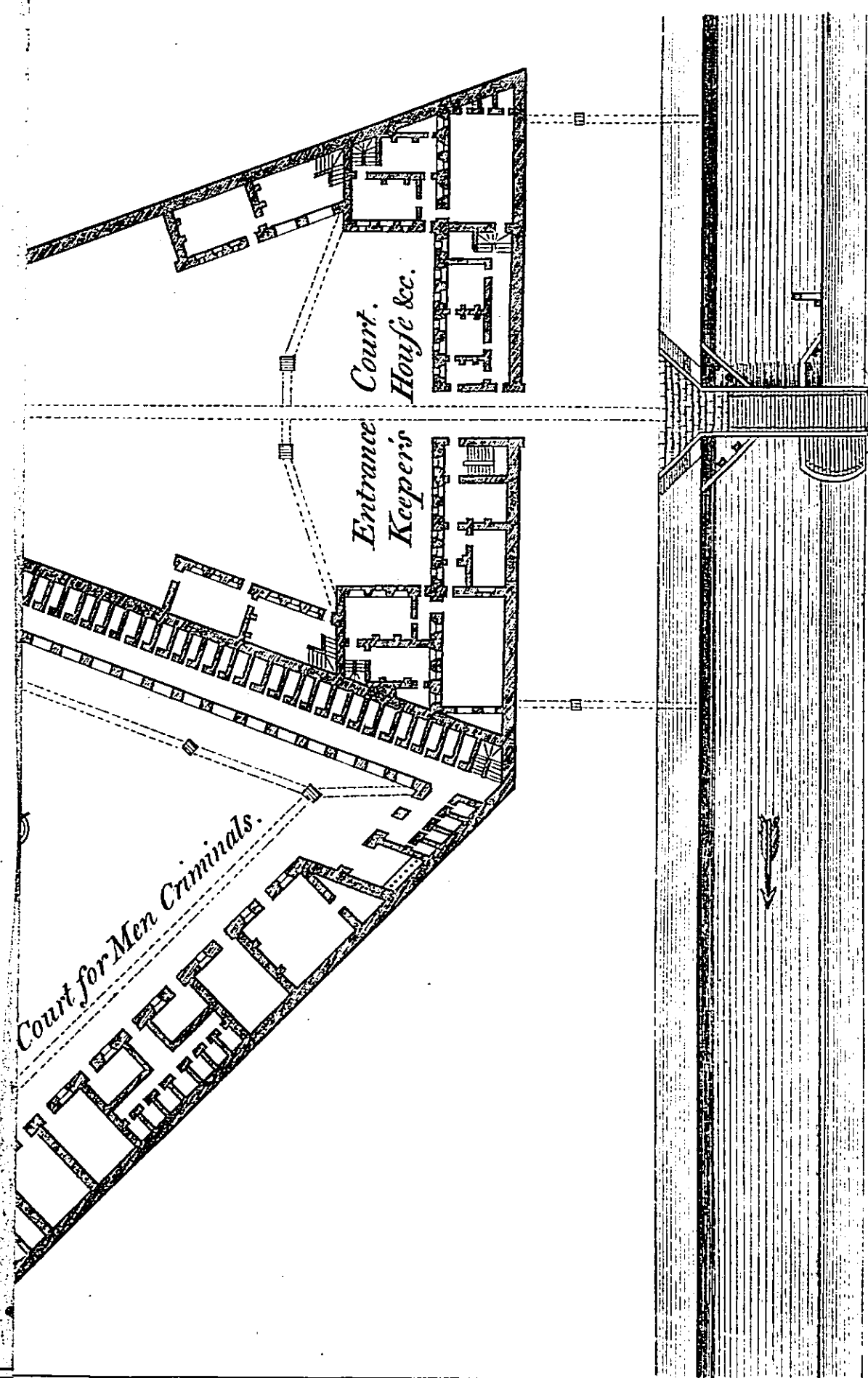
THERE is at *Ghent* a new Prison building by the States of *Austrian Flanders*. It is a House of Correction for all those Provinces (as that at *Vilforde* for *Austrian Brabant*) and is called LA MAISON DE FORCE. It is situated near a *Canal*. The plan is an *Octagon*: only four sides finished: in one of them were in 1775 one hundred and fifty-nine men criminals:

LA MAISON
DE FORCE.

GHENT.



Canal.

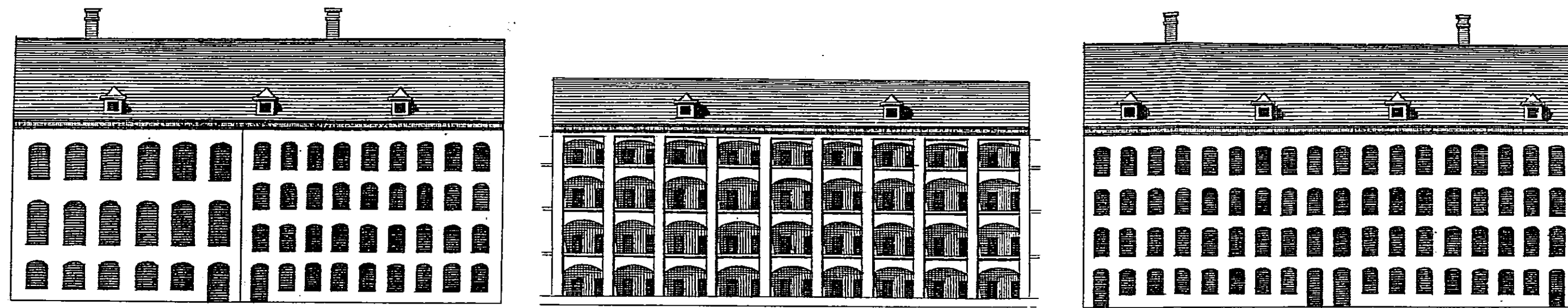


200 Ghent Feet.

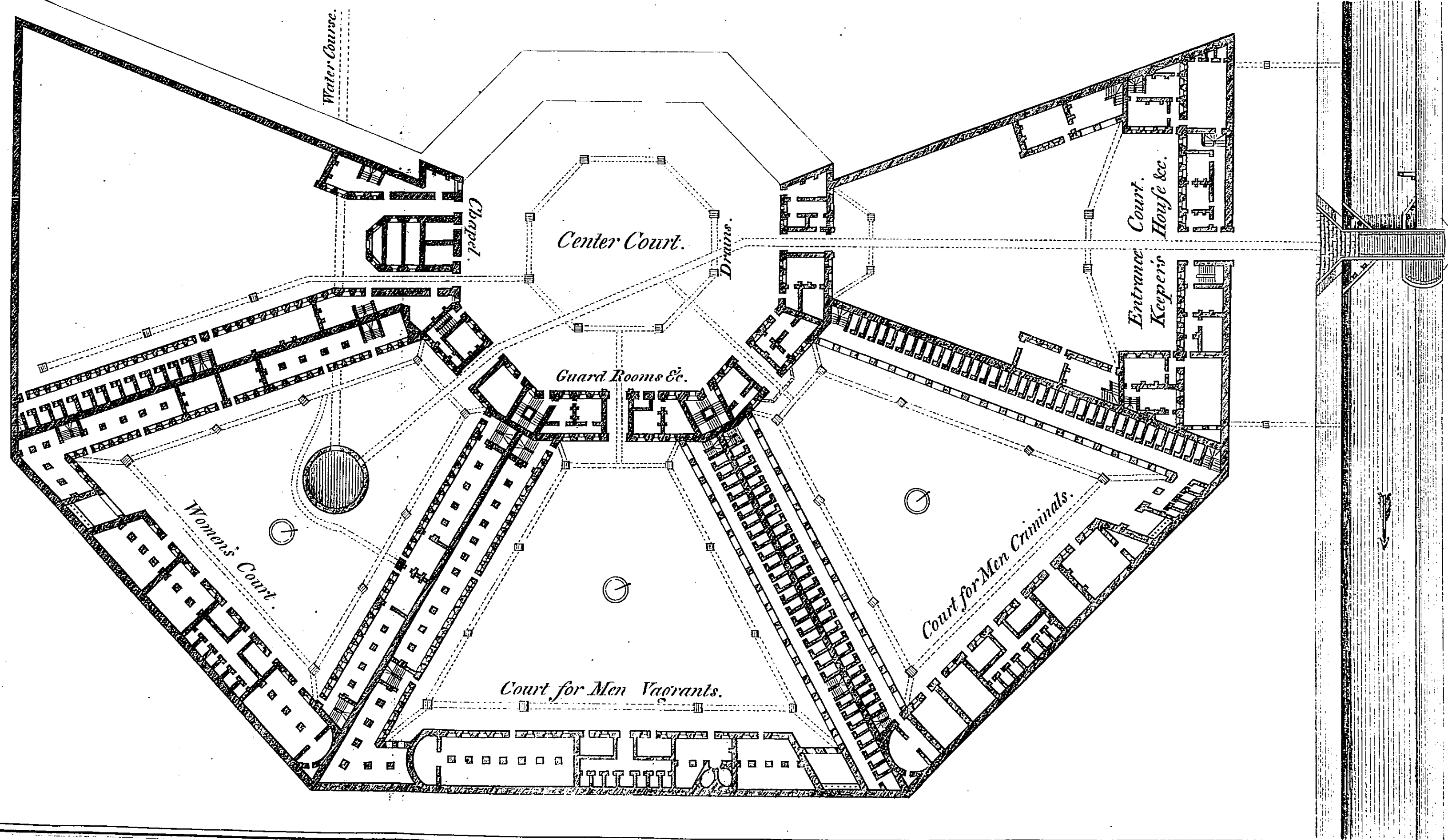
10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

* The Ghent foot is about $\frac{1}{4}$ Inch shorter than the English foot.

PLAN OF LA MAISON de FORCE at GHENT.



Part of the Elevations of Sundry Wards.



10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Ghent Feet.

* The Ghent foot is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch shorter than the English foot.

nals: this year one hundred and ninety-one. Another of the fides is for women, of whom there were fifty-nine. In the middle of this court is a basin of running water, for washing all the Linen of the House.

ON each of the four floors there is a corridor, or arcade, six feet nine inches wide, quite open to the air of the yard, which, however, is not attended with any inconvenience, even in winter. In the recess of every corridor, except the lowest, is a range of bed-rooms, six feet nine inches by four feet ten, and eight feet eight inches high: the doorway two feet. These are uniformly furnished with a bedstead, six feet and a half by two and a half, a straw bed, a mattress, a pillow, a pair of sheets, two blankets in winter and one in summer. Each room has a little bench, and a shutter to the lattice window (in the door), which, when opened and turned down, serves for a table. In the wall is a little cupboard, two feet by one, and ten inches deep. All the rooms are vaulted to prevent fire from running from story to story. No person is on any pretence admitted into the bed-room of another. They have a clean shirt once a week, and clean sheets once a month. The women have not separate rooms. Some of theirs are ten feet and a half by nine and a half.

In order to the admission of a prisoner, previous notice must be given by the City or Province that sends him.
When

FOREIGN PRISONS.

When he comes, he is shaved and washed: a Surgeon examines him; and if healthy, he is clothed with the uniform of the House, which is marked with the number of his room; to it he is conducted by one of the most orderly of the prisoners; who is appointed to that service, and who also acquaints him with the Rules of the House. Commitment from one year to twenty or more.

A BELL is rung in the morning to summon the prisoners into the dining-room; in the summer at five; in winter the hour varies with the length of the days. Half an hour after the bell rings, their names are called over; and they go to Prayers in a Chapel. They are then allowed half an hour to breakfast. At noon they have two hours, for dinner; making their beds (which in fair weather they bring out to air); and for recreation. I was present during the whole time the men criminals were at dinner, and much admired the regularity, decency, and order, with which the whole was conducted. Every thing was done at a word given by a Director; no noise or confusion appeared; and this company of near one hundred and ninety stout criminals was governed with as much apparent ease as the most sober and well-disposed assembly in civil society. At night they have an hour for supper &c. The bell gives notice of all these successive hours: it is rung at a window over the gate-way by a *Centinel*, who there overlooks the whole yard; and, should there be any disturbance, is to give the alarm to a company who keep guard.

ON

ON the ground-floors of the building are work-rooms. Those for the men are too small for the looms &c. The women's work-room is one hundred and seventeen feet long, twenty-six wide, and nine to the springing of the arch. In this many were spinning and combing wool; mending linen, &c. Others were washing in places proper for that purpose.

AN exact account is kept of every circumstance relating to each man's work, in a Book that has fourteen columns. The 1st Column contains the Names of Prisoners.

2. The Sort of Stuff on which each Man is employed; as *Shalloon, Cloth, Dimity* &c.
3. The Number that is marked on the Piece.
4. The Day it was begun.
5. The Day it was finished.
6. Measure of the whole Piece.
7. Number of Working-Days, the Prisoner was upon it.
8. The Task due per Day.
9. Surplus Work upon the Piece beyond Task.
10. Price of the Piece per Ell.
11. Observations, or Occasional Circumstances: such as *Sick, Lame, difficult Work, first Piece* &c.
12. Payment to Prisoners for Surplus Work.
13. Deficiency of Task.
14. Punishment for the Default.

This last column is written by the Magistrates themselves.

I saw

I saw in it—often *excuse*—sometimes *make up in next piece*—sometimes *to work alone—to bread and water*—feldom *to rasping logwood*. The daily allowance is two pounds of bread; some soup of beans, pease &c. with wheat-bread in it; and except Friday and Lent half a pound of cold meat. Each prisoner has also the value of our farthing, for which he can buy near two pints of small beer; or somewhat else which the victualler of that Prison is allowed to sell, and deliver to them at a wicket in the wall. Spirituous liquors are expressly prohibited: and so is wine, unless it be ordered by a note from the Physician. It is not allowed to give any thing directly to the prisoners: but there is a box into which money may be put; and at stated times it is equally distributed among them. *Cards, Dice*, and all gaming are strictly forbidden: and there are excellent Rules for preventing all quarreling; for mending their morals; preserving their health; and making them for the future useful in Society. To transcribe all the Rules would to most readers be disagreeable. Such as wish to see them will find them, together with more particulars of this noble Institution, in two Edicts printed in folio at *Ghent* in 1773 and 75: the first in French and Low Dutch; the latter only French: and in a book in quarto written by Count *Vilain XIV.* and offered to the Government in 1775. The title of it is *Memoire sur les Moyens de corriger les Malfaiteurs et Fainéans a leur propre Avantage et de les rendre Utiles a l'Etat. A Gand &c.*

I SAID

I SAID transcribing all the Rules at length, would be tedious; for this reason I have only given extracts from these, and from those made for other Foreign Prisons. I have compleat copies of them, and of others which I have not mentioned; some printed, others M. S. which I will readily show to any Gentleman who has leisure and inclination to study the subject.

WHEN I formerly made the tour of Europe, I seldom had occasion to envy Foreigners any thing I saw with respect to their *Situation, their Religion, Manners or Government*. In my late journeys to view their *Prisons*, I was sometimes put to the blush for my native country. The Reader will scarcely feel from my narration the same emotions of shame and regret as the comparison excited in me, on beholding the difference with my own eyes. But from the account I have given him of Foreign Prisons, he may judge whether a design of reforming our own be merely visionary—whether *Idleness, Debauchery, Disease, and Famine* be the necessary attendants of a Prison, or only connected with it in our ideas for want of more perfect knowledge, and more enlarged views. I hope too he will do me the justice to think that neither an indiscriminate admiration of every thing foreign, nor a fondness of censuring every thing at home, has influenced me to adopt the language of a Panegyrist in this part of my work, or that of a Complainant in the rest.

U

Where

FOREIGN PRISONS.

Where I have commended I have mentioned my reasons for so doing; and I have dwelt perhaps more minutely upon the management of Foreign Prisons, because it was more agreeable to me to praise than to condemn. Another motive induced me to be very particular in my accounts of Foreign *Houses of Correction*, especially those of the free States. It was to counteract a notion prevailing among us that compelling prisoners to work, especially in public, was inconsistent with the principles of English Liberty; at the same time that taking away the lives of such numbers, either by executions, or the diseases of our Prisons, seems to make little impression upon us. Of such force is custom and prejudice in silencing the voice of good sense and humanity!

I HAVE only to add that, fully sensible of the imperfection which must attend the cursory survey of a traveller, it was my study to remedy that defect by a constant attention to the one object of my pursuit alone, during the whole of my two last journeys abroad.

SECTION

SECTION V.

A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF
ENGLISH PRISONS.

AS the Tables of which the present Section will chiefly consist, contain several terms which cannot be expected to be familiar to the generality of my Readers, I shall begin with an explanation of them.

IN the first page of every County, City, &c. the second article of the *Gaoler* or *Keeper's* emolument is FEES; by which are meant such only as are taken by him and his servants on the admission or discharge of a Prisoner. The sums set down under this head are from the best information I could procure in my repeated journeys; but they differ sometimes from those specified in the *Tables of Fees* where such are found.

THE next article under *Gaoler* is TRANSPORTS. The sum set down to this, is what (from the best intelligence I