

**REFORMATORY  
SCHOOLS IN FRANCE  
AND ENGLAND**

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Reformatory Schools In France And England by Patrick Joseph Murray

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**PATRICK JOSEPH MURRAY**

**REFORMATORY  
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*Ship (Dial)*  
*From the Author*

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS

IN

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

BY

PATRICK JOSEPH MURRAY, ESQ.,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

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"Lords and Commons of England! consider what nation it is whereof ye are, and whereof ye are the governors: a nation not slow and dull, but of a quick, ingenious, and piercing spirit; acute to invent, subtle and sinewy to discourse, not beneath the reach of any point the highest that human capacity can soar to."—MILTON. *THE ANZEPADICA.*

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1854.

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## Dedication.

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TO

**MATTHEW DAVENPORT HILL, ESQ., Q C.,**

**RECORDER OF BIRMINGHAM, AND JUSTICE OF PEACE  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.**

**MY DEAR SIR,**

To none, more appropriately than to yourself, can I dedicate this essay, which owes very much of whatever information it may be found to contain, to principles and facts learned from you, and from works brought to my notice through your kind attention.

I have endeavoured, in the following pages, to popularize a very important, yet, to the vast majority of the public, imperfectly understood subject. I have, from many sources, striven to make plain to all, the great benefits to be derived from the establishment of Reformatory Schools: I have attempted to accomplish this object by facts and figures, gathered from various authorities, and backed by the opinions of those who are old advocates of the cause: in this portion of the subject I have found my best assistance in the works of Miss Carpenter,—in your own Charges, as Recorder, to the Grand Jury of Birmingham,—in the Report and Evidence of the Committee on Criminal and Destitute Juveniles,—in the Reports of the Birmingham Conferences of 1851, and 1853, and in the Lecture on Mettray, lately delivered in Leeds, by Mr. Robert Hall.

Upon the great principle of PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY, I have derived from the work on "Crime; its Amount, Causes, and

Remedies," and from the various Reports to the Prison Directors of your brother, Mr. Frederick Hill, the most invaluable aid: to your brother belongs the credit of having been the first to impress upon the Government the value of Parental Responsibility, as the best means of repressing Juvenile Crime.

In support of my views I have given the opinions of others, and have contented myself with facts; and I have, I believe, in so doing, adopted the best and surest means of rendering a knowledge of the Reformatory School Movement plain to all readers, and likely to gain their support;—because, as Sydney Smith wrote—"The English are a calm, reflecting people; they will give time and money when they are convinced; but they love dates, names, and certificates. In the midst of the most heart-rending narratives, Bull requires the day of the month, the year of our Lord, the name of the parish, and the countersign of three or four respectable householders. After these affecting circumstances he can no longer hold out; but gives way to the kindness of his nature—puffs, blubbers—and subscribes."

Let us hope, as we have facts and figures on our side, that the people of these Kingdoms may, in support of Voluntary Reformatory Schools—as regulated by the Act of last Session—"puff, blubber, and subscribe;"—thus, eventually, we may be able to point to many English Reformatories, national and useful as Red-Hill, successful and noble in design as Mettray.

I have the honor to be, dear Sir,

Always faithfully yours,

PATRICK JOSEPH MURRAY.

*1 Upper Pembroke-Street, Dublin.*

*September, 1854.*

## REFORMATORY SCHOOLS IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

"A Child, even when Criminal, should be treated as a Child, and sent to a Reformatory School, and not to a Prison. REPORT OF A COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO EXAMINE INTO THE STATE OF JUVENILE CRIME IN NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD. 1852.

"Whatever views may be entertained respecting adult criminals, all agree that *Reformatives* is the object to be aimed at with young offenders; nor is it doubted that the Gaol is not a true Reformatory School, though at present the only one provided by our country; since thousands of young children annually committed to it come forth not to diminish, but to swell the ranks of vice." JUVENILE DELINQUENTS, THEIR CONDITION AND TREATMENT. BY MARY CARPENTER. 1853.

"Il est des systèmes qui ne réalisent rien, mais c'est parce qu'ils imaginent l'impossible. Mettray a posé la limite, le point de départ entre le progrès et l'utopie, c'est pourquoi Mettray a rencontré des imitateurs. RAPPORT DE M. DENEZ, DIRECTEUR DE LA COLONIE AGRICOLE DE METTRAY. 1854.

"Le compte général de l'administration de la Justice criminelle, qui a résumé les résultats de la période de 1842 à 1850, a constaté que le nombre moyen des récidives, parmi les libérés de sept établissements principaux, avait varié de 10 à 11 p. 100. Si l'on compare cette proportion à celle qui est signalée plus haut pour les adultes (35 p. 100 pour les hommes, et 27 p. 100 pour les femmes), on n'a pas à regretter les sacrifices que l'Etat s'impose pour la régénération morale de cette population." RAPPORT A L'EMPEREUR SUR L'ETABLISSEMENTS D'EDUCATION CORRECTIONNELLE DE JEROME DETENUS. Le Moniteur, 17 Mai, 1854.

The sentiments conveyed by, and the truths taught in, the sentences which we have placed, by way of epigraph to this essay, will, at the out-set, render evident to each reader the opinions which we, in common with many others in these Kingdoms, hold upon the great and important questions of Juvenile Criminality, of Juvenile Reformation,—of the causes which conduce to the former, and of the best and surest means of securing the latter. Six years ago these topics were understood, in all their paramount and pressing force, by a few of the thoughtful and far-seeing whose duties, or whose philanthropy brought them in contact with those who have been, with terrible and woful appropriateness, called our "City Arabs," our "Home Heathens." To these friends of the young criminal it was evident that the Gaol was but a new seed plot of crime, furnishing fresh incentives to future vice—and they tested and proved that truth stated by the Newcastle and Gateshead Committee—they proved in many schools what had been



known from the working of those of Stretton-on-Dunsmore, and the Philanthropic—that the Schoolmaster was more potent in repressing juvenile criminality than the Gaoler—and they taught the nation that “A CHILD, EVEN WHEN CRIMINAL, SHOULD BE TREATED AS A CHILD, AND SENT TO A REFORMATORY SCHOOL AND NOT TO A PRISON.” These were great and solemn teachings; but, like all other great and solemn things, could only be accomplished by patient, unflinching, never-doubting minds.

The Jesuits have a maxim, one of the hard, cold, wise sayings, in which Bulwer Lytton's *Doctor Riccabocca* delighted, proclaiming that “there is no theologian so dangerous to religion as a very pious fool.” Doubtless, in the days when Pascal and Arnauld were criticizing the teachings of Escobar, of Molina, and of other writers of the Order, the truth of the maxim was deeply felt and acknowledged by the opponents of Port-Royal; and, since that period, many a friend of many a noble cause has comprehended the *moral* of the Jesuit axiom, when he has found an honest, important, able advocate, embarrassing the progression of a movement, by a course of policy springing from over zeal, and supported by the too eager anxiety of a mind measuring the capacity of other minds by its own knowledge, feelings, and aspirations. Thus, at all events, we have thought, whilst reading the letters of the Rev. Sydney Turner, dated, respectively, June 3rd and 8th, 1854, and published in *The Times*.

For some years the Reformatory School movement has been slowly, very slowly, advancing in these kingdoms: \* but it has been advancing, and from the first faint indications of public appreciation of the principle, which Miss Carpenter relates, to the period when, in his *Charge* to the Jurors of Birmingham, Mr. Hill so powerfully and earnestly recommended, from the Bench, the adoption of the system, success has proved the wisdom of the Reformatory School *Principle*, even whilst failure has sometimes been the lot of the Reformatory *School*. Whilst reading the letters of Mr. Turner, we were fully acquainted with all the facts recounted in the *Report* of M. de Persigny, Minister of the Interior, in

\* For a history of the rise, progress, and position of the Reformatory Schools of England and the Continent, see *IRISH QUARTERLY REVIEW*, VOL. IV. No. 13, Art. “Our Juvenile Criminals—The School-master or the Gaoler;” and No. 14, Art. “Reformatory and Ragged Schools.”

France, and published in the *Moniteur* of the 17th of May, 1854. We read these letters with amazement: we could hardly believe that the same Mr. Turner who spoke so eloquently and so hopefully, at the Birmingham Conference of 1853, could express the sentiments contained in the letters of 1854,—because we knew that M. de Persigny's *Report* should have excited no feeling in Mr. Turner's heart, save one of satisfaction, at discovering that every hope expressed in Birmingham was more than fulfilled, to the completest fruition, by the declarations of the official document. We saw that the chief sources of failure in France, where failure was proved, arose from causes such as are peculiar to France, and scarcely to be contemplated as obstacles in England; or had their origin in the mismanagement of those who presided over the provincial, and smaller, Schools. We saw that the great parent house, Mettray, flourished successfully and usefully as ever, guided by the wisdom, and prudence, and care of M. Demetz. We found that M. de Persigny bore, as Mr. Turner states in his second letter, "a marked and emphatic testimony to the success of the reformatory system, so far as relates to the reformation of the young offenders themselves who are subjected to it. Taking the young persons discharged from the reformatory schools since 1840, he states that only eleven per cent. have been reconvicted, or have relapsed into crime—a result which, he justly says, compensates the State for all the sacrifices and exertions it has made." We saw all these things, and knowing the unimpeachable integrity, honor, and purity of intention which have ever distinguished Mr. Turner, the excellent Director of the Philanthropic School at Red Hill, we could only conclude that he had written his unhappily timed letters, not so much from a mistaken view, or incorrect understanding of the evidence furnished by the French Governmental *Report*, as through opinions colored, and through hopes warped from their old tendencies, by information *extra* that offered by the *Report*. But the result of these letters has been lamentable. *The Times*, which on the 22nd of December, 1853, was, for *The Times*, enthusiastic in support of the Reformatory School system, is now all for rigors, and corporal austerities.\*

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\* For the arguments, most powerful and convincing, of "The Times," at the above date, see IRISH QUARTERLY REVIEW, Vol. IV., No. 13. p. 70.

That Mr. Turner does not, strictly considered, support these views, is true, as his second letter proves; but he has, unintentionally, given color to an argument which we are sure he would not advocate, that *paix* should be made a part of Reformatory Discipline, and that to the absence of it may be attributed the *assumed* failure of the French, minor, Reformatory Schools.

Before we proceed in our observations upon the question of Government support of Reformatory Schools, which is just now, for the first time, recognized by the Legislature, we think it advisable to insert here a translation of that portion, relating to Juvenile Criminals, of M. de Persigny's *Report*, and the only portion which has reference to our subject. The translation is of some length, and aims at closeness and accuracy rather than freedom and elegance; but we desire now, when our Legislature seems anxious to test the principle, to enable every reader to comprehend the whole subject, in its fullest scope; and for the satisfaction of readers of a more important class, we have added a reprint of the original French *Report*, in the appendix, at the end of this paper. The *Report*, then, translated, is as follows:—

#### ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION OF YOUTHFUL CRIMINALS.

“The situation of young prisoners, submitted to correctional training by virtue of the 66th article of the Penal Code, and found guilty by the application of the 67th and 69th Articles, should, from the interest naturally attached to that early age, and the hopes of amendment which it holds out, occupy a large place in the solicitude of your Government.

The decree of the 5th of August, 1850, which has transferred to my Department, the managing superintendence of these children, in deciding that they should be employed in agricultural labor in public or private establishments, has entrusted to the executive Government the care of fixing the interior discipline of these institutions, and the nature of the patronage which should follow and protect the young *détenus* after being set at liberty. The first of these documents, prepared by the Council of the Inspectors General of Prisons has been submitted to the deliberation of the Council of State: the second will be presented in a few days.

These establishments have been the objects of frequent inspection, and all the information calculated to simplify the question in a legal, disciplinary, and statistic point of view, has been collected.\*

\* *Considerations on the Agricultural Colonies*, by MM. G. de Lucieu and H. Romand, Inspectors-General of Charitable Institutions.

*Report of M. Louis Perrot, Inspector-General of Prisons, on the establishing of Penal Colonies in Corsica and Africa.*

*Historic and Statistic Abstract of the Agricultural Colonies*, by MM.