

So long as the criminal legislation favours chiefly the principle of *corporal-punishment*, the possibility of improving the offender is scarcely to be thought of. To erect houses of correction and retain ignominious public punishments, is about the same as building hospitals at a great expense for those on whom we have first inflicted incurable wounds.

More rigid regulations respecting the want of protection (*försvarslöshet*) and vagrancy, have created a new kind of prisoners, who — not to atone for crimes committed, but for the prevention of those it was feared they might commit, — have been sent to the houses of correction, the numerous inmates of which, crowded into common bedrooms and workshops, it has been impossible to subject to classification, much less to any efficacious penitentiary treatment.

This mixing of degenerate idlers with hardened criminals, of individuals condemned for a certain number of years, or given up to public works for an undecided period, must cause a dangerous reciprocal effect of vicious examples and criminal doctrines, to which might be applied the renowned J. Bentham's eloquent description of the deep destruction that is produced within those prisons, the arrangement and organisation of which do not admit of a strict but improving discipline. "Such a prison," says he, "forms a school, where crime is taught by means far more efficacious than