

14
The convicts;—The improvement they make in reading and writing is quite surprising when we consider that it is only the three hours a week they have the opportunity to devote to it. The specimens of writing were remarkably good—several were very anxious for slaves, and two more colored women were sufficiently well for Testaments. One of the colored women had been in confinement during the month, but they hope instances of this kind are not as frequent, and that some change has been effected however slight, and think that every effort should be made by the Committee to inquire into the state and condition of each of the convicts, as they appear to look unto them to afford them even a few their term of confinement has expired—three or four of them will now be released in two or three months. They also think that the Warden and different officers feel more interest in the visits of the Committee, and the improvement made by the convicts.

The Treasurer reports that the fund for the purchase of books and slates is entirely expended.

The visiting Committee for next month are Hannah Ann Lyson, Ruth Cobb, Rachel Brown & E. T. King.

Agreed to meet at Hannah Talbot's on 5th day 4th mo.
E. T. King Clerk

15
At a meeting of the Association of Friends for visiting the Penitentiary held 4th mo 18th. Present 10 members.

The report of the committee for last month was read and is as follows viz—

The committee appointed at the last meeting report the regular attendance of most of their number, and although often reminded during their visits to the prison of the truth of the ancient declaration that "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked," yet we have been encouraged and comforted by the sober conduct and serious attention of the convicts during the time of our reading, as well as the lively interest manifested in their lessons. We considered this circumstance as an evidence that they are not altogether hardened in sin, and have been assured that the Holy Spirit is still in mercy striving with some of them, and would bring such to repentance if placed under more favorable circumstances for the promotion of the work of regeneration. There appears to be much indulgence through the work of the flesh, hatred, sarcasm, strife, &c. and we fear that the evil is increased by a want of circumspection & forbearance on the part of those who should be examples to them.

It has been a painful circumstance that a considerable number of the prisoners have been debased from our instructions during every visit we have made by being in their cells as a punishment for misconduct—we exceedingly regret that such a mode of punishment should be adopted and recommend some care to have a change in that respect.