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At a meeting of Friends Association for
visiting the Penitentiary held 4mo 13th
Present 10 members.

The report of the visiting committee for
last month was read and is as follows -

"At no period in the prosecution of what
we believe to be our labors of love to the poor
degraded outcasts of society have our sympathies
been more awakened by the exhibition of their
mental and physical sufferings than at the time
of our first visit during the last month. Their
minds were wholly unfitted for religious instruc-
tion and for a time there seemed to be some diffi-
culty in commanding silence and subordination.
Although much discouraged at first we were
gladdened before the close of our visit with the
convincing evidence of best help - all being brought
into stillness and quietness and some evidently
entrusted under the convicting influence of the
Holy Spirit - pointing to the only refuge for returning
prodigals. Thus we are encouraged to hope that
as renewed ability is afforded to the visitor to
labor under right qualifications that the seed
sown in much weakness may bring forth fruit -
to the praise of Him who came to seek and
to save that which was lost.

It appears to us all important that we keep

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in mind the decidedly religious character of our
concern for the poor prisoner - that the tendency
of all our remarks and instructions should be
to reclaim them from the evil of their way - and
bearing in mind the declaration without which we can
do nothing but by Christ strengthening us we can do
all things required by Him.

We feel deeply concerned that all engaged in this very
important work may be enabled to seek for grace and
strength to do what is called for at their hands in simple
dependance upon that power which can alone qualify
feeble instruments to become useful in pleading
with benighted souls to turn from darkness to light
and from the power of Satan to God.

We have regularly performed our visits and had all
the prisoners collected keeping the sick and those engaged
in mending - their conduct has generally been orderly
- some are inclined to be restless when not engaged
in their lessons but others are very attentive and
respectful to our wishes - we think it quite desirable
to keep them employed in some way with their
books and not allow whispering and moving about -
that they should be taught a little self government
and subjection while we are with them.

We are comforted in believing that punishment
(especially whipping) and cause for punishment
has much lessened since our labors among them
and we are convinced that were they blessed with