

56
Theopist Elizabeth Jay with whose extensive and successful labors in the cause of prison reformation in Europe you are doubtless familiar.

Vigned on behalf of the Association by
Hannah Ann Tyson
Phebe C Thomas
Hannah Lyle
Elizabeth T. King.

"A matron placed over female prisoners ought assuredly to be a resident; not only within the walls of the prison but in the same part of it as are the objects of her care; and great caution is ever found to be necessary in the selection of so important an officer. She ought never to be chosen because she is suited to her wants, but only because she is suited to fill the situation. She ought to be a person of respectable, orderly, & active habits, - plain in her dress, - gentle, yet firm, in her demeanor, - of sufficient education to enable her to superintend the instruction of the prisoners, - and although not greatly elevated above her charge, yet in a station of life to far superior to their own as to command their respect & obedience. Vigilance, impartiality, and a willingness to submit to those persons under whose authority she is placed ought to be distinguishing features in her character. Prudence, from their superior knowledge of the world and of life

57
are generally preferable for this office to single women. Above all, it is most desirable that persons appointed to fill so responsible a situation should be decidedly religious themselves, and heartily engaged in promoting the reformation and spiritual welfare of those whom they are called upon to govern."

The Committee have received the following reply from the Board of Directors

Maryland Penitentiary
Baltimore Aug 11th 1849

Respected Ladies

I am directed by the Board of Directors of this Institution to inform you that they received the communication which you did them the honor to address them on behalf of the Female Prison Association and that they will give to the valuable suggestions it contains that respectful consideration which their importance demands.

With sentiments of high consideration I remain Ladies

Your obedient servant

Edward P. Roberts.

Recd Sec & Clerk to the Board

To Mrs Hannah Ann Tyson

Hannah Lyle

Phebe C Thomas

Elizabeth T. King