

At a meeting of Friends Association for visiting the Penitentiary held 5th mo 17th 9 Friends present.

The visiting committee offered the following report.

It is with feelings of deep interest and some encouragement that the committee conclude their labors amongst the poor convicts, for the past month. Their conduct has not only been orderly in school; but, during the week, when frequent visits have been paid them quiet & harmony prevailed: there have been few, if any bickerings, & no complaint of unkind or partial treatment from those placed over them, if we except poor Margaret Caton, who has been twice punished for improper conduct; but some of the committee think she is, at times, scarcely under the influence of sound reason. The Warden has it under contemplation when the weather is sufficiently warm to allow it, to confine her to a commodious cell.

A further acquaintance with the new Matron confirms the favorable impression before received; she appears to be firm and equitable in her manner towards the women, & continues to manifest an interest in the plans of the committee.

The rules adopted by the Association & approved by the Warden & Matron have been

printed & copies hung in ⁶⁵ various parts of the building: to ascertain whether they are properly observed the Matron keeps a record of the conduct of the women during the week; & the plan of giving small rewards to those whose good behavior entitles them to it has been commenced, to be continued monthly, if it is attended with favorable results.

In order to stimulate them to a diligent attendance at school, a roll book is left with the Matron, to be handed to the committee every first day when the absence or presence of each woman is marked.

One of the colored women Kitty Johns, who has yet 14 years to serve, is in the warden's kitchen; as she is improving & anxious to learn, it is desirable that each committee should request that she be allowed to attend school.

Many being of the opinion that beginners make more rapid progress by being put at once to reading, it is suggested whether the "First Reading Book" might not with propriety be substituted for the spelling books.

We are gratified in being able to state that nearly all the women have given up the use of snuff - & to those who have done so, an apron or head handkerchief has been given; the Warden will purchase no more