

A  
HISTORY  
OF  
NEWGATE OF CONNECTICUT,  
AT  
SIMSBURY, NOW EAST GRANBY;  
ITS  
INSURRECTIONS AND MASSACRES,  
THE  
IMPRISONMENT OF THE TORIES IN THE REVOLUTION,  
AND THE WORKING OF ITS MINES.  
ALSO,  
SOME ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
STATE PRISON AT WETHERSFIELD.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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**W**HATEVER relates to the early history of a Locality or People, illustrating the manners, the civil, religious or criminal policy thereof, is undoubtedly worthy of preservation. The records of deeds and events, apparently of slight moment at the time of their occurrence, increase in importance as ages roll away, and are the indices by which we estimate the truth of history. It is therefore needless to dwell upon the necessity of recording events in their day, lest the memory of them be destroyed by the tooth of time, or they lapse into tales and traditions.

There is an exciting fascination in the eventful history of *Newgate of Connecticut*, to all who have been familiar with it, more especially to those who, like the writer, have resided in its vicinity and witnessed many of its scenes; and if we may judge by the numbers that travel far to

explore its caverns and the works which now cover its grounds, it will long continue to be an object of interest and examination. When the aged residents in its vicinity are gone, which must soon be, this prison fortress will doubtless remain. The traveler will inquire, Who built these towers? Why these iron grates, these trenches and walls? How came these huge caverns to be dug out of solid rock, and why these rings and fetters bolted to their massive sides? Surely the echo of the caverns can not answer, nor the people who lived coterminous with their use. Enough, then, by way of apology for these sketches.

The materials here presented, have been gathered from a variety of sources. Besides what came within the knowledge of the writer, he has availed himself of the statistics afforded by the ancient colonial and state records; of the facts recorded in the *History of Simsbury*, by N. A. PHELPS, Esq.; of the verbal statements kindly furnished by aged persons still living; and a multitude of facts, preserved from the recorded relations of witnesses long since passed away; all of which may be relied upon for entire accuracy.

*Windsor, Ct., 1860.*

IMPRISONMENT OF THE TORIES.

Can then the verdure of these blissful plains  
 Conceal the *Caves* where penal Rigor reigns !  
 Where the starved wretch, by suffering folly led  
 To snatch the feast where pampered plenty fed;  
 Shut from the sunny breeze and healthful skies,  
 On the cold, dripping stone, low, withering, lies;  
 Torn from the clime that gave his visions birth,  
 A palsied member of the vital earth!  
 If the sweet Muse, with Nature's best control,  
 Can melt to sympathy the reasoning soul,  
 She bids thee rend those *grating bars* away,  
 And o'er the dungeon break the beam of day:  
 Give the frail felon with laborious toil,  
 To pay the penance of his wasted spoil.  
 Hear his deep groan, heed his repentant prayer,  
 And snatch his frenzied spirit from despair;  
 Nor let these fields, arrayed in heavenly bloom,  
 Blush o'er the horrors of a *living tomb*!\*

These caverns were first occupied as a place for the confinement of Tories about the beginning of the American Revolution. What an astonishing train of events followed, and how distant from the thoughts of the British company of miners, the

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\* Extract from a poem written by a lady of Boston, in 1797, after visiting the prison. It indicates the great notoriety and formidable character which Newgate had obtained, in the opinion of the benevolent and gifted poetess.

idea that they were actually hewing out prison cells, for the lodgment of their friends, the Tories of America !

The Colony of Connecticut first used the caverns as a permanent prison in 1773. A committee had been appointed by the General assembly to explore the place, who reported that by expending about thirty-seven pounds, the mines could be so perfectly secured, that "it would be next to impossible for any person to escape." Whether their opinions were well founded, subsequent events determined. The total expense of purchasing the property, with the remaining lease of the mines, and fortifying the place, amounted to \$375.

An act was passed prescribing the terms of imprisonment. Burglary, robbery, and counterfeiting were punished for the first offense with imprisonment not exceeding ten years ; second offense for life. The keeper of the prison was authorized to punish the convicts for offenses, by "moderate whipping, not exceeding ten stripes, and by putting shackles and fetters upon them ;" and it was intended to employ them at labor in the mines, which they did, to a considerable extent.

At first the number of Tories confined in the caverns did not exceed five or six, and these were

guilty of other crimes against the government. But as time developed events, the numbers increased to between thirty and forty.

When the 342 chests of tea were thrown into the sea at Boston in 1773, and that port closed by an act of Parliament, so great was the excitement, and so indignant were the people, particularly in Massachusetts and Connecticut, on account of British oppression, that the use of tea and all commodities imported in British vessels and subject to duty, were prohibited. The duty on tea was so particularly obnoxious, that it was considered a contraband article in household comforts; true, the contrast in the times may appear rather curious, for at this day, a housekeeper would be judged by common consent deserving incarceration in the mines, or some other place, for *not* allowing the article to be used.

Our ancestors knew no half-way policy, and seldom adopted dilatory measures to carry their points. Tea vessels, if then kept at all, were kept out of sight; tea pots were run into musket balls, and they were the kind of currency with which the people dealt with old England.



The following incident from Dr. *Stiles's* History of Ancient Windsor, shows the marked spirit of the times:

“At an early period in the Revolutionary struggle, and before the war had fairly commenced, some of the Tories (of whom there were a few in Windsor) happened one day to come across *Elihu Drake*, then a lad about eight years old, and partly in earnest, and partly in a joke, endeavored to compel him to say, *God save the King*. Failing of success, they tried to intimidate him by threatening him with a ducking in the river. But the boy still stoutly refused. Becoming somewhat enraged at the young rebel, they carried their threat into execution, and thrust him under water, but as they pulled him out spluttering and choking, the only exclamation which he uttered was a fervent *God d—n the King*. Again, and again was the little martyr thrust under, but each time the same reply was all they could extort from him, and they were obliged to release him with many hearty curses for his stubbornness. At the age of twelve, this young hero accompanied his father into the war, in the capacity of waiter.”

The following appeared in the Connecticut Journal, in 1775, and further illustrates the same spirit:

“The Riflemen on their way from the Southern colonies through the country, administer the new fashioned discipline of tar and feathers to the obstinate and refractory *Tories* that they met on their road, which has had a very good effect here (in New Milford). Those whose crimes are of a more atrocious nature, they punish by sending them to Gen. Gage. They took a man in this town, a most incorrigible Tory, who called them d—d Rebels, &c., and made him walk before them to Litchfield, which is 20 miles, and carry one of his own geese all the way in his hand; when they arrived there, they tarred him, and made him pluck his goose, and then bestowed the feathers on him, drummed him out of the company, and obliged him to kneel down and thank them for their lenity.”

Public opinion in some of the colonies against those who favored the mother country was very rigid, authorizing any person even to shoot them if they were found beyond the limits of their own premises, and one was shot in the town of Simsbury. Those who possessed not the hardihood



thus summarily to dispatch a neighbor when he declined to fight for the country, or for purchasing foreign goods, adopted the more humane expedient of applying to the Committee of Safety\* in the town, who penned them up in the caverns where they could at least leisurely examine the evidence of British labor, though not allowed the blessed

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\* In some towns they were termed Committee of Inspection. They constituted what we should call a committee of Vigilance, and their duties were of a very peculiar and delicate nature—"a patriotic and searching espionage into the principles, actions and private affairs of every member of the community, without regard to station, profession or character. It was necessary to know how each man stood affected towards the war—whether his feelings were enlisted in his country's behalf, or whether secretly or publicly he was aiding the enemy." If any individual fell under suspicion of *the people*, the committee were immediately notified, and they forthwith repaired to the person and demanded an avowal of his sentiments. If found to be lukewarm or indifferent to the liberal cause, he was closely watched. If a Tory in sentiment, he was remanded to Newgate. The dividing line of principle was positive and distinct. On the royal side, the British officials proclaimed those to be outlaws who favored the cause of the *rebels*, and pronounced free pardon to such as ceased their resistance, or espoused the cause of Royalty. Besides this it is said they gave secret protection papers to those applying for them on the score of friendship. These acts of the British impelled the colonists to take the most rigorous measures in self defense.

boon of being governed by British laws. We can not for a moment doubt the noble intentions of the American patriots in the severity of those measures, for the results are now universally acknowledged, and generally appreciated. If at the commencement of their struggle for liberty, they had permitted those emissaries to raise a question as to the right of independent government, and had suffered them to prowl about unmolested, spreading the fuel of disaffection, a *civil*, instead of a national war must have followed. The proud eagle of Liberty would not so soon have risen over this land of plenty, and the reveille of British soldiery would have told misfortune's tale, of a government of force. Well would it be for us their descendants if like them we could appreciate the blessings of liberty, of our happy form of government, and the value of mutual peace and union of this great confederacy of *Sovereign States!*

At this day, it seems to us hardly possible that any considerable number could have been found, so indifferent to the possession of liberty, as to oppose their countrymen in arms, struggling for freedom, and the inalienable rights of man. We are prone to regard them as inhuman, deluded beings, unworthy to live. But let us pause a moment,

yield a little to our charity, to consider the state of the country at that time, and some of the influences by which they were surrounded. The Tories were aware that in the history of the world, every people who had attempted the experiment of a free representative form of government, although in some cases for a while successful, yet in the end they had positively failed in their hopes and plans, their struggles had only ended in loss of power by the many, and usurpation of it by the few. From the history of the Republics of Greece in early Europe, through the long vista of twenty-four centuries, the plebeian people had striven through toil and blood, only to bend their necks at last to the yoke of some powerful chieftain in war. They and their ancestors had suffered and bled in the Indian wars, afterwards in wars with the French, and with French and Indians combined, and their mother England had been an ally who had assisted them in their defence, and to whom they still looked for aid in emergency. Many also, were bound by the ties of near kindred to friends across the ocean. Those in civil power received their authority direct from England, and many of the clergy were commissioned by the church of England, by which also they received their chief support. All of them,

doubtless, were biassed by early education and prejudice, to prefer a kingly to a free government, and they dreaded the troublesome responsibility of beginning the contest for a change, well knowing that an ignominious death awaited them in case their experiment failed. In the words of our Declaration of Independence, "all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed." On the other hand, they are blameable for opposing independence, because the oppression of British tyranny had planted them or their fathers upon the inhospitable shores of a new world; they had generously expended their blood and treasure for the maintenance of the crown, and had obeyed its mandates by assisting in the war against France, which resulted in the acquisition of a vast territory to the English nation. Their trade had been monopolized by her; then, when prudence would have dictated a relaxation of authority, the mother country rose in her demands, and imposed heavy taxes to pay off a national debt of more than \$750,000,000. The idea should have been discarded, that a small island, more than two thousand miles distant, should hold in

bondage, without representation, a territory on this continent, large as the whole of Europe, and destined to equal it in population. They should have remembered too, that citizens of the early Republics, possessed not our advantage of historical experience of other Republics, to delineate the faults of free government, by which they could avoid their errors, and adopt their benefits; and no well defined system of confederated states, with a constitution limiting the just powers of government, had ever been devised. The masses in early ages were ignorant, superstitious, and heathenish; they were crammed into dense cities and villages, which are the hotbeds of vice and corruption; while on the contrary, the inhabitants of America could glean wisdom from the history of past ages, and commune with the great and mighty dead. They possessed abundance of territory for all; plenty of room in which to develop their free energies, and afford to all uneasy spirits a medium in which to expend their surplus gas, in the moral atmosphere of a continent. They could realize the sentiment:

“No pent up Utica contracts our powers,  
“For the whole boundless Continent is ours.”

They also were the disciples of a divine religion,



which tends to harmonize the heart, and elevate the moral character of man.

The first keeper of Newgate was Capt. *John Viets*, who resided near by, and who supplied them daily with such food and necessaries as were required. His bill, as recorded for one year, in 1774, is as follows :

“Captain *John Viets*, Master, as per his bill for “services, boarding workmen and providing for “prisoners, &c., 29l. 5s. 10d.”

At that time no guard was kept through the day, but two or three sentinels kept watch during the night. There was an anteroom or passage, through which to pass before reaching their cell, and the usual practice of Capt. *Viets*, when he carried their food, was, to look through the grates into this passage, to observe whether they were near the door, and if not, then to enter, lock the door after him, and pass on to the next. The inmates soon learned his custom, and accordingly prepared themselves for an escape. When the Captain came next time, some of them had contrived to unbar their cell door, and huddled themselves in a corner behind the door in the passage, where they could not easily be seen, and upon his opening it, they sprung



upon him, knocked him down, pulled him in, and taking the key from his possession, they locked him up and made good their escape. What were the Captain's reflections on his sudden transition from keeper to that of prisoner is not stated, but he probably thought, with Falstaff, "discretion the "better part of valor," and that he must adopt, in future, more prudent measures. His absence was soon perceived by his family, who came to his relief. The inhabitants around rallied immediately, and gave chase to the absconding heroes, and finally succeeded in capturing nearly the whole of them. Several were taken in attempting to cross the Tunxis, or Farmington river, at Scotland bridge, a few miles south; sentinels having been stationed at that place to intercept them. Some, Santa Ana like, took refuge upon trees, and there met with certain capture. A respected matron, then a child, states, that the news of their escape and capture spread as much dread or terror among the children in the neighborhood as if they had been a band of midnight assassins. Although the prison was considered impregnable, the first convict which had been put there, *John Hinson*, had escaped. He was committed Dec. 2, 1773, and escaped after a confinement of eighteen days, by

being drawn up through the mining shaft, assisted, it is said, by a woman to whom he was paying his addresses.

After the general escape and recapture, the following report was made by the overseers :

*To the Honourable General Assembly now sitting at Hartford :*

We, the subscribers, overseers of Newgate Prison, would inform your Honors, that Newgate Prison is so strong and secure that we believe it is not posable for any person put there to escape, unless by assistance from abroad ; yet it so happens that one *John Hinson*, lately sent there by order of the Honourable the Superior court, has escaped by the help of some evil minded person at present unknown, who, in the night season next after the 9th inst., drew the prisoner out of the shaft ; and we believe no place ever was or can be made so secure, but that if persons abroad can have free access to such Prison, standing at a distance from any dwelling house, the prisoners will escape ; we therefore Recommend it to your Honors, that some further security be added to that prison in order to secure the prisoners : What that security shall be, will be left to your Honors ; yet we would observe to your Honors that the east shaft where the prisoner

escaped, is about 70 feet to the bottom of the prison, the whole of which is through a firm rock except 10 feet at top, which is stoned up like a well; we therefore propoes that the upper part down to the rock be lock'd up, and stones about 15 or 18 inches square and of suitable length, be laid across said shaft about eight inches asunder, &c. And as to the west shaft, which is about 25 feet deep, secured with a strong iron gate, about six feet below the surface, we propoes that a strong log house be built of two or three rooms, one of which, to stand over this shaft to secure it from persons abroad, and the other rooms to be for the Miners, &c. All which is submitted by your Honor's Most obedient Humble Servants.

*Erastus Wolcott,*

*Josiah Bissell,*

*Joh'n Humphrey.*

Hartford Jan'y 17th, 1774.

Connecticut at that period held each year two sessions of her Assembly, and at the next session, four months after, the following report was presented by the overseers:

*To the Hon. the Gen'l Assembly now sitting at Hartford :*

We the subscribers hereto, overseers of Newgate Prison, beg leave to represent to your honors, That sone after the rising of the assembly in Jan'y last, three delinquents were committed from Windham, and two others from New London county, where-upon, notwithstanding the severity of the season, we immediately set about making those further securities that your Honors directed, and have built a strong log house 36 feet in length and 20 feet in width, with timbers 10 inches square, divided into two rooms, one of which includes the west shaft, and in the other, which is designed for the miners to lodge in, &c., we have built a chimney, and compleated the whole except the under floor, the planks for which are not yet sufficiently dried and fit to lay, and some ceiling to secure the miners from the cold winds, which otherwise will pass betwixt the timbers. We have also secured the east shaft where the first prisoner escaped, with iron and stone, and every other place where we thought it possible for any to escape ; and we apprehend that said prison is now well secured and fitted to receive and employ those offenders that may be sent there. An account of our disbursements, &c., we have ready to lay be-

fore your honours or Auditors, to be appointed as your Honors shall direct. Your Honors must have heard that the prisoners have all escaped that prison; it would be long, and perhaps difficult, in writing, to give a particular and distinct account how this was done; your Honours will excuse us if we only say that they effected their escape by the help of evil minded persons abroad, before the necessary and proposed securitys could be compleated. We would further inform your Honours, that we had engaged two miners to assist the prisoners at work, who were to have been there about the time the prisoners escaped, and one of them actually left his business and came there a few days after the escape; him we have retained, and to this time principally employed in compleating the securities to the prison; the other we gave intelligence of the escape before he left his business, and prevented his coming; but have engaged him to attend when wanted. All which is submitted to your Honours, by your Honours' most obedient and humble servants.

Hartford, May 14th, 1774.

In the spring of 1776, the prisoners attempted an escape by burning the block house over the shaft. A level had been opened from the bottom of

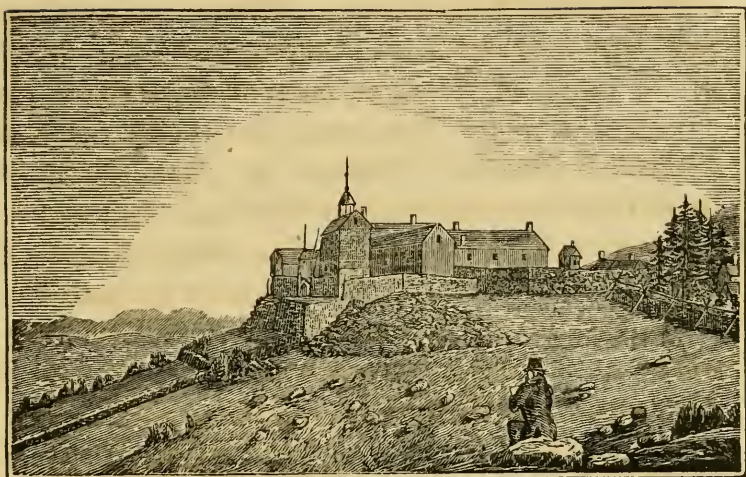


the mines through the hill westward, for the purpose of draining off the water, and the mouth of this level was chiefly closed by a heavy wooden door firmly fastened. They had by degrees collected sufficient combustibles, and with a piece of stone and steel they kindled a fire against the door, which burned as fast as damp fuel in a damp dungeon naturally could; but instead of making their escape from the prison, they all nearly made their final escape from the world; for the dense smoke and blue flame soon filled the apartment and almost suffocated them. Search being made, one of them was found dead, and five others were brought forth senseless, but finally recovered. They were afterwards placed in a strong wooden building, erected for the purpose above ground. They set this building on fire the next year, and burned it to the ground. Nearly all escaped, but several of them were afterwards retaken. A few years after, the block house, so called, was rebuilt, but prudence by the officers in the management was disregarded. Had they been more careful in adopting safeguards for themselves and the prisoners, they might have avoided the dreadful scene which was soon to follow—a scene of conflict and blood!



friendly to the British cause. While they were on their way to Gunn-Town, they met a young man by the name of *Chauncey Judd*, of Waterbury, on a bridge, who had been to see the young lady he afterwards married. Fearing he might discover them they took him along with them. In the cellar kitchen where they were all secreted, there was a well. Into this well they talked of putting Mr. *Judd*; but the old lady of the house begged they would not think of it, as it would *spoil the water*! They stayed in this house a number of days: afterwards they went to Oxford, where they were secreted for several days longer in a barn; from thence they went to Stratford, took a whale boat, and crossed over to Long Island. The people at Derby, having received information of their passing through that place, two whale boats and crews, commanded by Capt. *William Clarke* and Capt. *James Harvey*, pursued them to the Island, and were fortunate enough to catch them all but one, just within the British lines. They were brought back, tried, condemned, and sent to Newgate; they however broke prison, and fled to Nova Scotia.

Newgate was at this time used by the state for the confinement of criminals, and they were kept chiefly at work in making wrought nails. It was



Newgate Prison.

not until 1790, that it was established permanently as a state prison. It is said to have been the design to employ the convicts in working the mines, which for a while was practiced, but it was soon found that they must necessarily have for that work, precisely the right kind of tools for digging out, and they several times used them for that purpose; this reason, with the consequent necessity of keeping so strong a guard, both day and night, finally induced them to abandon the employment. In 1790 an act was passed constituting Newgate a permanent prison, and providing for the erection of the necessary buildings.

A wooden palisade, mounted with iron spikes, was constructed, inclosing half an acre of ground, within which, workshops and other buildings were placed, and a deep trench was opened on the western side. The wooden enclosure remained until 1802, when a strong wall was laid in its place, which is now standing. A brick building was erected in the centre of the yard for the officers and privates, in the rear and lower part of which a stone apartment was afterwards constructed directly over the mouth of the cavern, and in this room the most quiet prisoners were occasionally kept.

The passage down the shaft into the caverns, is upon a ladder fastened upon one side, and resting on the bottom. At the foot of this passage commences a gradual descent for a considerable distance, all around being solid massive rock or ore. The passages extend many rods in different directions, some of them even leading under the cellars of the dwellings in the neighborhood. In two of the passages are wells of deep water, one of which measures eighty feet—they serve for a free circulation of air to the inmates of this gloomy place, and were sometimes used for shafts through which to lift the ore, when the business was carried on.

On the sides and in the niches of the cavern, platforms were built of boards for the prisoners on which straw was placed for their beds. The horrid gloom of this dungeon can be realized only by those who pass among its solitary windings. The impenetrable vastness supporting the awful mass above, impending as if ready to crush one to atoms; the dripping water trickling like tears from its sides; the unearthly echoes responding to the voice, all conspire to strike the beholder aghast with amazement and horror. These caverns and their precincts, from their antiquity, and the dramas which have been performed within and around, will long be considered as a classic place. The caverns have generally been extremely favorable to the health and longevity of the occupants, which is supposed to arise from some medical quality in the mineral rock.

It is a curious fact, that many of the convicts having previously taken the itch, or other loathsome diseases, while confined in the county jails, which were very filthy, on being for a few weeks kept in the caverns at night, *entirely recovered*; and it is perhaps still more strange, that those who came apparently in health, generally had for a



short time cutaneous eruptions, which appeared to work out of their blood.

A writer upon the subject observes: "From the  
"various windings and other causes, it is not cold  
"there, even in the severest weather; and strange  
"as it may seem, it has been satisfactorily ascer-  
"tained, that the mercury ranged 8 degrees lower  
"in the lodging apartments of the prisoners in the  
"warmest days of summer, than it does in the  
"coldest in the winter. This phenomenon is  
"attributed to the circumstance of the cavities in  
"the rocks being stopped with snow, ice and frost  
"in the winter, which prevents so free a circula-  
"tion of air as is enjoyed in the summer. On the  
"18th of January, 1811, at eight o'clock A. M.,  
"the mercury stood in the cavern at 52 degrees;  
"and in open air, as soon after as it was practica-  
"ble for a person to get up from the cavern (which  
"could not have exceeded five minutes), it fell to  
"one degree below 0."

Among the accidents which have occurred to visitors, was that of Mrs. *Christia Griswold* of Poquonock, while standing at the mouth of the shaft leading down into the cavern, accidentally stepped off, and fell the whole depth, striking on

the rocky bottom. The buoyancy of her clothes, or some other cause, saved her life, though she received injuries from which she never entirely recovered. A prisoner afterwards fell at the same place, fetters and all, without appearing to injure him, it is said, in the least.

Two years since a party of students were on a visit to the mines, when one of their number stepped into the shaft, and fell to the bottom, receiving injuries which caused his death in a few months. The descent upon the ladder is now easily accomplished by any one, and the trouble is well repaid by the interesting relics below. When Newgate was in full blast, it was a very popular place of resort for travelers and pleasure parties, as from a report of the overseers in 1810, it appears that 5,000 persons visited the place annually.

By some, this place has been compared to the ancient Bastile of France, but the comparison is far from being correct, except in the frightful emotions which this dungeon is calculated to inspire. The floors and the roof of the Bastile were made of iron plates riveted upon iron bars. The walls were of stone and iron several feet in thickness ; the whole being surrounded by walls, and a ditch



25 feet deep. The entrance to each cell was through three consecutive doors, secured by double locks. The scanty food, and the silent, unavailing grief, endured by the wretched victims of that dreadful abode, often reduced them to entire idiocy; besides, they were taken from those death-like cells each year, and subjected to the horrible torture of the rack, which often dislocated their joints or crushed their bones, and all this perhaps for merely uttering a sentiment averse to some political party in power! The soldiers and officers also of the Bastile, except the governor, were prisoners in everything but in name. When they entered the walls of that prison, it was for the term of their lives, and a wish expressed even to go out, was instant death. Newgate, in every respect, would bear no similitude to the Bastile. Indeed, the treatment of the prisoners and of the guard was often too lenient, although for disobedience, punishment was sometimes inflicted in the severest manner.

A description of the daily management at Newgate will, at this day, be found both interesting and amusing. The hatches were opened and the prisoners called out of their dungeon each morning at daylight, and three were ordered to *heave up* at

a time ; a guard followed the three to their shops, placing them at their work, and chaining those to the block whose tempers were thought to require it. All were brought out likewise in squads of three, and each followed by a guard. To those who never saw the operation, their appearance can not be truly conceived, as they vaulted forth from the dungeon in their blackness, their chains clanking at every step, and their eyes flashing fire upon the bystanders. It resembled, perhaps more than anything, the belching from the bottomless pit. After a while their rations for the day were carried to them in their several shops. They consisted for one day of one pound of beef or three-fourths of a pound of pork, one pound of bread, one bushel of potatoes for each fifty rations, and one pint of *cider* to every man. Each one divided his own rations for the day to suit himself—some cooked over their own mess in a small kettle at their leisure, while others, disregarding ceremonies, seized their allowance and ate it on an anvil or block. The scene was really graphic, and might remind one of a motley company of foreign emigrants on the deck of a canal-boat, during their visit to the far West. They were allowed to swap rations, exchange commodities, barter, buy and sell, at their pleasure.

Some would swap their rations for cider, and often would get so tipsy they could not work, and would "reel to and fro like a drunken man." Old Guinea, an aged convict, was frequently commissioned by them to go abroad and purchase the *good creature* for them, and would often return laden with two or three gallons. Sometimes, by taking his pay out of the cargo on the road rather freely, his ship would get becalmed, when he would cast anchor by the way side for the night, making the consignees doubly glad upon his safe arrival "in the beautiful morning." Lieutenant *Viets's* tavern, a few rods from the prison, was an especial accommodation, not only for travelers, but for the better sort of convicts. He who could muster the needful change, would prevail on some one of the guard to escort him over the way to the inn of the merry old gentleman, where his necessities and those of his escort were amply supplied at the bar. Many an unfortunate fellow, after his release from bondage, has "cast "a longing look behind" to the old temple of Bacchus, and appreciated the sentiment of the poet :

"Of joys departed never to return,

"How painful the remembrance."

All were allowed to work for themselves or others after their daily tasks were finished, and in that

way some of them actually laid up considerable sums of money. A little cash, or some choice bits of food from people in the neighborhood, procured many a nice article of cabinet ware, a good basket, a gun repaired by the males, or a knit pair of stockings by the female convicts. The writer, when a boy, was often rewarded for a pocket full of fruit with miniature ships, boxes, brass rings, bow and arrows, and the like; all being more valuable for having been made at Newgate, and all showing the particular branch or handicraft to which each had been accustomed. During the day the guard was changed once in two hours, at the sound of the horn, and in the night a guard entered the caverns every two hours and counted the prisoners. The punishments inflicted for offenses and neglect of duty were severe flogging, confinement in stocks in the dungeon, being fed on bread and water during the time, double or treble setts of irons, hanging by the heels, &c., all tending to inflame their revenge and hatred, and seldom were appeals made to their reason or better feelings. From thirty to one hundred were placed together through the night, solitary lodging, as practiced at this day, being regarded as a punishment, rather than a blessing to them.