This encouraging truth, together with the fact, that the chances of relief diminish nearly in a geometrical ratio with the period of duration of the attack, shows the importance of an early application for medical aid, and cannot be too generally known.*

However, although time so rapidly diminishes the chances of recovery, and the difficulties of restoring reason, when once dethroned are very great, requiring all the curative means suggested by science to benevolence—yet the recorded instances of restoration in cases long pronounced incurable are sufficient to prevent us from despairing in any instance, unless organic change of the brain have occurred. "A case is stated by Pinel, of a lady who had been maniacal for twenty-five years, suddenly recovering her reason."

Satisfied of the easy curability of insanity if attended to early, of the important aid to be derived from medicinal means, assisted by a moral treatment, and an intellectual discipline judiciously directed by capable and devoted attendants—it becomes a point of anxious enquiry in every public receptacle of the insane—"what proportion of insane patients are restored to the full possession of their reason?" and "what proportion are amended or relieved in cases where an entire restoration to reason has not been accomplished!" If the results of experience in the treatment of insanity during past years in this institution had been distinctly reported, we are sure, that the data supplied would only corroborate the statements in other sections of our country, where it has been proved, that few or no instances of recovery occur to cheer us among the many subjected to *confinement* and *idleness*, and to all the unfavorable, irritating and provoking influences of the "coercive system"—which is so happily calculated to develope "the mind's various and extensive capabilities of pain." The insane mind not recognising the justice or necessity of it, feels with morbid distinctness any form of personal restraint, and in the absence of occupation or amusement to relieve the irksomeness of confinement, it grows unhappy, discontented and restless; unless soothed, its unfavorable influence is manifested by functional disorder; sleep and appetite are banished, the illusions are aggravated, the idea of outrage, indignity and privation engrosses the mind, till lashed into fury, its ravings only cease with physical exhaustion.

"To him whose mind is alienated, a prison is a tomb, and within its walls he must suffer as one who awakes to life in the solitude of the grave. Existence and the capacity of pain are alone left him. From every source of pleasure and contentment he is violently sequestered. Every former habit is abruptly broken off. He is alike

*"The ratio of curability of cases, which have existed less than three months, is nine in ten; and eight and a half in ten when it has existed under twelve months; on the other hand of three hundred and eighteen cases, which had fallen under the care of Sir William Ellis, at the York West Riding Asylum, and which had existed from one to thirty years, only twenty-six were cured. M. Esquirol, one of the greatest living authorities on the subject of insanity, has asserted, that after the disease has passed the third year of duration, the probability of cure is scarcely more than one in thirty. Such, too, have been the general influences deduced from the results of the several admirable insane establishments of our own country."—See second Appeal to the people of Pennsylvania, page 21.

removed from all the occupations of health, and from those delicate acceptable attentions so soothing in sickness. The monotony of his confined apartment, the uninvited companionship of those who neither pity nor soothe him, the unavoidable recurrence of causes of annoyance and provocation, are but too well calculated to derange the vital functions of the body, and thus aggravate the derangement of his mind. On every side is raised up an insurmountable barrier against his recovery. Cut off from the charities of life, endued with quick sensibilities to pain, and perpetually stung by annoyances, which, though individually small, rise by constant accumulation to agonies almost beyond the power of mortal sufferance; if his exiled mind in its devious wanderings ever approach the light by which it was once cheered and directed, it sees every thing unwelcoming, every thing repulsive and hostile, and is driven away into returnless banishment.

From the absence of suitable institutions among us, the insane have been visited with a heavier doom than that inflicted upon the voluntary contemners of the law. They have been condemned as no criminal ever was condemned, and have suffered as no criminal ever has suffered. The code by which they have been judged, denounces against them the penalties due only to crime, while it is unmitigated by any of those merciful provisions, which, in our penal code attemper justice with humanity. Even when a criminal stands convicted of perpetrating the most atrocious crime, the benignity of the law accompanies him to the solitude where he is to expiate his offence. He is not only comfortably clad and warmed, and fed at the expense of the state which inflicts his punishment, but he is supplied with the means of moral renovation, and when those proofs of penitence and reformation are given, which it is in his own power to furnish, the laws relent and authorize the remission of his sentence. But though the insane have been made fellow prisoners with the criminal, they have suffered, if not from the privation of every comfort for the body, at least from the absence of every solace for the mind. Yet why should a man be treated even as a criminal, who, by universal consent is incapable of crime? We understand what is signified by retributions for guilt, but to speak of retributions for insanity, does violence to every feeling of humanity and dictate of conscience. Yet this wretched class of our fellow beings whose only offence is what others justly regard as amongst the direst of calamities—as incapable of moral guilt as unhappily they are of moral consolation, have been regarded by our laws as though they were rather the objects of vengeance than of commiseration. And were a system now to be devised, whose express object it should be to drive every victim of insanity beyond the limits of hope, it would scarcely be within the power of a perverse ingenuity to suggest one more infallible than that, which, for so many years has been in practical operation amongst us. That system could advance one paramount claim to preference. Its experiments have been numerous, and have scarcely ever failed in rendering the most favorable cases of insanity incurable. This practice reacts upon the community by which it is sanctioned. To say nothing