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A VOICE FROM THE BLACK HOLE.

EDITORS APPEAL: Having seen a number of cursory REMARKS BEARING through the medium of the public journals of Memphis, in relation to the city jail, at the time of your first exposition of your able congress, a lively interest in the minds of the humane and philanthropic citizens is being of its unfortunate inmates, and desires have been expressed, that I should, to contribute a few revolting facts, which can be acquired by disagreeable experience alone. I am aware, sirs, that my situation is one which offers no pleasing views for public examination. But I am also convinced, that an accurate experience is to be preferred to the most plausible theory. If the analogy be CLOSE, and the facts can be supported by ocular demonstration, or stand the test of close investigation, the apparent disadvantage alluded to is partially impaired, if not wholly destroyed. Much has been said concerning "sidewalk, house, renovating and cleansing the Augean stable." Impotent sayings! Specious sounds! Delusive hopes! Such apostolical pretexts may stifle inquiry, may lull and soothe the ruffled tone of public opinion, but never produce any perceptible benefit. No, sirs, it is vain to talk of the remedial agency of an opiate, when the indications require the knife. It is worse than useless to waste your energies in fruitless conclusions to a cause so evident, which emphatically demands the use of the scalpel.

Something more radical, something more efficient than these insidious bandages must be adopted. Now, supp ose the best of mattresses was plenipotent for the removal of the causes of complaint, why did it not prevent their accumulation? How are we to account for the well-known loathsome condition of the place? How are we to explain the nauseous emissions of odor which are wafted in attenuation of the street, and have been described by some of your brethren of the press, as sufficiently strong for a horse to hang himself on? It probably that this appliance could have the surprisingly some would have us believed it possesses, the inevitable deduction goes to prove the legally constituted authorities of the place were barbarous and heathen to such a degree of inhabitants of the Yongo Islands. If this appliance is to be considered all potent, the authorities are all impotent, all cruel, and have neglected their duty in omitting its application daily. If this would remove the obnoxious qualities, it would have prevented their accumulation. If the affirmative proposition be logically the deduction must be legitimate above doubt. I cannot but illy comprehend how one experienced and reflecting mind, with the most limited knowledge of the place, can be satisfied with this frivolous chamber-maid expedient. Is the public to swallow such a sophisticated delusion as this? Are the citizens to be told that this miserable shift is sufficient to heal the foul musical sores? Such a determination betrays either a want of knowledge, or a want of feeling. Whitewash is a very good disinfective, and should be applied frequently. But to suppose it an universal panacea, qualified to subdue the unnecessary and inhuman inflictions of torture we hourly suffer here, is to suppose it contains a quality we will never be able to discover.

I have endeavored to expose the utter futility of the favored whitewash scheme. I shall now proceed to examine the place a little more in detail. Now, I am well satisfied as the most humbling to the pride of the human race in jail must experience privations, and inconveniences. They must conform to the rules of wholesome restraint, which may be found necessary for security in keeping them in safety. I also know, it is natural for men thus restrained to complain. Against those necessary privations, I have nothing to say. In regard to one more particular allusion accruing from incarceration, I am sufficiently enough to expect a remedy. This must be found in strict moral training, and liberal education.

I must demur to the idea, that supposing views of the gentlemen who designed and conceived this institution for the requisite purposes of a city jail, or indeed for any other purpose. With all deference to the gentlemen above, there is room to suspect it would be right puzzling to conceive a purpose, supported by any correct principle of economy, or general utility, to which it could be adapted. Does it make well that to be under the influence of the summer sun, to be able to feel it? Or could we expect a prisoner would pay his compliments to the sun? Never! Never! Never!