

Fair Play

INTERVIEWS.



The Governor of the Gaol.

Mr. Garvey, whose portrait appears above, is a native of Ireland, and was for some time a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary force. He came to New Zealand in 1875. About a month after his arrival he was appointed clerk to the prison in Canterbury, which position he held for some time. About 1881 he came to the conclusion that there was but little chance for promotion from the position he then held; so with that view he accepted the position of senior warder, which he retained for six months. In 1882 he was transferred to the Mount Cook gaol as chief warder-in-charge, and remained there until 1884, when he was appointed gaoler of Mount Cook prison, and in 1885 he was made governor of the Terrace gaol, with supervision of the prisoners at Mount Cook. Since the Act was passed he has been appointed Probation Officer. In appearance Mr. Garvey is strongly-built, with bright piercing eyes, that seem to sum you up at a glance. To his friends his manner is genial and courteous to a degree, while, with the prisoners, he has the

reputation of being a strict disciplinarian, but never unjust nor cruel. There is a faint touch of the brogue in his speech, and an earnestness of manner in his conversation that his listener is at once impressed with. Mr. Garvey is 42 years of age, and is probably one of the youngest men in the service holding a similar office.

When our representative called upon him he was walking amongst the flowers in the little plat just in front of the gaol. He immediately invited the representative inside with the remark, "You are to do the interviewing to-day, I believe, Mr. 'Fair Play,' as a rule, it is I who question my visitors."

"Yes," was the reply, "we are to a certain extent reversing the usual custom, but I shall not be a very stern inquisitor."

"Supposing, Mr. 'Fair Play,' we take a look about the premises first; you can get a better general idea of the gaol in that way, than by asking me to describe it to you. After we have gone through the gaol we can come back to my office and finish our conversation."

"Yes, that will perhaps be the best way," was the reply, and we followed the Governor out into the corridor. One thing struck the reporter first, that was, the atmosphere of keys, locks and bolts, he seemed to be moving in. Every door including Mr. Garvey's own private office was at once locked on passing through its portals, and even if we were immediately proceeded by a warder, he locked the door behind him and our guide had to unlock it again. The first place we visited was the store room, which was divided into two compartments, one for the storage of prisoner's clothes and effects and the other for the wearing apparel, etc., made, and used in the gaol.

"What is the system pursued with reference to the prisoner's effects on the entrance into the the gaol, Mr. Garvey?" queried the reporter.

"Their effects are put in a packet, labelled, and placed where they can be easily turned up at any time, a list of the articles is entered in a book provided for that purpose, and on the prisoner's term expiring everything is returned to him. His clothes are thoroughly cleaned and packed in a sack, which is stored in this room; you will see piles of these sacks stowed away on the shelves about you."

"But supposing a man comes clothed in rags unfit for wear, how is he treated on discharge?"

"We provide him with a decent suit of clothes, strong boots, socks and underclothing, and a small amount of money."

"But touching the clothing you give out, is it all of the same material?"

"No, not now, although that was formerly the case. With the aid of Colonel Hume, who is always most earnest in his efforts to bring about any needed reform, we had the alteration made. Previously the suits were all of the same texture, and an expirée could at once be recognised as a gaol-bird by his clothing wherever he went, at least for the first few weeks. He wore the prison brand, and as you may well imagine was viewed with general suspicion."

"A very humane alteration, too. I see the general tone of your opinion is that a prison should be a reformatory in the truest sense, and that a practical attention to the meanest detail is an absolute necessity."

"Yes, that has been the system I have worked upon, and I will explain it more fully as we get further on."

"You were speaking of the goods manufactured in the