

sentence, return assignable to the Brickfields, where laxity of discipline has been allowed to such an extent, that the inmates are permitted to purchase tea, sugar, &c., from a shop at the gate, kept by one of the officers, and a cowkeeper is known to send eleven quarts of milk every morning, for those who can afford to buy it; and yet a more discreditable practice than either of these prevails through the medium of friends of the women, who are allowed to visit them, and are known to carry their clothes into the town and sell them for spirits and tobacco, with which they return to the Brickfields.

I will suppose what has often happened in my own house, that a passholder, hired as cook and laundress, is detected in acts of waste and extravagance, and that disapprobation is expressed and restrictions laid with a view to prevent further encroachment. From that moment open rebellion would ensue, and the duties of her situation would be performed in a manner impossible to endure—she would break and destroy more property in one week than her year's wages, if they could be demanded to repair the injury, would pay for. There is no means of recalling this woman to a sense of her duty. If she is punished for neglecting it, she is returned to the Brickfields to prejudice the minds of others against her master and mistress, who are thereby injured without any benefit to the woman; and the only available means to stop the work of destruction is to pay to the comptroller ten days' wages in lieu of giving ten days' notice, in addition to the loss already sustained, and return the woman to the Government. The natural consequence of this has been that employers become accessory to the bad conduct of their servants, who are required to forfeit the wages due to them on condition that their misconduct goes unpunished. I have even had servants in my employ who, after absconding for two or three days have returned, and offered to forfeit the money due to them and pay out of their own pockets the ten days' wages, on condition that I would not report them absent.

Upon one occasion I tried an experiment with a young woman in my service (Ann Starsmore), who after the first month began to get tired of employment, to neglect her duty, and to break and destroy the property under her charge. The character I received with her gave me to understand that she was one of the best behaved women on board the "Anson," and had been acting as servant to one of the warders. I have invariably found that those women, who, under the restraint and confinement of the ship, conduct themselves well, and perform little acts of servitude for the officers for the sake of the tea, sugar, white bread, and other indulgencies, are the most unmanageable, when beyond the control of the ship. I have heard this remarked by others, and the women themselves have told me that the matron knew nothing of their real characters, and that the worst women on board were those who ingratiate themselves into the favour of the officers for the sake of these advantages. The one above alluded to was no exception to the rule, and soon obliged me to have recourse to some expedient either to improve her manner or get rid of her. I told her that if she did not conduct herself better, I would take her before Mr. Price, the then magistrate for Hobart-town, and procure her seven days'