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VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—The Mission at HOBART TOWN, with which place O'Brien's Bridge, Sandy Bay, and Clarence Plains are united, is in a flourishing state. There are Chapels and good Sunday Schools at the three former places, and at the latter, a Chapel is, probably, ere this time, completed.

The exertions of the Missionaries among the Convicts at the Penal Settlements have been attended with very considerable success, as is attested by the decided reformation which has taken place in some of the most depraved characters. Respecting *Port Arthur* the Missionary reports,

"Our day and evening schools have prospered more this year than in any preceding year. The children in the day-school have made satisfactory improvement in their learning. In the adult school we have had upon our books the names of from 60 to 70 of the men, who have attended well, and paid the greatest attention to their mental cultivation. Many, who a short time since did not know the letters of the alphabet, can now read their Bibles with ease."

The following letter from Mr. Butters furnishes the most recent information from this interesting station :

"Were success to be estimated by the numbers admitted to church-membership, I certainly could not substantiate any claim to a great degree ; but this is not the case. We cannot here take this as a criterion, for the peculiar constitution of the settlement greatly militates against our having a large and permanent society. My congregations are, with very few exceptions, either military, who are chiefly Roman Catholics, or prisoners who are under *Colonial* sentence. The military are constantly being changed, and when the conduct of a prisoner is such as would justify my admitting him into our society, he is generally removed to a situation where the discipline is less severe.

"Our week-evening congregations are increasingly large and attentive; and I believe to many the word preached is frequently accompanied with "demonstration of the Spirit and power." An increased and increasing desire to read the scriptures, and religious tracts, is evidenced, and the Commandant has lately assured me that there is a very considerable diminution of crime, and that the men generally are much improved.

"You are aware that at Point Pure, which is about two miles from Port Arthur, there is a separate establishment of boys who are prisoners. At this place, there are about 230 persons, most of whom are between 13 and 18 years of age. Between three and four months ago, the Catechist, who was employed by Government, removed to Hobart Town, since which period I have regularly visited the school, and performed divine service with the boys twice a week.

"These young people I consider as forming by far the most encouraging part of my charge. In their welfare I feel particularly interested, and hope that my feeble efforts to do them good have been blessed. Some of them are remarkably intelligent, and often astonish me by the prompt and judicious manner in which they reply to questions which are proposed to them on divine subjects. I regularly catechize them once a week respecting the sermon which they have heard the preceding Sabbath, and generally find them prepared to give the substance of the discourse, and to repeat most of the texts of scripture which I quoted. That they may be prepared for these weekly examinations, they, in the interim, examine and catechize each other. Twenty of them have lately avowed their determination to consecrate themselves to God, and from all that I can see and hear of their general deportment, it is perfectly consistent.