

strict inquiries as to his prison conduct at Darlinghurst, and uniformly received the most satisfactory reports, I have no hesitation in recommending the prayer of the Petition.

(Signed),

J. R. JONES & Co,
Produce Merchants, Sussex Street.
H. PRIESTLY, *Ditto.*
JOHN GRAHAM.

The Sheriff.—B. C., April 2, 1874. For U. S.—W. G.

In returning the accompanying Petition in favour of prisoner Christie, *alias* Gardiner, I beg to refer to my report, dated 12th September, 1872, upon the Petition under which the prisoner was allowed a conditional pardon.

I took occasion in that report to urge the special importance, in the public interest, involved in the dealing with the case of this prisoner, by reason of the prominence of his career and the circumstances of his case.

That importance has been fully exhibited by the necessity that the granting to Christie of a conditional pardon, at all events, initiated of reconsidering the sentences of a large number of prisoners who may be termed lesser offenders of the same description; and a plan of abridgment of such sentences was prepared with much care and forethought, the main policy of which was permitting the men concerned to leave the Australian Colonies, chiefly based upon the action taken in Christie's case, approved, and now in course of being carried out.

Upon the same principle of equitable dealing which enjoined the adoption of the plan mentioned, if the condition of exile be foregone in Christie's case, it should similarly be foregone in those of the other men, and the whole policy of the plan abandoned.

The reasons now put forward in Christie's favour were fully considered when the former Petition was dealt with, and there can be no question but that the case was determined upon with a lenity which the condition of exile alone could reconcile with public opinion, and with a sense of justice towards the general body of criminals serving their allotted periods.

I confess that I am surprised, in view of the merciful consideration with which the former Petition was treated, at the present Petition having been made, and I would most strongly deprecate any compliance with its prayer.

Principal Under-Secretary, B. C., April 20, 1874.

(Signed),

HAROLD MACLEAN,
Comptroller-General of Prisons.

The enclosed Petition prays for a remission of Gardiner's sentence. The prisoner has been authorized a conditional pardon, the condition being exile, The Sheriff strongly deprecates a compliance with the prayer of the Petition. His Excellency.—H.P., 24-4-74.

Refused.—R. H., 27-4-74.

(No. 11.)

The Principal Under-Secretary to Mrs. Archina Griffiths.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, April 29, 1874.*

MADAM,—In reply to your further Petition, praying that your brother, the prisoner named in the margin, may receive an unconditional pardon, I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to inform you that His Excellency the Governor sees no grounds for authorizing a compliance with your application.

I have, &c.,
(For the Under-Secretary.)

(Signed),

M. R. ALLAN.