

To return to the subject of the apprehension produced by transportation. It must be borne in mind that punishment is meant to operate chiefly upon those persons who are inclined to commit crimes. It is comparatively useless to persuade the well-disposed that a punishment is a severe one. It is upon the minds of the criminal population that such a conviction ought to be impressed. Now, except in a few cases, all that the latter class can apprehend from such a punishment as transportation, must consist in the penal labour and privations, to which they may be subjected in the colonies. But who can tell beforehand, what will be the amount of that labour, or the nature of those privations? It has been shown that the condition of a convict is the merest chance; that it ranges between the two extremes, of a servant subject to trifling restraint, and of a slave enduring long and tedious misery. My conviction is, that much more suffering is inflicted in the penal colonies than is credited in this country; suffering, therefore, unknown; unproductive of good; pure, gratuitous, evil. Nor, from the remoteness of those places of punishment, is it possible to make the criminal population understand the actual condition of a convict. The accounts which they receive, are generally from convicts who have been fortunate in this lottery of punishment, and are therefore