

P.S.—As regards the real action of lime on cane-juice, we are not prepared to disclose it just now; but in order to secure to us the originality of the discovery, we have left with our excellent friend, the Secretary of the Jamaica Royal Agricultural Society, a sealed letter, containing our views on the subject, which, at some future period, we will empower him to open.

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TRANSPORTATION AND OUR CONVICT DISCIPLINE IN  
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND CONSIDERED, IN A LETTER TO  
LORD GREY.

(Concluded from our last.)

WITH regard to those passholders, who are eligible for service, the regulations are such as to entail serious inconvenience and expense upon the settlers, without any protection or benefit to the convict, and calculated to give rise to notions of independence entirely destructive to all discipline, and quite negating the consideration of transportation as a punishment. 1st. It is necessary to obtain the convict's consent to the amount of wages, if below £9. 2nd. It is necessary to obtain his consent to the term for which the contract is to be signed, if above one month. 3rd. It is necessary to take the convict's own statement as to his or her capability to perform the service required. When hired they are by law entitled to demand leave to go out every Sunday, under pretence of attending Divine service, and, in addition, once a month to purchase clothes. If they fall sick during the term for which they are hired, the hirer is compelled to provide them with a medical attendant, or to maintain them in the hospital at an exorbitant charge of 2s. a-day. While in service they are permitted to dress as they please, and when found in the public-houses on Sunday or any other day, if an attempt is made to fine the publican, his defence is, there being no distinctive dress, he cannot at all times know whether the person applying for liquor is free or bond, so that they may well exclaim, in the language of convict eloquence—"What do we care? We have the wide world before us, the same as before we were transported; a place to go to when out of service, where the Government must keep us, and some one to make our beds for us."

The evils resulting to the convicts from this unbounded licence are—1st. The consequent spirit of independence which renders them careless as to the manner in which they perform their duty to their employers, and indifferent alike to praise and blame. 2nd. The opportunity afforded to indulge in a life of idleness and uselessness in the prisoner's barracks or the Brickfields, either by refusing to engage in service, or availing themselves of the many easy methods of escaping from servitude, when they become tired of employment and the restraint which binds them to a course of order and regularity at variance with