

which is inserted in the report of the committee. He says, "You cannot have an idea of the vexations which accompany the employment of convicts, or of the vicissitudes attendant on their assignment. Their crimes and misconduct involve the settlers in daily trouble, expense and disappointment. There is so much peculation, so much insubordination, insolence, disobedience of lawful orders, and so much drunkenness, that reference to the magisterial authority is constant. There can be no doubt things appear better in the colony than they really are." Such are the statements of the Lieutenant-Governor of the one penal colony, as to the general conduct of assigned convicts. I will now quote the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor of the other colony, as to the great inequality of this punishment. Sir Richard Bourke states, as the result of his own experience, that "it is one of the most apparent and necessary results of the system of assignment, to render the condition of convicts, so placed, extremely unequal, depending, as it must, on a variety of circumstances over which the government cannot possibly exercise any controul. It would be quite impracticable to lay down regulations sufficient to remedy this inequality." The only other authority, which it is necessary to quote, is that of Captain Maconochie, secretary to Sir J. Franklin, the present