

that he should be permitted to repeat that crime, or that he should be allowed to possess such extent of liberty as would leave it to his own inclination and discretion whether he would or would not do so.

Those convicts who were sent to a penal settlement under the third class, should be divided into two principal classes; first, those whose sentence was for a term of years less than that of their natural lives, who should be eligible to be hired by the settlers immediately on their arrival in the Colony, under a form of apprenticeship; second, those who were transported for life, who should be retained in the service of the Government for half that time, to be computed at a fixed average, during which they should be subject to a course of strict discipline, and be required to earn their bread by some kind of laborious employment, of which there can be no scarcity in any new settlement. And after having served one half of their sentence in this employment, exclusive of any secondary sentence, they should be eligible, if their character had been good enough during this period, to be hired into private service, subject to the same regulations as those before mentioned.

The work these men should be required to perform, should be cutting down timber, clearing and breaking up land, and making roads, which would be attended with benefits both to the Colony and the Mother-country; and under a well regulated system of emigration, the land would thus be rendered valuable. And if the labour were properly directed, there is profitable employment enough in Van Diemen's land alone, for all the convicts now under sentence; and yet, notwithstanding this fact, notwithstanding there are nearly 10,000 male convicts actually doing nothing, they are not to be employed on works of utility and profit because the Colonial Government cannot find the money to pay them for their labour. There is scarcely a road in Van Diemen's Land, not excepting Hobart-town and Launceston, that is passable even in fine weather; but the men must not be employed upon them without wages, and, as a matter of course, they go unrepaired. If a road is surveyed, and a few trees cut down, it is called made; and the man who gets such a road as this to his estate may think himself fortunate. The Van Diemen's Land Company have offered to maintain almost any number of men, and employ them in making a road from Circular Head to Launceston; but, it is not enough that they confer this benefit upon the Government and the Colony, they must pay wages, and, in consequence, the scheme is abandoned, and those who would pass from Circular Head to Launceston, or *vice versa*, must either wait for a fair wind and go by sea, or swim some four or five rivers at the risk of being drowned, as many a man and horse has been. The Colony is charged with an additional police and gaol expenditure, amounting to £30,000 a-year, which it pays on account of these men; surely, then, it ought to be entitled to something from them in return. This sum, compared with the value which might be returned in labour, is nothing; but, without the labour, is ruinous. If the labour of the convicts had constructed a railroad, or even a wooden tramroad, for which there is abundance of fine timber from Hobart-town to Launceston, and from