

is not in the slightest degree an overdrawn picture, but a plain matter of every day's occurrence. A settler newly arrived thinks it, at first, a vexation not to be endured; but he soon falls into a compliance with difficulties which are visited alike upon all; and, finding there is no escape from them, he is forced to participate in the common mischief, which he cannot avert.

It is utterly impossible, in the limits of a despatch, to show your Lordship all the workings of a convict colony. Advantages, and very great ones, no doubt, are the result on the one hand; but, on the other, there are trials which are not to be encountered elsewhere. The community, on a broad scale, are satisfied that there is an anxious desire and a zealous endeavour on the part of the local government to diminish these difficulties; and therefore the settlers submit patiently to the losses and disquietudes incident to the employment of convicts, and, undoubtedly, they acquiesce the more cheerfully from having no actual wages in cash to pay, for they do not trouble themselves to enter into the cost of clothing, diet, &c. &c., which is enormous; but if even a tax no higher than 10 s. a head were demanded, another state of things would be the certain consequence; not only would it be felt as a grievance, and originate dissatisfaction, but in the end, even in a pecuniary point of view, the Government would be losers by the bargain. Your Lordship may be assured that the settler who feeds and clothes, and submits to all the impertinence and unwillingness of half a dozen London pickpockets, and is, moreover, at the charge of bringing them from time to time under the eye of the police, for admonition and correction, may very well be allowed to enjoy the benefit of their services without being taxed for the *indulgence*.

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VAN DIEMEN'S  
LAND.

Lieut.-gov. Arthur  
to Lord Goderich.

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