

17th of March the long voyage of 18,000 miles commenced. Its horrors will be told as briefly as possible. When they left England the vermin germinated and swarmed; a living torture day and night, continuing until the voyage ended. There were 240 on board. Scurvy and erysipelas broke out, and one year after their arrival at Hobart Town only 103 of the 240 remained alive. McNulty died on the passage. Mr. Wait had blood poisoning from the improper use of the lancet. McLeod died in the hospital a few hours after their arrival and sleeps in a stranger's grave. The hospital was full and the scene of greed and depravity was horrible. The surgeon did what he could, but among so many it was impossible to give the aid required. Those who could pass inspection were viewed by the Governor and officials. The Governor was the famous Sir John Franklin, who afterwards perished in the Arctic regions of America. He first addressed the convicts, and afterwards, turning to the others, said, "Treason was the foremost crime in the British code, and while their character was good, any attempt to escape would be treated with the utmost severity." On the voyage one hundred and twenty had been flogged with the cat, and minor punishments administered on many. On the ship were beings who had committed all kinds of crimes, from the lightest to those of the deepest dye. Prisoners, after landing, were arranged in barracks in alphabetical order. On shipboard the convicts' amusement was to tattoo their persons with all sorts of devices. After some weeks they were allowed the privilege of assignment, instead of working on the roads. Vernon, Mallory, Cooly, and Wagner went first. There only remained Chandler and Wait. Mr. Wait was two months in the hospital. While there, from a fly-leaf of a testament, he managed to send a letter, which, with another, reached its destination. From the hospital he went to the prison barracks. Fourteen hundred men were there. Language fails, nor could he repeat what he saw and heard. Here were the cells, the tread-mill, the triangle, and not a morning passed without someone receiving the lash. The vermin swarmed. He was here two weeks. On the 2nd of October he was assigned as a carpenter to Commissary-General Roberts, who wanted him as a clerk and store-keeper. His place was fifty miles from Hobart Town, and called Askegeon. Here he and Mr. Chandler worked from 4 a. m. to 11 p. m. Their duties were varied. His wife sent monthly and continued her efforts for their deliverance. They soon had their "tickets of leave" granted. These gave them leave to work for wages, selection of employer, and choice of labor. This was accorded the others also, through Mrs. Wait's efforts. The "ticket of leave" was received in August, 1841. Mr. Chandler and he determined to embrace the first opportunity to escape. They