

month her conduct became so unbearable that we were obliged to part with her. By degrees, as the principles of indulgence began to be better understood, the women became more unmanageable. They all demanded their money and a day to spend it, and in eighteen months from the commencement of the probation system, women have entered my house from the "Anson," absconded within ten days, and been found in houses of ill-fame in the town.

4. *Best Means of Correcting Errors.*—It will be seen from the foregoing observations that many of the evils arising from the present system are referable to local regulations, and dependent upon a degree of indulgence carried far beyond the limits prescribed. There are, nevertheless, some of considerable importance attaching to the principles of the system; such as the possession of money, as wages, the right of absence from the place of employ, and the right of hiring vested in the convict.

Upon the system of retributive justice the convict certainly ought to be deprived of all these; but as the ultimate end of punishment is the protection of society and reformation of the criminal, it requires to be shown that these two ends are favoured by the restrictions advocated, before a right principle can be established, and this, I think, has been already done to a great extent. It has been shown, that the indulgence granted to the convicts under the present system, is both an injury to themselves, and to society at large, and the evils resulting have been traced to these three heads, money, liberty, and the privilege of hiring themselves or not, as imparted under the regulations.

From the number of public buildings available, the difficulty of clandestine escape, and other circumstances peculiarly adapting Van Diemen's Land for a penal Colony, I shall presume the system to continue in operation there, though equally applicable to any other Australian Colony.

A great portion of the evil arising from the congregation of such numbers together might, I think, be avoided by pursuing a more extended system of classification among those whose crimes have subjected them to transportation; the class to which they are to belong to be determined by the length of sentence the law has given them. Thus, the first class to consist of young offenders whose crimes are small, whose previous characters have been good, and whose sentence is for a shorter period than ten years. These should be exiled to some Colony where, upon condition that they did not return to the place from whence they were exiled under ten years, they should become free as soon as they had repaid to the Government the cost of their passage, either by a servitude of one year to the Government, during which time they shall be employed in making roads and otherwise improving the value of the land for sale, or in the service of private individuals, to whom they should be apprenticed, for any term not exceeding twelve months, at a yearly amount of wages not less than £6. This, or some such reasonable amount, the hirer should pay to the Government by monthly instalments in advance. The exile to be free when his labour had earned the amount of his passage, and the term of apprenticeship to cease from that period.