

When the prisoner has served ten years his case may again be brought forward. If his conduct should, in the meantime, be good, I should feel disposed to grant him then a pardon, conditional on his leaving the country. At present I do not concur with the petitioners that the sentence which the prisoner has undergone is sufficient for the ends of justice.—H.R., 5-12-72.

(No. 6.)

The Chief Justice to the Colonial Secretary.

In re Gardiner's Petitions for Mitigation.

SUPREME COURT, 6th December, 1872.

MY DEAR COLONIAL SECRETARY,—I have received a letter (one only of several) from one of Gardiner's sisters, which I think ought to accompany the papers, with a copy of my reply. I therefore inclose both, begging you to submit them with the petitions to His Excellency. Or, if the case is already disposed of, I solicit the favor of your directing the present inclosures to be placed with them.

I have abstained from saying anything about Gardiner's career before his bush-ranging began, but I can add his previous history if desired. If my sentence on him for horse-stealing, passed at Goulburn, had not been interfered with, he would have had no opportunity of commencing cattle-stealing at Carcoar, or of robbing the Gold Escort afterwards; for the latter was committed before that sentence had expired.

I am, &c.,

(Signed), ALFRED STEPHEN.

To His Honour Sir Alfred Stephen.

(Inclosures.)

December 4, 1872.

SIR,—Again I place before you the one earnest wish of my anxious heart, in the hope that you will once more extend your mercy to my dear brother, Francis Christie. Oh, forgive him, for the sake of those who so earnestly plead for him, forgive him, as I hope the Great Judge of all may forgive you and yours when you plead for it. Mercifully grant him his liberation in the Colonies, so that his sisters may draw him nearer them and farther from danger. Could you know how we have waited and watched for your answer to our petition—an answer which seems so long delayed—you would have spared us, I believe, some of the anxious suspense; but if the answer be what we could wish, how little will the past misery seem compared to the boon ultimately granted. I know, your Honor, that my brother's sins have been many. I do not wish to think his sentence was unjust, but his punishment has been great and his reformation genuine, and may God grant that it may be your will to again restore my dear brother to freedom. With you his liberation or endless imprisonment rests, so far as earthly power rules; therefore, be that answer what it may, to you, Sir Alfred Stephen, I must look. Be merciful when you would look at the darkest side of this man's character, and forgive me for taking the liberty of writing to you as I have done. Trusting that you will pardon my presumption,

I remain, &c.,

(Signed), A. GRIFFITHS.

SUPREME COURT,
December 6, 1872.

The Chief Justice has read with deep sympathy the several letters which he has received from Mrs. Griffiths and her sister, and he will forward her letter of yesterday