

banishment; I will proceed at once to describe the condition of the convict in the penal colonies. The penal colonies of Great Britain are, first, and largest, New South Wales, founded in 1787. To this place 75,200 criminals have been transported; and in the year 1836, the number of offenders under punishment there were, men 25,254; women 2,577. The next in magnitude is Van Diemen's Land, founded in 1804; to which, since 1817, 27,759 convicts have been sent; and of which the criminal population, in 1835, consisted of 14,914 men, and 2,054 women. The third is Norfolk Island, a dependency of New South Wales, which contains about 1,200 convicts. The last which must be mentioned is Bermuda, containing about 900 convicts. Bermuda need not again be referred to, as the condition of the convicts there is nearly the same as that of convicts in the hulks: my observations will, therefore, be confined to the Australian colonies.

The greater portion of the punishment of the convicts in these colonies, consists in compulsory labour: that labour is either enforced by officers of the government, or by private individuals, to whom the convicts are assigned as servants. I will first speak of the latter class; which is by far the most numerous one, as it contained in 1836, about 29,000 convicts. A