

prisoners. The convict dress of the hulks was then put upon them. This was a coarse spotted garment, a hemp shirt, a waistcoat of coarse grey cloth, a thin pair of long grey stockings and a pair of low cow-skin shoes, a coarse cotton neck-kerchief and a coarse stiff wool hat, with the crow's foot. Then on the right leg was put an iron band nearly four pounds in weight. On everything was stamped the broad arrow. Not even a handkerchief was allowed. They were numbered.

"Our heads were shaved close and the stiff hat produced no warmth. It was in January and very cold, but the port holes were open. We had in our hammocks a pallaise of straw, two old blankets and a rug. Our rations were limited and unfit, and rest was impossible. The chill was impossible to be walked off. To my last hour its effect upon my feet will be felt. There were ten of us. Mr. Parker had been pardoned while in London, and was then living in Rochester, in the State of New York. Gemmel was in the hospital. Church service was read by a convict, to which we were supposed to respond. We refused, with cheers from the others, to do so, and were deputed to ask that we be allowed to pray as we liked, and to have the diet changed. The praying was conceded, but the change in the diet, made to rice and milk, was only for a little while. On the third day we were brought before the commander to undergo a rigid examination. We were stripped and everything carefully noted. These likenesses were so perfect that we could have been arrested anywhere. The little paper mementos made in England, and sold by Miss Strickland, the biographer of the Queens of England, had helped us to procure many necessities. They had been made on the sly and carefully secreted. These were seen by an officer, and brought us kindness and respect. The remonstrances of nine of the State prisoners were sent to Lord John Russell, and, after much correspondence, the decision arrived at, that they were to be sent to Van Dieman's Land for fourteen years, and some for life."

On the morning of the 12th of March they were told that they had five minutes to prepare for their departure. Some were in London and some in the hospital. There was no time to write. Mr. Wait secured his portfolio. The weight of the iron bands was doubled to eight pounds. He exchanged his hat for a woollen cap. His books and clothes were forfeited to the Government. His trunk, bowl and spoon, and some religious books were returned. They gladly left this abode of vice. The *Marquis of Hastings* was the name of the vessel. Mr. Ashurst came to see them. They were classed as "the convict Wait and other felons."

The fourteen years was to date from their arrival at Hobart Town. They were sent away before the order into their case arrived. On the