

victs both during their period of punishment and subsequently. Even the tortures of Norfolk Island and Port Arthur do not deter them from committing crimes which cause them to be sent to those places a second and a third time. And this is not extraordinary; because such punishments degrade the human being into a brute; destroy his reflecting faculties, and leave him no other thought or wish but the immediate gratification of his appetites. With regard to the reformation of the offender by transportation, Mr Stephens, the late Attorney General of Van Diemen's Land, has declared "at all events, if that be one of the objects of punishment, it is on the present plan of transportation hopeless, in the existing state of things nearly all the tendencies of the plan are the other way." And Captain Maconochie asserts, "by transportation the prisoners are all made bad men instead of good; it is shown," he says, "by the official reports transmitted with his papers, that scarcely any are reformed, and human nature does not stand still, if not improved it gets worse." Every witness examined, every document laid before the committee, confirmed these positions. My examination of the effects of transportation, as a punishment, may be concluded with the observation, that the offender at the expiration of his sentence is left in a community, where I may say without ex-