

solitary confinement, and afterwards to return to my service. This produced the desired effect, and for a time she behaved well. In about a month I had occasion to repeat my threat; I told her she was quite capable of doing her duty well, and that I should not indulge her idleness by allowing her to leave my service, but that I would have her confined on bread and water for seven days, and if that was not sufficient punishment, I would state the case to Mr. Price and procure her another fourteen days; that I would continue adding to the punishment, taking her back each time, until she returned to her former good behaviour. Under the influence of this threat I kept her five months and two weeks, and could have kept her until she was due for her ticket of leave, had she not discovered that my threats were mere words, and that the contract having been signed only for three months, she could demand her release. She never went into service again, but remained in the Brickfields for twelve months, at the end of which time, notwithstanding she had a husband and children at home, she was permitted to marry, and I was not even applied to to sign her memorial for good conduct.

In order to show the different effect which a system of assignment has upon the minds of the individuals, to that induced by the principle of hiring upon wages, I will mention a case of a young girl from the Orphan School, who had been apprenticed to a Custom-house agent, in accordance with the regulation of that establishment, until she was eighteen years of age. The girl was naturally of an idle disposition, and complained to a probation woman that she was bound to her mistress for twenty-two months, and did not like her place; the woman advised her to run away, telling her that, by the new law, she could serve the whole of her time in the factory. The girl did so, and was sent to the Cascade Factory for punishment, and, after learning there more iniquity than she ever knew before, was, to her surprise, returned to her place. She absconded a second and third time, the last time hiring herself to another place, for concealment. Upon being questioned by the magistrate, she confessed that she did not like service, and that she had absconded, expecting to be allowed to serve the time in the factory (meaning the Brickfields); but, on being told that she was *apprenticed* for twenty-two months, and that, in accordance with the regulations of her school, she must serve that time in the employment of her mistress, she returned to her place, from which she would never have absconded but for the false notion that the law was as indulgent in her case as in the case of her probation friend.

To show the extravagant extent to which the convicts carry their ideas of their position, and the utter inability of the existing arrangements to counteract or control the natural bent of their propensities, I will relate the conduct of one of the better sort of women, who was hired by a neighbour of mine. The woman praised the clean and comfortable appearance of the house, and, for the first two weeks, kept it so, proving, beyond a doubt, that it was not the power, but the will that was wanting after that period. She soon became tired of good living, kind treatment, and respectability, and when her mistress complained of her altered conduct, she told her she was too particular, and