

I would like to have from the Principal Gaoler in this case a special report as to the conduct of this prisoner, beyond the character in the printed form

I would further be glad to have Mr. Read's report on the alleged action of the prisoner on the occasion of the outbreak referred to in the petition, and the value of the service rendered by him in improving the mat-making machinery; and, on the other hand, the circumstances attending the attempt on behalf of himself and the prisoner Cust to compass an escape by means of friends outside the prison, which occurred early in prisoner's confinement.—H.M., 27th August, 1872.

DARLINGHURST GAOL,
SYDNEY, 31st August, 1872.

SIR,—With reference to statements in the accompanying petition in favour of the prisoner named in the margin, I do myself the honour to state that the contrivance for improving the selvage of the matting therein alluded to was the invention of the prisoner. It is now in use, and very effective. The matting was certainly wanting in finish until this addition was made to the looms, and many customers complained of its faulty make, and would probably have obtained their supplies elsewhere had not this improvement been introduced.

As regards the prisoner's conduct on the occasion of the outbreak, 1st November, 1864, I must say he did not take any part in that desperate attempt, and, as far as I can learn, discouraged the proceeding, thereby incurring some annoyance from his fellow-prisoners, who looked to him as a leader. He was considered, both inside and outside the gaol, the leader of all bushrangers, and at the time a great many of that class were commencing long sentences. As a rule, his conduct has been good and exemplary; there is, however, one exception, that was in November, 1864, when he with another prisoner (Cust) opened communication with their friends outside with a view to effect their escape; in this they were assisted by a warder, who was dismissed for attempting to carry a letter out of the gaol for the prisoner's friends.

Since that time I have not had occasion to find fault with prisoner's conduct in any way.

I have, &c.,

(Signed), J. C. READ,
Principal Gaoler.

(No. 3.)

Minutes of Principal Under-Secretary and Colonial Secretary.

May be referred to his Honour the Chief Justice for report.—Sept. 12-72.
The Chief Justice.—H.P., 12-9-72.

(No. 4.)

The Principal Under-Secretary to the Chief Justice.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
SYDNEY, 17th September, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to request the favour of your report upon the accompanying petition for mitigation of the sentence of thirty-two years' hard labour on the roads passed by you upon the prisoner named in the margin.

I have, &c.,
(For the Under-Secretary),

(Signed), WILLIAM GOODMAN,