

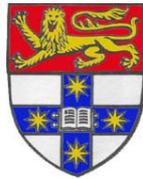
Female Immigration Considered
In a Brief Account of the Sydney Immigrants' Home

Chisholm, Caroline (1808-1877)

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Female Immigration Considered,

In a Brief Account of the Sydney Immigrants' Home

Sydney

James Tegg

1842

Preface.

THE following pages are submitted to the public, with the hope of attracting attention to some of the evils attending the present system of allowing Female Immigrants to make engagements on board ship; and of inducing the proper authorities to apply a remedy.

The writer also hopes that they may have the effect of inducing His Excellency the Governor to promise, that young women sent to this Colony shall be received and protected by Government until suitable situations are offered them. Unless this announcement is made by authority, the class of young women most wanted, will not be sent to this Colony in sufficient numbers; girls of good character and industrious habits are required as wives and servants. England, Ireland, and Scotland can furnish these, aye, and will do it, if the promise of protection is sent forth. The ten days' rations will not satisfy the clergy or parents at home, God forbid it should. The expense of this protection which I solicit will be a saving to this Colony; for if girls for the want of this protection lose character and become burthensome to the public, the public must bear the expense; and the expense attending ten bad women (who every year get worse) would more than pay for the protection of four hundred. Economy would sanction this measure; but the people of this country will, I fear, consider my taking a pecuniary view of this matter, as an insult to their character, and I beg to apologise for the same.

A want of method will be observable in this work—a want of order and regularity; but having first placed my narrative under different heads, (which plan pleased my friends best) I then threw it together, in the confused state in which I present it to the public, and I liked the latter method best: I believe it is a lady's privilege to have her own way (when she can) and I do not feel disposed in this matter to waive my right. I beg further to state, that as I commenced my work, the “establishment of the Home,” without private ends, I now end the same without any feeling of hostility against any individual. My late occupation has made me the possessor of many secrets, but I pledge myself to use them honorably.

Being, I believe, the first lady in Australia who has ventured in the character of an author, to appear before the public, this circumstance will entitle me to some indulgence; but I ask for no favor; all I have a right to expect is, a fair and just interpretation of my feelings and intentions.

C. H. M. C.

**Female Immigration Considered, in a Brief
Account of the Sydney Immigrants' Home;**

Female Immigration.

TO THE REVEREND THE CLERGY OF AUSTRALIA.

REVEREND GENTLEMEN,

It has been suggested to me, that the experience and knowledge I have gained during the last seven months would, if made public, prove of benefit to others; and, as the height of my ambition is to lead a *useful life*, I do not hesitate to give the history of the Female Immigrants' Home. It may encourage others to go on in a work of mercy, if I shew the means by which a stranger in this colony has been the instrument, either directly or indirectly, of serving upwards of 2,000 persons. Circumstances, which I need not detail, led me, soon after my arrival in the colony, to feel a peculiar interest in the young women who are sent here without friends or advisers: I soon observed that many of them did not conduct themselves with propriety. On my first visit to the immigrants' barracks, which was about five in the evening, my attention became fixed on a young and beautiful Highland girl, (in tent No. 1): the arm of a gentleman was round her waist. I am a great admirer of beauty, and her style pleased me exceedingly. On my two following visits, I still saw the same gentleman; I observed, too, a little extra *finery* on *****. I could not make out the name of the gentleman; but I cautioned the poor girl's mother, and bade her beware. The poor woman said, there was no fear of ***** for her head had never rested but on her mother's hearth. She was all innocence—the mother all hope. The following day I was making a few purchases, in Mr.——'s shop, in George-street, when the same gentleman I had seen with ***** entered: an elegant woman hung on his arm. I enquired his name—“the lady was his wife.” I still doubted: I went to the next shop; I enquired, whose conveyance is that?—still the same name: I no longer doubted his intentions. The following evening, seeing him in a tent with ***** I made enquiries if *any* ladies felt an interest in these young creatures, or afforded them protection? I was told, there was a committee, but the ladies never visited the institute, or in any way interfered; and after many enquiries, I was obliged to leave Flora to her *fate*. From this period I devoted all my *leisure* time in endeavouring to serve these poor girls, and felt determined, with God's blessing, never to rest until *decent protection* was afforded them. In January, 1841, I wrote to Lady Gipps, and from that time I never ceased in my exertions. I knew that every ship's arrival would increase the necessity for such an institution. I felt convinced the evil which struck me so forcibly would soon be made apparent to the good people of Sydney;

and I felt assured that the God of all mercy would not allow so many poor creatures to be lost, without disposing the hearts of the people to unite and save them. I now considered the difficulties, and prepared my plan: for three weeks I hesitated, and suffered much. I was prepared to encounter the opposition of some, the luke-warmness, or the actual hostility of others, to the plan I might suggest. I saw I must have the aid of the Press; for I could only anticipate success by soliciting public sympathy for the cause I had undertaken, notwithstanding which, as a female and almost a stranger in the colony, I naturally felt diffident. I was impressed with the idea, that God had, in a peculiar manner, fitted me for this work; and yet I hesitated. About this time, several young women, whom I had served, advised others to write to me: I did all I could to aid them in their prospects by advice, or recommending them to situations; but the number increased, and I saw that my plan, if carried into effect, would *serve all*. My delay pressed on my mind as *a sin*; and when I heard of a poor girl suffering distress, and losing her reputation in consequence, I felt that I was not *clear of her sin*, for I did not do all I *could* to prevent it. During the season of Lent of that year, I suffered much; but on the Easter Sunday, I was enabled, at the altar of our Lord, to make an offering of my talents to the God who gave them. I promised to know *neither country or creed*, but to try and serve all *justly* and impartially. I asked only to be enabled to keep these poor girls from being tempted, by their need, to mortal sin; and resolved that, to accomplish this, I would in every way sacrifice my feelings—surrender all comfort—nor, in fact, consider my own wishes or feelings, but wholly devote myself to the work I had in hand. I felt my offering was accepted, and that God's blessing was on my work: but it was his will to permit many *serious difficulties* to be thrown in my way, and to conduct me through a rugged path of deep humiliation. I may here remark that, with one exception, every person I wrote or spoke to on the subject acknowledged the *need* of such an institution; promised to subscribe when one was established, though, with few exceptions, all declared they thought the thing impossible. I determined on a visit to Sydney, and on my arrival there, I requested two friends to call at the Herald Office; both refused. I went myself, and am glad of this opportunity to acknowledge the attention I met with, and the support the proprietors of that journal gave me—indeed, to the Press of Sydney I feel indebted, and thank them sincerely for their support. From His Excellency's letters, and what he said, I came to this conclusion, that, under existing circumstances, he would not refuse me, though he would *rather not* grant my request. I knew I had an able general against me, and that much caution, patience, and temper, were necessary on my part. I was advised by a friend to form a committee

immediately—a thing easier said than done; but I was not certain of His Excellency the Governor giving me the use of a part of the immigration barracks, and as I had more than forty letters in my possession, detailing the miseries of some of the young women then in Sydney, I had determined, as the forlorn hope, to publish these; and ten of them would, I knew, be sufficient to cause a feeling on the minds of the public, which would have raised funds at once: but I was told their publication would injure the colony, and I had no wish to do this, for I feel an interest in its prosperity, and should have lamented making a *passing and transient* distress known in England, when I was certain there would be no necessity for this measure.

I waited on the ladies who now form the committee, viz.—Lady O'Connell, Lady Dowling, Mrs. Richard Jones, Mrs. Roger Therry, Mrs. W. Mackenzie, Mrs. J. Wallace, and Miss E. Chambers; and it is pleasing to be able to state, that not one refused me—all expressed themselves as *feeling an interest* in the work. Things were wearing a most favourable appearance, when I perceived a giving way—even some of my first-promised supporters withdrew their pledges. It is a remarkable *fact*, that, at the very time the Protestants were afraid of my “Popish Plot,” several of the leading Catholics had withdrawn their support; and I was daily and hourly requested to give up all thoughts of the “Home.” A few dismal days passed; indeed, I had nothing to cheer me but an assurance of success, if there were no failing on my part: I could have done without help, but this continued opposition wearied me. Two gentlemen, one a clergyman, called on me; they urged me to give it up. I knew their intentions were friendly towards me, and I respected them, though I did not feel persuaded of their humanity or judgment. I also received a letter from one, of so painful a nature, that I am astonished how my mind held out: I felt a giving way of the body first; I found I should be driven from the field by those who ought to *raise* the standard and cry, “On, on!” Under all circumstances, I considered it would be prudent to retreat to Parramatta for a few days, in order to regain a portion of strength; I knew there I could carry on my measures quietly: I felt in that state that I required repose; I did not think it possible another blow could be hurled against me. But a number of the “Chronicle” was sent to me, and my attention was directed to a letter: from the hand of a friend came a missile of great strength—I felt it keenly; no other person in the colony could have thrown more serious difficulties in my path: these things are *permitted* to try our faith and exercise our patience. I felt a dreariness of spirit creep over me, and, confirmed in my opinion, that to leave Sydney for a few days would be prudent; but it was the will of God to prevent this, and those who believe in Special

Providence may take the following as an instance: —I started in good time, as I thought, for the Parramatta steamer; indeed, I was so certain of this, that though a friend overtook me in Kingstreet with a conveyance, and told me he should be only just in time, I refused: I wished to be alone for a few minutes; I was aware I had been much tried, and I knew a few minutes alone would give me time to smooth my feelings, and meet my friends at the steamer with spirit—perhaps I did not walk so quick as usual, at all events I was too late. I then made for the Flagstaff, a favorite walk of mine; and as I had promised, if I remained in Sydney, to spend the evening with——, I knew there would be many there, and, as my plan would be alluded to, I must appear in spirits—I must not let them know that during the day my feelings had been used as a door-mat. Near Petty's Hotel, I caught sight of a frail beauty; her dress told her fate; she evidently knew me, and wished to avoid me; I was determined to overtake her; I was able to do this, for I hurried on; I laid my hand on her arm, and the wreck of my Highland beauty stood before me. Alas, how different from the lovely girl she once was!—the ruddy rose of the Highlands was changed for the tinge of rum: she had been drinking, but well knew what she was about. “Tell me where you are going?” “To hell!” was her answer. I continued to walk by her side; she beamed insolent; but I was determined not to leave her. She made for Lavender's Ferry, and said, “my mistress lives over there.” I said, I will go to the other side with you, as I want to say a few words to you. She was unwilling; but I persisted: we crossed over; I felt certain, from her manner, she meditated suicide; I passed to the left and bade her sit down. I knew the circumstances of her family well, and my first question was of her mother—“Did you see your mother die?” (I knew she did not, for her mother had consented to her remaining in service in Sydney.) “No.” “She died happy.”—No reply. “Are you a mother?” She seized my hand and placed it on her heart. “God is merciful!”—she shook her head. I saw a letter in her bosom; I drew it out with her nodded consent. It was from her brother; he *felt* her disgrace; he taunted her with being the first in the family who had known shame.—“I loved **** better than any, save——.” And again she shook her head. “Your brother loves you even now.” “No, no.” “Were there any in your family that ever committed murder?” She shook with horror. “Then why will you?” “It's there I meant to drown myself,” pointing to a distant spot; “It's there we met often, and *there I would die!*” I did not leave the place until, with subdued feelings, I heard her vow never to attempt self-destruction. I procured her lodgings; and though I had been much tried and fatigued, I was able to join the promised party. My spirits returned; I felt God's blessing was on my work. From this time, I never thought of *human help*; I neglected no steps to conciliate; I

increased my exertions; but from the hour I was on the beach with Flora, fear left me.

The next day I spent well, and in the evening left for Parramatta. On my arrival, I found a letter from the Rev. J. Styles, Windsor, the first *honest* opponent I met with. He told me plainly he doubted my honesty, he dreaded my influence, otherwise he considered my object laudable and praiseworthy, and would support it. A few letters passed; he had faith in my word, that I would consider only the moral good of the whole: he enclosed me a subscription, and many of the Clergy of the Church of England immediately did the same. The pledge I gave I know I have fully redeemed, and the very kind countenance and support I have since met with from the Clergy of *all* denominations assures me they are convinced of the same.

At length consent was given that I should take possession of part of the immigrants' barracks; and in acknowledging this boon, I would thank Lady Gipps for her kind and generous support; she strewed a few flowers in my path—I knew them by their fragrance, and I thanked God she had a woman's heart.—But I must take possession of my office. On closing the door, I reflected on what I had been compelled to *endure* for fourteen feet square: my first feelings were those of indignation that such a *trifle* should have been so long *withheld*; but better feelings followed: I determined on trusting to Providence to increase its size, and prove my usefulness. I found the immigration agent, Mr. Merewether, courteous and polite; I saw he was *a gentleman*, and I had no fear of any unpleasantness. I soon observed, to do any good, I must sleep on the premises; and, as soon as he was aware of my determination, he gave me the best room then vacant—I cannot say vacant, for it was used as a store-room: this was cleared for my accommodation; and having been busy all day, I retired wearied to rest. But I was put to the proof at starting: scarce was the light out, when I fancied a few dogs must be in the room, and, in some terror, I got a light; what I experienced on seeing rats in all directions I cannot explain. My first act was to throw on my cloak, and get at the door with the intent to leave the building; I knew if I did this my desertion would cause much amusement and ruin my plan; I therefore lighted a second candle, and seating myself on the bed, kept there until three rats, descending from the roof, alighted on my shoulders. I knew that I was getting into a fever, in fact, that I should be *very ill* before morning; but to be out-generalled by rats was too much. I got up with some resolution; I had two loaves and some butter (for my office, bed-room, and pantry, were one;) I cut it into slices, placed the whole in the middle of the room, put a dish of water convenient, and with a light by my side, I kept my seat on the bed, reading

“Abercrombie,” and watching the rats until four in the morning: I at one time counted thirteen, and never less than seven did I observe at the dish during the night. The following night I gave them a similar treat, with the addition of arsenic; and thus passed my four first nights at the Home.

My plan was to have apartments near the office for my children, but this did not answer—at night I must be in the Home. I gave up one child, and thought I could keep two with me; but I found the elder a source of so much anxiety, that I consented to part with him. I knew, under the honest care of Miss Galvin, of Windsor, they would be well fed, and kindly treated, and I could still keep *one*, my youngest. Some sickness among the children in the tents told me plainly my duty, still I would not, could not give him up. A lady, whose esteem I value, told me I could not, must not, risk my child's life; that I must either give up the Home, or my selfish feeling for my child: I was aware of the truth of her observation, but refused. At night, as was usual with me, I saw the girls, after they had retired to rest. Ninety-four were in that dwelling: I asked if they had any place to go to if I turned them out; not one had a place of shelter. On my return to the office, I found a poor woman waiting to ask for a white gown, to make her *dead bairn* decent. I went into my room, packed up my little fellow's wardrobe, and the next day he was at Windsor. This was the *last sacrifice* it was God's will to demand.

I may here observe, that though the Home was crowded, I could not get a girl to go into the country—I found it necessary to go first myself. A party promised to be ready, but their fears overcame their good resolutions, and I had the dray to send away empty (this I kept a secret.) I had ninety-six on rations, a serious number; however, I ordered two drays the next day, and sent them off in spirits.

This evening I was destined to experience a great fright.—A gentleman, piously dressed, called; he handed me his card, and said, as his visit was to do good, no apology could be necessary. He commenced by saying, women were creatures of impulse and feeling; he admired their virtues, but deplored their *want of* judgment and stability. “You are doing wrong, ma'am—you are sending souls to perdition! to send girls to the country is monstrous. I am an old colonist, a man of experience, the father of a family: you don't know the country—they are worse than barbarians, they are monsters.” I told him I had visited Campbelltown and Liverpool, and I saw no danger in either. “Bad places, ma'am; but Bathurst and Yass are horrible—if you only knew half the horrors of those places! but see—(he dragged out a roll from his pocket)—read those, ma'am.” I found his packet consisted of extracts from the Sydney papers, giving an account of all the murders and outrages for years past. “Read those and abandon your

country plan.” Seizing the papers, he walked up and down the office. “If you do not, I will publish the whole—yes—(2,000 copies)—I will let the people of England know what they may expect if they send their daughters to New South Wales.” His step became more hurried, and I really thought him mad, and quietly removed the penknife and ruler. I knew that even madmen will sometimes fall into the same pace as their keepers, I therefore joined him in his promenade, and he soon kept pace with me. “You are obstinate, Mrs. C——, *all* ladies are—and those that are under Popish influence more so.” When I asked what was to be done with the girls in Sydney, that there was not honest employment for them, and that many were losing character,—“Human depravity—the want of God's grace, or rather, the want of Gospel preachers.” I ventured to ask what church he attended; he acknowledged he had been under the ministry of five, but, according to his opinion, they were not faithful preachers. I promised to look through his horrid collection; and so far yielded to his earnest entreaties as to tell him I would seriously consider what he said: at the same time I told him, if I failed, my failure would be a valuable appendage to his book; for, that the fact being proved that girls lost character in the country, would strengthen his argument. “Yes, facts are stubborn things, Mrs. C——: I once had a sister, but she is dead—worse than dead!” He paced the room. “I did not mean to tell you this—a villain, a convict, ruined my sister!” “Does she live in sin?” “I believe not.” “Is she in poverty?” “She is, and justly deserves it.” “That is not the doctrine of the Gospel; have you seen her lately?” “Not for four years.” “Have you given her any pecuniary assistance during that time?” “Yes.” “How much?” “I think seven pounds.” “Where is her seducer?” “In Van Diemen's Land.” “Have you the means to aid her? for if she does not live in sin, it is your duty; who knows but this night she may be in want.” “She brought it on herself.” “Where does she live?” “In——street.” I told him that his pride would be brought low—that she might do something to bring him to public disgrace. I spoke of his mother—his father—and I saw *home feelings were doing their work*. I determined on taking *advantage* of his feelings. I put on my cloak and bonnet, and opening the door, said, this is the night for a work of mercy. I shall go and see your sister; you must go too: but see, it rains. Now as I stood as fair a chance of a sprinkling *inside* the building *as out*, it was no great sacrifice to me; and I pointed out the advantage of a night that kept the careful at home. He followed, and in less than forty minutes we were at Alice's door. She occupied the half of a kitchen, in——street; she had been washing, but was then at her needle; and I was glad she was not at the wash-tub, for as she sat she looked respectable; her face lightened as I spoke of giving her work. I questioned

her as to her circumstances; her tale was soon told: she struggled hard to pay her rent, and to keep herself and child decent. I asked if she was married. "No; but if I could get to Van Diemen's Land, George would marry me." "Have you no friends?" "No." "No relations?" "Yes, a brother"—in a low voice—"an only brother." There was a movement from the door; nature had done its work. I retreated, that I might be no restraint on this happy reconciliation; my feelings could not be explained. Mr.— came out. "Have you given her any money?" "No; how much shall I give her?" "All you have in your pocket—that is, give her £10; but it is all her's. You must not *break* God's blessing; devote it to her; pay her passage; employ some friend to see her married; stock a nice farm; in fact, you must make a decent woman of your sister." I continued to talk to my silent companion; he saw me to the Home-door; he shook hands with me, and so fervent was his acknowledgment, that my fingers ached for an hour. I think I shall not give offence by stating a few particulars of Mr.—. He was *the gentleman* of the family; he had received a good education; he had a little money; he and his sister came to this colony on the death of their mother. Alice was a humble and affectionate girl; she acted as his servant; they did not even dine together; she was contented, and he was happy: he was getting on. He kept a government man that could read and write—never was a servant more attentive to his mistress; but still, to use Alice's words, "I never had a thought of him then." About this time, making butter paid remarkably well; Alice was a good dairywoman; the brother was tempted to take a farm, and send his sister to it; the government servant accompanied her: true, the brother did intend to send a man and his wife to her aid; but the butter came regularly; it sold well; and *he forgot his duty—hence her ruin*; his long resentment followed; his change from one religion to another—for it has been *wisely* ordered, that a heart full of resentment shall never *find peace*. I saw him a few days since. I enquired, if he had cut out Lynch's confession? He told me, he had come to the resolution never to cut out extracts from papers, or visit a philanthropist with money in his pocket. As this gentleman has relations and friends in a populous district in Scotland, and as he has been sending thither his "Bush alarms" regularly four times a year, for the last six years, I think my entering into particulars may put the good people at home on their guard: these doleful ditties do a great deal of harm; some of the immigrants who arrive have a fearful idea of the country. Within the last week I received a letter from one who wants work—he says, "If I can get nothing near Sydney, I will go into the country; I might be found particularly useful to a station, having a perfect knowledge of the use of fire-arms, and the making up of ammunition." Many seem to think they cannot eat their rations except under the

protection of a Manton.

Notwithstanding the many books that have been written on Australia, the various plans resorted to, to make the resources of this country known, and to induce respectable persons to emigrate, I have, by many persons, been told that my experience being of a *peculiar* nature, it was in my power to add my mite. That I have had opportunities of gaining knowledge that *no other* person has, all must own; and, as my object here has been to preserve the character of the young women, and to serve the immigrants to the best of my ability, I think I need not pledge myself *not to deceive those at home*. The information I give may be depended upon: I will state nothing but facts. This announcement, though it will give confidence to the reader, will deprive me, as an author, of many advantages. Those who expect me to say which is the best system, the Government or the Bounty must bear in mind, that all I know of the former is from hearsay—the working of the latter I have watched. I have had opportunities of seeing behind the curtain, and in pointing out the *evils I have observed*, it will be easily ascertained if they are of a *removable nature or not*.

I will merely preface my remarks on this subject by observing, that although the people of Sydney are competent to judge of the appearance of immigrants when they land, few are aware of the difficulties attending their embarkation, and the *energy necessary* to get them together. This difficulty should never be lost sight of, and should always entitle the importers to *some* indulgence. In their instructions they are rigidly bound down as to qualifications. The strong wish of some of the people of this colony for English servants, has led the agents to make every effort to gain a few; and, as I think the few obtained have been selected from a source that has led to much and selected evil, I shall, in due time, explain the consequences of this selection. It is, I believe, well known that the English object to send their children, except they are certain of protection and shelter when they arrive. Are they to be blamed for this? Shall the people of Australia condemn, or wish to lower this high tone of moral feeling? On the contrary, is it not their interest, in every way, to encourage and promote it? Whose particular business it is to step forward to afford this protection, it is not for me to say; but that this protection is necessary I most *solemnly avow*, and the want of it has caused the ruin of many. This is a fact none can gainsay; and, until this evil is met as it *ought to be*, I would never advise, on the contrary, I would do all in my power to prevent, Female Emigration to Australia.

There is something so horrible in the the thought that young girls from the ship should be left to work their own way in this country, that it only requires to be known to prevent any *decent* parent from exposing his

children to such *fearful* danger. What clergyman could advise such a step, if aware of this fact? But how easy for the colonists to remedy this—and *at once*. Let it not be said that they have less feeling—show less regard to the preservation of character than the people of America.

The advantages held out to young people in this country are of a more desirable nature than can be found at home, if the colonists will only unite and afford them the necessary protection on their arrival. One of the most serious evils I know is the practice of young women being allowed to make engagements on board ship. Some families, of high respectability, do engage servants in this way; but I also know that some people, of the very worst character, go there and engage servants—servants, no; they are not required as servants—they are not *wanted to work*. Many have I known, who have been taken to houses of the worst character the first day of their arrival. Shall this evil continue? God forbid! But I will give you a few facts.

E. A——, an orphan, fifteen years of age, per ship——, was sent to me by a person who saw her danger, and advised me of it. According to the rate of wages given at the time, she was worth three shillings per week: she was engaged at six shillings. I asked what work she had to do? “None.” “What, do you not sweep the rooms?” “No.” “Wash the tea-things?” “No; all I have to do is to carry notes, and buy fruit and cakes.” “What houses do you take the notes to?” “No houses; I walk between——street and——street, and my mistress tells me to keep near—— office, about two o'clock, and give to gentlemen, answering a particular description, the notes.” I need not say more, than that the child said, when I asked if she had received any presents?—“Yes; all the girls get presents; and a gentleman is to give me two pounds.” A government Registry-office would, in a great measure, prevent this evil.

I felt it an advantage to be on government ground; and I think, if His Excellency the Governor had sanctioned the fees, which would have shewn his support, in a public manner, it would have prevented much annoyance. However, for the last three months, no application has been made from objectionable persons.

I may also state another fact, and one well known to some of the members of the Immigration Board, that a gentleman is known to visit nearly every ship, and there engage a single woman. He came to my office, but his character was known to me; I would not give him one. He left my office for the ship——, then in harbour, and engaged one. The following morning the captain came to me, to see if I could remove her: I could not. It may be said, that government cannot prevent this; some say it is the duty of the clergy; others say, of the ladies: that it is a duty that *ought to be met*,

few will deny. I may be allowed to observe, the more public, the more respectable an office is made, the less chance is there of *such characters* visiting it; if they are once known, they never pay a *second visit*. But they can go on board ship with impunity: how can the captain or surgeon be expected to know them? they judge from appearances. A silk dress—a little talk about attending church on a Sunday, and the poor girl gets high wages—leads an idle life—visits the theatre—dresses well—leads some of her shipmates into the same hands. And then comes the cry against the Bounty system—the importer and the agents. “See what a set the —— brought us: I counted ten from that ship at the theatre last night.” I have no hesitation in saying, that girls of bad character are shipped to these colonies, and must be known, at the time, to be such. In many cases they are without certificates; and I have known instances, in which the importers have not put in their claim for the bounty. One girl, long known at Liverpool as “the Countess,” arrived per ship——, and now figures in Sydney; the last time I saw her was on a Sunday, near St. James's Church: she had evidently started in the morning, with an intention of making herself look interesting, at either St. James's or at St. Mary's, for her book was in her hand; but she had taken a glass by the way, and was so far aware of her state, that she requested a man to help her to a seat in the Domain. I saw her fall twice, and since then I have not seen “the Countess.” People express their astonishment that English girls are not sent out. We will suppose that some families at Liverpool are mediating this step, and in their anxiety to obtain all information, they learn that the Countess is missing. The Countess left on——, in the year——, for Australia. They condemn *all for one*; they shrink with horror from sending their daughter where the Countess is received; they *know* her character; they are strangers to those on board; all, therefore, *suffer* for one; they are condemned as a bad set.

I wish particularly to call attention to the injustice done to girls of good character, by a fact like the one I have stated (and not a solitary one.) The ship arrives here: the character of the Countess is well known in Sydney in less than two hours; her daring irregularities are made the jest, the passing joke for the day; and again the girls of good character suffer. I should be glad of an impartial investigation on this matter; and I think it could be proved, that one-half of the quarrels on board will be found to originate in this evil—a bad woman can do an immensity of mischief. This evil is one that I hope the importers and agents will see to and remedy.

I may here remark, that many of the importers have expressed themselves willing to enter into any arrangements (sanctioned by government) that may be considered necessary or best for the young women, and the

immigrants generally, both as to their stay in Sydney, and affording them all the aid in their power towards getting them into the interior. They have no wish to keep them ten days in the ship, and would willingly give up the amount of rations if they could immediately land the people; and any person who will take pen in hand, can soon calculate and prove that the money spent, I may say wasted in the harbour, would pay the expenses of the immigrants far into the interior. As regards the young women, I have no hesitation in saying, that the extent of loss of character when at sea, is not to be compared to that which occurs in the harbour. This will, I hope, be borne in mind in any future arrangements that may be entered into regarding their disposal. I have, also, much pleasure in stating, that I have found the importers willing to do all in their power to aid me in my plan of getting the girls into the interior; and that, in cases of necessity, they were always ready to do all I considered requisite.

I may here observe, that it has frequently occurred to me, that parties who have been sent here, and whom Dr. Savage has placed in the general hospital (and an enquiry on this subject would prove whether I am correct,) have had every appearance that would lead you to suppose, that at the time of leaving England, they could not be fit persons for this colony. And I would take the liberty to suggest, that a medical officer should be appointed at home, to inspect the emigrants, and that he should hand over his approved list to the surgeon of the ship. The importers should not have the liberty to *select* their own surgeon; whose age, I think, ought not to be less than twenty-six. Many of the surgeons appear to me to have very little idea of their duties; all they know (with some exceptions) is, that on a certain day they went into a certain ship, and that they came in the same ship to Sydney. I heard one say, “the governor stop my gratuities! why I can prove I holystoned the decks.” And I heard a captain say, “I swabbed 'tween decks.” This may prove their *zeal*, but it also proves that they did not understand what was *due to themselves*. Would this employment raise them in the eyes of the immigrants? —they could not plead necessity with at least one hundred men in the ship. A lady might as well say, “I am such a good mistress; I allow my servants to remain idle, while I do their work.” The duties of a captain and surgeon ought to be fully explained *before* the ship sails. And I would beg leave to suggest, that the issue of rations should not be under the control of the captain: he might have the power, in the event of the proved inability, ill health, or death of the surgeon; but he ought not to start with it. Captains of ships are the last persons in the world we can expect to give attention to the weighing of oatmeal, or to be judges of the quantum of food required for a sick child: the duties of the captains and surgeons ought to be as *distinct* as possible. I would observe, that no

emigrant ship ought ever to sail with fewer than two surgeons,* one of whom ought to have made a previous voyage, so as to be acquainted with the economy of a ship; to be himself proof against the inconvenience arising from sea-sickness; and, more particularly, to be conversant with those *peculiar duties*, which a surgeon-superintendent ought to possess when in charge of a numerous body of emigrants, so as to be able to compel cleanliness, and pursue proper discipline amongst them—to regulate the supply and distribution of extra rations, according to climate or particular circumstances—to see and be aware that the rations distributed are of proper and sufficient quantity and quality. All these, and several other duties, devolving upon the surgeon-superintendent, can, I apprehend, be only *efficiently* and *satisfactorily* discharged by a person who has had the experience of a former voyage. No person should be allowed to undertake such a charge without the most satisfactory proof of his fitness, both in *moral* character, and professional ability. The former can only be attested by proper references—the latter, by requiring every one, seeking such an appointment, to give evidence in England, before some competent board, “*that he is a legally qualified medical practitioner;*” or the passing an act, either by the Imperial or Colonial Legislature, *imposing a heavy fine on any one not so duly qualified* undertaking to discharge the duties in question. No surgeon-superintendent should be allowed to receive the accustomed gratuity until he has exhibited, to a properly constituted board, a journal of the voyage, kept by himself, and containing regular daily entries of all that relates to the *condition, health, or diet*, of the emigrants in his charge; together with particular entries as to any misconduct on the part of any of the emigrants, and the measures had recourse to for its repression. The rate of remuneration to the surgeon-superintendent ought to be increased so as to secure the services of properly educated and responsible individuals.*

I would also beg to recommend, that those persons who were employed in cleaning between decks should have an extra ration—some slight indulgence, by way of prompt payment, would have a good effect; indeed, to pay as you go on is the way to get the poor to work. I am fully aware of the difficulty of controlling a number of persons, and getting them to go the way you wish; consequently, I can feel for those who, by a certain day, must fill a ship: some will, at the last moment, fly from their word; this causes a gap—how is it filled? The papers are taken from one, handed to another, and the number is complete; the ship sails, and when she arrives in Sydney, what is the consequence? The board assemble to inspect the immigrants; now view the group:—First stand the able ploughmen, and the stout Irishwomen—just the girls for a show. “Capital set,” says——.

“Healthy,” says——; “oh, there is something truly cheering to the spirits in the sight of such a group!” But just pass the line: you can see on ——'s face, in legible letters, the quarantine—however, a few orders for the general hospital, and stop the bounty until they get well. But the scrutiny is going on,—one after the other quickly passes; the importers are in spirits; there is a sudden stop—the ear of a Browne, the eye of a Merewether, have detected the gap. “What is your name?” “John Faulkner.” “Your trade?” (Raising himself indignantly at the question)—“I am a clerk” The certificate is handed round; you just catch the sound of erasure, when, in a voice well known for its strength, says, “To the best of my knowledge and belief it is ‘farm labourer.’ ” There is a solemn pause; the immigration agent, with gravity, folds the paper; puts it into his official box—as he does this, the importers say, “There goes the bounty!” The girls now pass,—ten girls from Limerick—able, stout, strong, and tall—without a doubt they pass them all. Those are twelve from Cork—just the girls gentlemen love to question. Another lot—these look genteel; they are *dressed for the occasion*: one has been a favourite; it has been rumoured that, at sea, she ate Leman's biscuit; the steward, to her, has been attentive— liberal with the captain's store. The board, indulgent, make *some* excuses—a pretty woman 'tis painful to condemn; she may be made the subject of future enquiry, but now she passes. Another group—a medley here—one is too old, another too young, another not under proper protection. But the first set made an impression on the minds of the board: they are all in good humour, and these are passed; but still there are two—“Where did you come from?” “Liverpool.” There she stands, fully *prepared* to answer *any* question; but to prevent waste of time, or to avoid enquiry, the importer withdraws his claim to the bounty, and all are satisfied. I should like to know the total number of young women in each ship, where the bounty has not been claimed by the importers. The way in which single women are now sent out is highly objectionable: they are placed under the protection of married families; nothing is known of their character; the first thing to be done is to change the girl's name—what can we expect with *a falsehood to commence with!* One girl who came into the barracks, gave the name of Ellen Mc Guiggan: on looking at the ship's list, I saw no such name. “Oh, ma'am, I forget! I was changed to another family.” This girl's real name was Mc Dermott: she was to have left Tipperary with a family by the name of Mc Quade; but, at the last moment, they refused to emigrate, and Ellen was transferred to Mc Guiggan's care; but ultimately she came under the protection of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews. Is this the way to improve the morals of the people? I have seen so much of this kind of protection, that I abhor and loathe the thought of it. Some families there are who have indeed acted

a parent's part—in every ship *there are some*; but I have known some of these married men tear up their marriage certificates, leave their wives in Sydney, and extend their protection far into the interior: I have had to listen to some sad, heart-aching stories of this kind.

Another thing I have observed, and called Mr. Merewether's attention to the fact, that those who have a few girls under their care can do longest without work. I have also observed some of these protectors leave their tent, tie the facings—all appearance of “not at home,” when, at the same time, it was occupied. One family, in particular, caused me much trouble: I observed seven parties *visit* the tent on a Sunday; and, in the absence of Mr. Merewether, I sent for the superintendent, who immediately ordered the tent *to be struck*.

I think I may with propriety observe, that the superintendent ought to have nothing to do with the office—to act as clerk, to serve out the rations, and take charge of the tents, is *too much*: give him the rations and the tents; let him visit the same three times, at least, every day (he cannot do this if he is to act as clerk;) *pay him well* for this. But to preserve proper order among the immigrants, in the present barracks, is almost impossible. There should be but one door, and no immigrant allowed to be absent in office-hours—but I should fill several sheets, if I were to say all that could be done.

I should like very much to see the single women, who emigrate to this colony, brought out under the charge of a lady. Let her have her place at the cabin table, but sleep in the single women's apartments: it would be a part of her duty to attend the surgeon when he visits the sick. If a lady, in this capacity, had been on board the——, now in harbour, I question if the surgeon would have been found, past hours, where * * * * But he said, in his defence, he only went to give her good advice, and tell her to say her prayers. His pious zeal did not extend past the belle of the ship.

I would, above all things, call the attention of the board to the necessity of selecting gentlemen —common people are led more easily by gentlemen. Pay captains and surgeons handsomely, and make it their interest to keep in the service, by an increased gratuity on each ship. And I would also strongly urge the necessity of allowing immigrants and passengers to understand that, after the ship had been in Sydney ten days, the board would listen to no charge against them—they *require this protection*. If the bounty system continue, the importers ought to land the immigrants immediately, or send them into the interior, and not allow them to eat their rations in harbour. I myself think the best plan would be to send a steamer to the side of the ship, and clear off those who are drafted for Maitland, Port Macquarie, Moreton Bay, &c., &c. at once.

This is a subject that has occupied much of my attention; but entering into the minutiae would, I fear, weary my readers.

I much regret that exaggerated statements are circulated in England, regarding this country, for the truth only is necessary: and it is grievous work to have to contend with the first disappointments an immigrant feels on arriving in this colony. I have read many of the printed puffs; I am told, that an office where they are printed, there was some time since a difficulty in completing a bill:—

A few Tailors will make a fortune.

Clerks are in great demand.

Dress-makers earn half-a-guinea a day.

There is not a good Hairdresser in the colony.

Still there was a gap. At this moment, some Sydney papers arrived, and the style of the Knight of Puffing celebrity caught their attention; they read his puffs. There is a sale of some Colonial starch, which, in strength, was so superior to the English, that one dip would make a sail stand; the devil caught at this, and added—

Fifty Starch-makers would make a fortune.

From this time, when there is a gap, the by-word in the office is, “give them the Colonial—with a little starch, 'twill do.”

I am also aware, that this colonial benefit is extended further:—A. B. wishes to emigrate; he has a large family of young children, for whom he has worked hard and lived low for years. The government agent would not pass him; he gets a man to stand the stiffening for him, that is, appear before the agent. I heard one man accused of standing the stiffening for ten.

I may here remark, that very little dependence can be placed on written characters. The Countess of Cashel seems to take an interest in the poor, and her characters, when genuine, are to be depended upon: but many come here with forged characters, and I have remarked they generally run thus, if given by the countess,—“The bearer is a diligent reader of the Bible, has attended a Sabbath school for years, and is strongly recommended to the pious care of any Protestant family she may meet with.” The Catholics generally have one from their bishop, the Right Reverend Dr. Murray, of Dublin, who has known them for years; and the tenor of the certificate runs thus—“For four years the bearer has been a weekly communicant, and would be a treasure to any family, and is most strongly recommended to the pious care of the clergy of New South Wales.” Now, the genuine certificates of the above lady and gentleman are

worded in a very different style. The Countess, and E. B., per ship——, had several of these pious testimonials: the latter, I recommended to Mrs. ——; the second night she slept out, and the fourth she returned intoxicated to the Home. Now as it appears to me impossible that girls, if they are sent good, can become so suddenly bad, I told the girl so; and asked, why she came to this colony? “I started in a spree; William Walter persuaded me.” And now for William Walter: he was late in his application—if four more girls were found, he could go—a visit was forthwith made to——, and four were found: “Give them a little starch, and they will answer for Sydney,”

I may here observe, that with regard to those girls who have lost character in Sydney, the progress has been slow and gradual. On a Sunday, they start from their respective places of service, intending to go to church; but the Domain is *too tempting*. This is the first step: here they meet with old acquaintances, and *form new ones*. The second step is joining for tea-parties, at the houses of *their protectors*. I have known many girls spend three shillings and five shillings on a Sunday. The third, the theatre—the fourth, lodging with disreputable persons. Several ladies I know object to young women having any place to go to— “Let them stay with me, or sleep in the street:” this is the motto of many. On taking young girls into the Home the second time, I gave them nothing but shelter: many considered this *too much*; but I went on, notwithstanding the unpopularity of the rule. Mr.——called for a servant; while his lady was questioning the girl as to her qualifications in the office, the gentleman made for the Home; I quickly followed, when the following conversation took place:—

“You are doing a great deal of good here; but, as I told His Excellency yesterday, your taking the girls back was highly objectionable.” “I should expect you to object to it; but it is a part of my plan, and I shall keep to it.” We were at the Home-door, and as I did not ask the gentleman in, he stood on the threshold, and, pointing to one of the girls, said, “I think she would suit Mrs.——.” “You had better not say so, for I should not allow her to go.” “Why?” “She is too young—too pretty—too inexperienced for your house.” “Oh, I can assure you, the nursemaid is never allowed to go into the kitchen; they do not even dine with the men-servants.” “I am not afraid of the men, but——.” In a moment his face showed symptoms of apoplexy. “And pray, madam, what do you know of me?” “All that Flora told me.” I then returned to the office; in a few moments he did the same; he complained of the heat of the office being insupportable; that he was astonished the government did not make me more comfortable. I told him I should be obliged if, the next time he saw His Excellency, he would give him a hint of the same.

I will now make a few remarks on the class of emigrants that have passed through my office: and I shall first take the single women, which I will divide into three classes:—

First—Those who, at home, have been accustomed to work, and are willing to do so in this country: these I class under the head of country servants—stout, *strong*, girls, that can milk cows, wash, boil a potato, scour the floor, and are willing to try to do whatever their mistress bids them: for these, the demand is very great, both as servants and wives; and of this class, though many hundreds have been sent into the country, *not one girl has lost character*. Those are the girls that an Irishman, who wishes to do well should marry; indeed, they do not require to be told this, for they are the only girls sent out that can meet, with good humour, the difficulties of the bush, and make an Irishman happy (I mean of the labouring class;) they understand their tempers, and get on happily together. I should like, during the next year, six hundred to be sent.

Second—Light, handy girls, who are willing to learn: of these, four hundred would find places. I think it my duty to remark, that many girls of this class will say, they cannot wash or work, when, at home, they have been obliged to do both. Three of this class have lost character since the establishment of the Home.

Third—The “do-nothings.” This name will surprise some and offend others, but, in the end, will do good; and I really do not know any one useful thing they can do. E.—was entered as a governess; I was glad of this, for I had then, as I have *now*, several applications for governesses, in the country: she was a pretty girl, too; and I know, when pretty girls have no money—no friends —Sydney is a very bad place. There is nothing so unpleasant as to question a young lady as to her competency. She could teach music, French, drawing, &c., &c.; she was satisfied with the salary, and her testimonials were *first-rate*. “You say you can teach music?” “Yes, ma'am.” “You thoroughly understand it?” “Most certainly.” “One of your pupils is nine years of age, how long do you think it will take her to get through Cramer's Instruction Book?” A pause. “Perhaps you have not seen it?” “No, ma'am; but I was very quick myself—I have a good ear for music.” “What book did you study from?” “I learnt singing and music at the same time.” “Tell me the name of the first piece you played?” “Cherry Ripe.” “The second?” “Home Sweet Home.” “The third?” “We're a Noddin.” I said no more about music. I gave her a sum in addition; and she made sixteen pounds five, eighteen pounds four. Now this girl, I afterwards ascertained, at home, had lived in a family as nursemaid, and washed the clothes of five children every week: but she was a pretty girl—something of a favourite at sea. The captain was very anxious about her; had taken her

in his own boat, to the North-shore, to try and get her a good place; he devoted seven hours to this work of *charity*. Nor did his zeal rest here—the following day, he took her to Parramatta; they returned to the ship, and this girl was kept four days in it, after the other girls left. When he called at my office, he was astonished, horrified, that I knew the detail; said, Sydney was a scandalising place; that his feelings were those of a father. However, I received the girl the same evening, and removed her the following day very far from his parental influence.

But for another specimen; and really, out of fifty, I am at a loss how to select; but I will give ——. She was another of the *would-be* governesses; but her views were more humble—for the nursery. Now, she could neither read, write, nor spell, correctly. “Can you wash your own clothes?” “Never did such a thing in my life.” “Can you make a dress?” “No.” “Cook?” “No.” “What can you do?” “Why, ma'm, I could look after servants; I could direct them; I should make an excellent housekeeper.” “You are certain?” “Yes, or I would not say so.” “Do you know the quantity of the different ingredients wanted for a beefsteak pie—for that dish—and a rice pudding for this?” “Oh, no, ma'am, that's not what I mean; I'd see that the servants did it.” “But there might be great waste, and you not know it; besides, all, or nearly all, the servants sent to this colony *require teaching*.” Nothing but my faith in Providence that there must be *a place for everybody*, enabled me to bear with this infliction; and yet, if I turned them out, I knew their *fate*. But it was trying to my patience, every morning, to be up and breakfasted, and in my office first. I never had but one in the Home of this class that fairly made her own bed; they could smooth them over, and might, after night, get into them.

One girl, having health and strength, had refused five situations; at last I thought I had suited her. She was to live in a settler's family, and teach five children to read and write: she was not required to wash the children; but, as the good and thrifty woman kept no servants, she was to wash her own clothes (or pay for the same out of her wages,) make her own bed, and clean her own room: the good woman also said, she would teach her anything she knew, but ask her to do nothing. I thought there could be no objection to this; but when I told her, once a week she must scour her own room (the best in the house)—when I said this she burst into a passionate flood of tears; the degradation was more than she could bear. I thought it then my duty to refuse her the benefit of the Home. In less than three months from this, this victim of false pride was living with——; anything rather than work: I have since regretted I did not give her one more trial.

I may here state, that I had one very beautiful girl; she could read and write well, was of an amiable temper, and willing to take advice: I

provided her with a situation; she was returned to me solely on account of her good looks. I was at a loss what to do with her; I was afraid to allow her to go out for exercise, and was obliged to limit her to Church on a Sunday. She was the daughter of a Lieutenant, who had spent twenty-four years in the service of his country: having a large family and limited means, he sent one of his treasures here; Providence, however, provided for her in an unexpected manner. A very respectable woman, a settler's wife, waited on me for advice; she was one of those sensible, shrewd women, that help to keep a home together. She told me she had five boys and a girl, none of whom could read or write, and that she wanted a teacher. "My eldest boy, Jack, Ma'am, is as fine a young man as you would wish to see, only he is too wild: he is past learning; but the others are willing enough." At this time, I had three of these helpless creatures I wished to provide for; but I told the worthy woman that ——was so good tempered, that she would suit her best, if she did not mind her being handsome. "Has she any bounce about her?" "None." I went into the room with her; as her eye rested on——there was a look of satisfaction, followed directly by one of deep thought and reflection. There was something so intelligent in her countenance, I became curious; she left the room; returned to the office, when she said, "I'll see you again at five o'clock, ma'am; but don't let the girl engage, any how: a thought has come into my head; I must *think over*." At five she came. "Now, Mrs.——, I would like to tell you my plan—'Do you see,' says I, 'if any gal would keep a man at home, it would be the creature I saw this morning: now,' says I, 'tho' Jack's not taken to drink, yet he's uncommonly fond of company, and is for going to every horse-race he hears of; and I expect, some time, he'll make a very foolish match, wi'some one more ignorant than he is:' yet, ma'am, tho' he can neither read or write, he's uncommonly cute. Now, I think, if I take——home, she'll tempt him to stay at home; and then, when I see he's taken, and his heart is touched, I shall call him one side—bounce a bit, and say, 'I'll have no fine ladies living wi' me.' This opposition will make him more determined; then, in a day or two, I'll cry a bit about it—he's kind-hearted, and can't stand that: then he'll come coaxing me, and I'll consent, and talk over the old man; and the clergyman shall settle everything, and it will be a good thing for us all, ma'am." I consented to arrange with——, who should be ready the next day: she was engaged as teacher for one year, salary £16.

I may here remark, that pretty girls, no matter what their qualifications or characters were, it was difficult to dispose of them; they are not, it appears, liked as servants, though they are preferred as wives.

Mrs.——wanted a servant; I sent one—a good servant, and a very

beautiful girl I acknowledge. I thought the place would suit her—no son in the house—no nephews—cook married—groom married—quite a safety. In less than an hour the girl was returned, with the following note:—“My dear madam, what can you be thinking of, to send such a handsome girl to my house? Heavens, the place would be beset! besides, I do not like such showy women in my house; send me a plain, homely looking girl, and oblige yours, &c., &c.” I always found it wearisome work to get them off; but after much patience, and many disappointments, I generally succeeded. Some ladies were easily pleased; but I had one I could not suit. She would go to a girl—“Can you make up a room very neat?” “Yes, ma'am.” “Can you cook?” “Very well, ma'am.” “Can you work well at your needle?” “Plain work.” “You wont do; it's a thorough servant I want.” And she would leave the office: day after day she had done this, and, as it had occurred for about the twentieth time, I went into my own room, tried to recollect her different objections to different girls, and at last I came to the conclusion that she must be——'tis an ugly word to write.

The same evening, I received sixty girls—one of them so remarkably plain, that she was, by her shipmates, known as little Scrub—her hair not combed, her face not washed, and her clothes looked as if she had jumped into them. A gentleman, who was present at the time, said, “Do you intend her for the country, Mrs. C——?” I said, there is a place for everybody, and I think I have had one waiting her for seven weeks. The following morning came the fastidious Mrs.——; I saw she looked with peculiar complacency on little Scrub. I determined on offering her, for her approval; but, in a full office, I was afraid: for, when anything forces itself on my mind as ridiculous, I cannot keep a grave countenance. I thought it best to ask Mrs.——into my own room: when I told her I had a girl that would suit her: I said, she is not a good servant, but a very good girl. I then called in little Scrub. “Can you wash?” “Wash, marm.” “Can you cook?” “Cook, marm.” “Can you make a bed?” “Make a bed, marm.” I then said, “will you do all this lady bids you?” “Yes, marm.” The lady looked at the poor girl with a keen and scrutinising eye; her countenance betokened satisfaction. Addressing me, she said, “I will take the girl; I dare say she will turn out a good servant. You've not been long in this colony, Mrs. C——: ah! *it takes years to know it*. You will make the agreement for six months.” I was astonished—my looks said so, for Mrs.——, with mournful gravity, said, “Ah, 'tis safe to have something a little *repulsive*.” I opened the door, desired the clerk to enter the agreement, and returned to my own room, when I indulged in an irrisistible fit of laughter. I here tell the lady, that if she keeps her own counsel, she is safe: I have mentioned many facts—they are necessary; but names are sacred.

The same day, I received a letter from a man who wanted a wife. I found he was well known to several persons as a man of integrity. It would be a serious thing to visit Sydney for a wife: first, a loss of time; second, money; and, after all, perhaps not be suited. His letter, too, interested me, and I determined on trying to serve him; I give his letter that the reader may judge:— “Reverend madam, I heard you are the best to send to for a servant, and I heard our police magistrate say, it was best to leave all to you; and so I'll just do the same, as his honour says it's the best. I had a wife once, and so she was too good for me by the far, and it was God's will, ma'am; but I has a child, ma'am, that I wouldn't see a straw touch for the world; the boy's only four yeare old: and I has a snug fifty-acre farm and a town 'lotment, and I has no debts in the world, and one teem and four bullocks; and I'se ten head oh cattle, and a share on eight hundred sheep, so I as a rite to a desent servant, that can wash and cook and make the place decant; and I don't mind what religion she bey, if she is sober and good, only I'se a Protestant myself; and the boy I have, I promised the mother on her death bed, should be a Catholic, and I wont, anyhow, have any interfrance in this here matter. That I do like in writing nothing else, I wouldn't, mam, on any account in the world, be bound to marry; but I don't wish it altogether to be left out. I'll ge her fourteen wages, and if she don't like me, and I don't like her, I'll pay her back to Sydney. I want nothing in the world but what is honest, so make the agrement as you like, and I'll bide by it. I sends you all the papers, and you'l now I'm a man wot's to be trusted. I sends you five pounds; she may get wages first, for I know some of the gals, and the best on um, to, are not heavy we boxes; and supposing anything should happen, I would not like it to be said she come here in rags. I wants, also, a man and his wife; he must be willing to learn to plough, if he don't now how, and do a good fair day's work at any thing: his wife must be a milker, and ah dustrious woman; I'll give them as much as they can eat and drink of tea and milk, and, whatever wages you set my name down for, I'll be bound to pay it. With all the honer in the world I'se bound to remain your servant till death.”

There was something in the character of this honest bushman to admire; he had gained his freedom, sent home money to his parents, and, during a long and tedious illness of twenty months, he had tended his sick wife with patient care. Who would not get up an hour earlier to serve such a man?— I did, for I knew that early in the morning is the *best* time to choose a wife. I went first into the governess-room—all asleep; I unlocked the Home-door—some dressed, others half-dressed, some too very cross: I have often remarked, that early in the day is the best time to judge of a woman's temper; but I wish this to be kept a secret. I remained half-an-hour in the

Home; I then went through the tents, could not suit myself, and returned. At the Home-door, I found a girl at the wash-tub; she was at work with spirit; she was rather good looking, very neat and tidy. I went into my office, and ascertained that, on board ship, her character was good. I desired the matron never to lose sight of her conduct, and report the same to me. Day after day passed, and I was at last fully determined to place her within reach, that is, in a respectable family, in his near neighbourhood; but I was able to arrange better, for I found that, amongst the families, there was one related to her. I immediately engaged them as his servants; they were a respectable couple; the man was a very prudent person. I told them to take the girl with them, and get her service near them, and on no account allow her to live with a bachelor. I gave the girl three letters to respectable ladies, and she was engaged by one the fourth day after her arrival at——. About a fortnight after, the bushman wrote to thank me, for sending him the married couple; and concluded by saying, “With regard to that *other* matter, upon my word, you have suited me exactly; and, as soon as our month is up, we is to be married.”

I received forty-one applications of this kind; but the above is the only girl I ever sent into the country with a *direct* matrimonial intention. That I take pleasure on hearing when a girl is married is a fact; and I also like to see girls *placed* where they will have a *fair chance* of being well married. With reference to the above applications, I may say petitions, so urgent were the prayers of many, I usually said, I was sending good girls into the country every day, and that I never sent a girl into the country when I knew anything against her character.

Several men called on me, when they came into town with their drays; and I may remark, indeed, it is only *justice to them to do so*, that the men said, their only reason for troubling me was, that they should not be deceived in a girl's character. “All I want, ma'am, is a decent *sober* girl, that will attend to her religion, and make my home happy: she need not work more than she likes.” Another said, “I don't care if she has not a rag her own, if she has only a good character.” Another, “I would like to have a woman that could talk to the children about being good: I know if I was to get a woman with a bad character, I should end my days at Norfolk Island—character is all I care for; if she is pretty, well and good, but if she is not, if she is good, I shall love her.” Some interviews I have had with men of this class (a very numerous one in this colony) convinces me of the *great good* that may be done by a *well-selected class of female immigrants*—they must be under the care of a lady at sea, and placed under government protection in Sydney until they are provided for.

It is time I should take the men-servants, and give my opinion regarding

them—these I must divide into three classes:—

First—Men who have always worked at home, and are anxious to do the same in this country: men of this class, whether married or single, will always find work. The present rate of wages, for a single man, is twenty pounds per annum, with the following rations, weekly:—

Flour 9lbs.
Meat 10lbs.
Tea 20zs.
Sugar 11/2lbs.

A married man and his wife, with only one child, twenty-five pounds per annum—rations, weekly:—

Meat 18lbs.
Flour 20lbs.
Tea 4ozs.
Sugar 3lbs.

No man ought to think of emigrating to this colony who has more than three children, except some of them are above nine years of age. Men of this class, who can plough, reap, mow, and make themselves useful about a farm, are *certain* of employment.

Second—Light, handy men, who are willing to work as servants or shepherds, will meet with employment, at similar wages to class first.

Third—the “Do-nothings,” or “Black-riband Gentry.” Amongst this class, which I regret to say is a numerous one, men are to be found, who enter themselves as clerks and tutors, who are as ignorant of the duties of one as they are incapable of filling the office of the other; the bounty has been stopped for some of these, which I consider very hard, for, when a man has health and strength, if he wont work, *he ought to be made*.

Now, I am not going to recommend any severe measures; I am only going to ask some humane and good people I know not to give them money, and a good appetite will soon force them to work. Some of these men have, by dint of impudence, and the aid of blarney, pushed themselves into a little consequence on board ship. When they appeared at my office, I instantly said, “are you one of the immigrants, per ship—?” “I came by that ship.” (They wished to lead me to suppose, they paid their own passage, or, if I would oblige them by taking them as cabin passengers, it would do as well.) “What situation do you want?” “Oh ma'am, I'm in no particular hurry; I'm on the look out for a government situation; I have some very good letters; I have one to the Attorney-general; and I expect he will offer me *the clerkship of the bench*; I am told it is a very fair thing to begin with.” Another told me, he expected Mr. Thomson would make him an

out-country magistrate. “Why, I am certain Mr. Thomson has never promised you that.” “No, ma'am; but all I want is a note from you, just to say that *I'd take it*, and I am sure he would give it me.” I told him I had no interest in that quarter, and if I had I would not recommend any person for a situation he could not fill. I gave him good advice; told him he must work; that it was the only certain way of getting on in this country. This class seems to me to be manufactured on board ship: as soon as they land in Sydney, they go to a draper's shop, and purchase two yards and a quarter of black riband; this is put round their necks—sometimes a spy-glass is suspended, this is, however, rare—a dressing-case key, with a silver top, is the favourite of these fashionables. I expose this foppery and vanity, as it proves there is as much vanity in one sex as the other. Finger rings are much worn by this class, and if they can meet with a cheap signet ring, they are delighted. The wife of one of these told me, that her heart was nearly broken by her husband's *crank* ways; that, at home, he was obliged to work hard for nine shillings per week, and keep his family out of the same. “He can plough, ma'am, and delve, and do all kinds of work; but he seems to think the government will make him a something out of the common way.” She begged me to try and persuade him to take a place where they might do well, and urged me to keep her application *a secret*; “For I know, ma'am, he'd be the death of me, if he knew I told you he was a poor man at home.” A passenger on board ship, with a kind intention, gave this man his cast-off ship clothing, and I believe he had received three pounds, a few days before he left home, for some services at an election; the fine clothes and money did him harm. It is almost impossible to serve a man if he has two shillings in his pocket. The following morning I sent for him, told him I had a situation that would suit him; thankful to hear it—what was it? “An overseer at a bachelor's station; you will have twenty-five pounds per annum, and full rations for your wife and three children.” “What should I have to do?” “Work; there are sixty cows; two men are on the station—these you must look after; and there is a small farm and garden—as the latter is near a township, the vegetables sell well; you are allowed what you require for your own family; your principal work will be in the garden and on the farm. You can plough, I should say, judging from your looks; you have worked hard, and will find this place easy.” “Yes, ma'am, I can p-l-o-u-g-h; but I don't intend it in this country.” “Why, you are only required to grow enough for the station—only for three individuals more than your own family.” “I don't think I *would mind* taking a situation as *head* superintendent, if you have one on your books.” The settlers of this country are clever, shrewd men; they seldom engage a newly arrived immigrant, for they require men of colonial experience, and

they generally take them from their working overseers. “So, you do not intend taking the situation I have offered you?” “*Certainly not.*”

If I had entered office, expecting grateful thanks from all, I should have seen, in a week, my folly; but having a very fair knowledge of human nature, I knew what I had to expect. I was aware that a great deal of good was to be done, and that, to be able to do this, I should encounter certain disagreeables; I did not start thinking it possible to *please every body*, but to act fairly and justly towards all: I have, consequently, met these disagreeables as a *matter of course*; and I think the publication of a few letters will give my friends and the public an opportunity of judging of them, at the same time, it will enable me to prove that, after a lady has satisfied herself regarding the character of a girl, temper should be the first consideration. I wish to press this on the minds of young married ladies — that, to get tempers to suit is the *first* consideration: those who will act upon this hint will not regret it.—But for some of my sweets of office:—

* From the pen of C. Nicholson, M.D.

* Dr. Nicholson.

Letters

—, December 5th, 1841.

Madam,

I received last week the servant you sent me; when I saw her I was astonished, *how you* could have selected such a person for *my family*. She has, as I fully expected *she would* prove herself, an idle, lazy, dirty, insolent, girl. I think I have a right to expect the return of the fee. I am sorry to have given you so much trouble; but I am told, you feel such an interest in these girls that you don't mind it. I am sure it is a pity you should have such a *worthless set* to deal with. I hope you wont take A. B. back into the Home, for she is quite undeserving your kindness. I remain, madam, your obliged servant,—. I have directed—to call for the 2s. 6d.

—, April 4th, 1842.

My dear Madam,

As A. B., whom you were so kind as to sent to us, has conducted herself *remarkably well*, I am induced to trouble you again on the subject of servants. Our housemaid is about to leave us, Mrs.—would rather trust to *your selection* than her own. I am, dear madam, with many thanks for your great kindness,

Your obedient servant,

—.

I will only give one or two more—proving temper is everything:—

January 6th, 1842.

My dear Madam,

I don't think it possible you could have *seen* the girl you sent to me. I have had great experience; have had numbers from the Factory, but, in all my life, I never met *with any person who tried me as B. B. did*. I was *incessantly talking to her*, but it was of *no use*; and, as I cannot be *everlastingly teased*, I return her to you. She is slow at her work; abominably filthy in her habits; and, was, to me, most insolent. I believe her honest and sober, but I would not *keep her for nothing*. If you can send me a very smart English girl, you will oblige me; but another Irish girl, *I will not take*.

I remain, Madam,

Yours obliged,

—.

—, May 4th, 1842.

Dear Mrs. C—

I send in B. B. for medical advice; she has hurt her hand; if you will allow her sleep a night or two in the Home, I shall consider it a *favour*. I shall also feel obliged if you will send me a girl to assist B. B. at her work until she gets well; for we have found her such a *deserving good girl*, that we would gladly do all in our power for her. With our best thanks for your kindness, I remain,

My dear Madam, yours faithfully,

—.

Madam,

I am under the greatest obligation for the lad you sent; but I think you need not have made the wages quite so high, for mine is a very comfortable place. You will please to send me a regular housemaid, next Tuesday's steamer; and let the girl take with her a box I left at—'s, and buy me (with the enclosed cheque) a piece of calico, and fourteen pounds of tea, and one bag of sugar. I hear—'s is the cheapest shop: if you will kindly see the quality is good, it will be the greatest favour you can do me. As I keep two other servants, I have put on a piece of paper all this girl will have to do; and you must read it over, and explain every part of it, so that there may be no mistake afterwards. I shall send a cart to meet the steamer, and I expect you wont disappoint me. Mine is a very easy, light place.

I have the honor to be, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

—.

Extract alluded to.

To Mrs. Chisholm.

To be dressed at half-past six; the hall and steps to be cleaned by half-past seven; the breakfast to be ready by eight; three beds to be made by nine; walk with the children till ten; needle-work until eleven; to cook the children's dinner and have it ready by half-past twelve; then she will have to dust the diningroom out, (and once a week to clean the windows)—this she can do well by a quarter-past one; needle work till three; lay the cloth; put the dinner on the table; wait at table. Now, she has nothing to do with washing the dishes, only the glasses, though I give her till half-past four; then she can take the children out; give them their tea, wash them, and put them to bed—this will be over by seven, when she can amuse herself with needle-work. Of course she takes the entire charge of the children's clothes, which, I have a right to expect, should be kept in good order. I am no way particular what religion she is, but she must attend family prayers—I would not take her else. Say wages from £10 to £14; but this I suppose I must leave to you.

N. B.—The lady's object in getting the box and sugar sent per servant was to avoid freight, as she was aware that Mr. Edye Manning kindly allowed no charge to be made for the servants' baggage.

When I first opened the Home, the greater part of my duty was of a very unpleasant nature, —sailors, soldiers, draymen, and gentlemen, would visit the Home; and, as there were several doors, I had no sooner turned one party out and returned to the office, than it was reported to me another were in. I was almost weary of telling them— “these are the single women's quarters; you cannot stay here.” In this part of my duty I met with no impertinence, as I always remained until they left; they seldom detained me long: still there was one old gentleman who annoyed me very much; if I turned him out at one door, in a few minutes he would be in *at another*— a more *determined* pest I never met with; *day after day* he would visit the

Home; and, as I was then under the *cold water* regimen, I knew it would not do to ask for locks, bolts, and high fences. This gentleman usually came into the office—he wanted a servant for a friend—a man and his wife: twice in one day he came, and when I was engaged, he was in the Home in a minute; twice I followed him, and *bowed him out*. About five in the evening, it was usual with me, and I may say necessary for me, to go into my own room, darken it, and try for one hour's quiet. The matron, who knew how much I required it, used to stand at the office-door, to prevent any chance of my being disturbed: great was my astonishment at her paying me a visit. “Why, what is the matter, matron?” “Oh, ma'am, that old gentleman is there, talking such nonsense to the girls, and he wont go for me. The constable is in the yard, shall I give him in charge?” I don't like to do that, matron, for he has sons and daughters married, who would feel it. Go into the Home, and order all the girls into the office: give him the Home to himself; and if ever you see him there again, send all the girls to me—tell him that is my order.” In a moment, the old man was alone; he muttered, but at last thought it prudent to escape by the back door—I have never seen him since.

I may here remark, that in going my evening rounds in the rear of the establishment, I never met with any impertinence. And after I had been three months or so in office, on going out, I saw a large party of men at the corner of the Domainingate, evidently trying to conceal two girls; I knew one of them, the other was a stranger. “Have you any relations in the colony?” “No.” “Then come with me.” She was a young girl, not more than fifteen; she refused, and went into the Domain. I sent the other into the Home, and followed her: in a few minutes she returned with me, and I found myself suddenly surrounded by men. I felt, I must acknowledge, in that lonely place, very uncomfortable, but my fears were groundless; they came to apologise, to express their regret at the great annoyance they had given me, and promised me never again to go near the place. “We never knew you until to-night; we thought you were well paid for looking after the immigrant girls; but when we saw you follow that strip of a girl.—And we have been talking to this man, and he says you don't get a penny, and that all you do is for the girls' good,—we do say, that that man is *not a man* who gives you trouble;—good night, ma'am.” I never saw but one of these men afterwards, and he came on a mission of mercy, to tell me of a girl that he thought would be advised, and kept from ruin; he was in terror lest he should be found out. “I should be jeered at, past bearing; but somehow it lay on my mind—I ought to tell you.” This girl is now well married; and she may thank this poor man that she, under Providence, escaped the pit dug for her.

When the ship——arrived, it was mentioned to me, that there had been a little flirtation on board. The night the girls were sent to me, one was missing, the favourite; she left the ship with the other girls. I was informed that——, with his boat, had been waiting for an hour off the jetty: I knew where the girl was, but to get her was an undertaking. I was certain he could not pass Lavender's Ferry: to pass under the bows of his own ship would be too glaring. I went to the jetty; engaged a boat; described the parties I wished to find; promised ten shillings. We went stealthily and steadily along. I soon espied two men in a boat; they had made themselves as comfortable as they could; had selected a snug corner, and were smoking their cigars: these men I wished to avoid, and did so. I now looked out for a place I could land at, and though this was rather *rough* work, I succeeded. I then looked about, but could not see or hear any one. I was about returning, when I discovered the girl I was seeking: I had never seen her before, but her beauty had been faithfully described to me, and I knew she was *the one*. I told her she had not been missed; that, if she was quick, she would not: the girl heard all—— but hesitated. ——laughed at my remonstrance, and said, she did not come to this country to be treated as a child, and he *advised* me quickly to leave them. I saw I had a hardened and unprincipled villain to deal with——reason and persuasion were lost on his callous heart——and, in a taunting tone of irony, he bade me go. I was determined to make one more effort, and I said,——you know I have no other object than the girl's good; if you give her up to me at once, I give you *my word* I will not mention your name; but if I leave here without her, you must take the consequences. Assuming an attitude of insolence and derision, he said, “Pray madam, what consequences?” “First, when I leave here, I shall report at Capt. Brown's office that a girl, from the ship——, (who is under age) is here. I shall then call at the “Herald” Office, and the “Gazette” Office, and state all I know. I shall then report the circumstance to Mr. Merewether, the immigration agent, when nothing more will *be necessary for me to do*: what steps he may feel justified in taking, I know not; but I can assure you the Press of Sydney wont spare you.” I saw this coward crouch——this villain quail, at the mention of the Press. May the Press of Sydney long maintain its power and *preserve* its influence! Each paper has its own interest; each editor his own opinion; but in the exposure of villany——in any *moral* movement, *they are one*. I saw this wholesome terror had, to use a Sydney phrase, taken all the “bounce” out of him. I went to the girl; led her past——; I desired her to get in the boat willingly, that the man should suppose it was entirely her own will. I was hastening to follow her, when——said, “I must have one word with you: that poor girl is innocent and good——do you believe it?” “I do.” “Then may God

bless you!” He assisted me into the boat, and he was soon out of sight. As I passed his waiting boat, I felt a little triumph, in which, I fear, pride was mixed with thankfulness—however, these feelings are natural; but they are feelings that require watching and regulating. I landed at the jetty; I offered the boatman his hire; he refused, in a manner at once respectful and grateful—“You do not know me, ma'am, but I know you; and may my arm wither from the socket, if ever I touch money of yours.” “Why, I have never seen you before—who are you?” “Flora's cousin.” Alas, poor Flora!—many loved you.

On my return to my office, I was sufficiently fatigued with my day's work and my wanderings on the North-shore, to decide on retiring early. I had taken my cup of tea, and was in a sound sleep, when an urgent “I must see the lady” awoke me. I dressed myself, threw on my cloak, and went into the office. At the door were three men (judging, from their appearance, just the men you would like to meet with when a wool-dray sticks in the mud)—“We are greatly distressed, ma'am, or we would not disturb you; but we have not a penny in the world.” “You are on rations; come to me in the morning, and I will get you places.” “Oh, ma'am, but our boxes are on the beach.” “There is a wheel-barrow and a hand-cart, take them.” “Oh, ma'am, there is a man that, for 2s. 6d., will carry them up for us on his dray.” “I never give money to men who are able to carry their own boxes.” On this assertion, they gave me a due share of abuse. I had no feeling for any but the young women; and it was not until I threatened to call a constable, that I could get these men to leave: it requires great patience to bear with such demands.

The fact of rum having been sold on board ship, having been brought to the notice of the Temperance Society, by His Honor Judge Stephen, it is for them to do their duty; and, as they are not members of the Total Abstinence Society, they will agree with me in thinking, that to be obliged to buy flour and oatmeal to keep *the little children quiet*, is rather too bad. Perhaps a deputation from this society may wait upon His Excellency, but—first, they would prefer going on board to investigate the matter. Here are a few memoranda, that will throw a light upon the subject— sundry receipts for sums paid for grog, drunk on board the—. I knew the importers would be polite (I always found them so): hear what they have to say:— “We can assure you, gentlemen, we are most anxious for this investigation; we were not aware of, nor would we for a moment sanction, the sale of rum.” The captain dances, as captains do *at sea*—his ship to be called a grog-shop; declares he has been in all parts of the world, *but for scandal*, Sydney beats them. The surgeon, for a young man, *is prudent*; he says nothing, and looks as innocent as he can. Here you will look at the receipts,

but do not allow your zeal to get the better of your discretion: for names are actionable. Keep, however, to the fact, that grog has been sold in the ship, and you *can prove it*. But here comes the first officer—clever fellows, generally, at getting folks out of a scrape: he has the steward by the collar; he has found out the rascal —*just found him out*—and the unfortunate man has to bear the burthen of rum puncheons, brandy cases, flour casks, and oatmeal bags. The captain flies at the poor unfortunate fellow, and says what he'll do when he gets the rascal out at sea. The steward trembles, as though he had practised the art, and says, that he was *paid so bad*, that he was obliged to make a shilling when he could. You should now fold the receipts, put them into your pocket-book, with gravity, and then, looking at the party, (and it must be that *peculiar* look that defies interpretation) thus address them:—“Gentlemen, we feel bound to believe what you have stated; indeed, the steward's acknowledgment of his guilt places the matter beyond a doubt: but if ever it should be brought to the notice of our society, that rum is again sold in this ship, we shall then feel it our bounden duty to the public, to report to the Board, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that”—(“that what?” says the impatient——) “we wont believe you again—on honour we wont.”

There is a very strong desire manifested for English servants; but I am certain, if they were sent here in *large numbers* (one hundred and fifty in the course of next year would be enough) they would give great dissatisfaction—in a year or two the case may be, *will be*, very different; but it should be borne in mind, that the assignment system has a little *spoilt* the ladies—it will take them some time to forget they have *lost a little power*; or, in fact, that they must bear and forbear: when they have had free servants long enough to know and understand the difference—then will be the time for English servants. There is a proud bearing about the English peasantry which would, I fear, be mistaken for insolence, and cause great complaint. An English servant would not like the ration and lock-up system: and then again, they expect certain domestic comforts that are not general in Sydney. These are, however, greatly on the increase: many of the mistresses here are apt to take the law into their own hands—refuse to pay wages on trifling grounds; indeed, I grieve to state, that very *many* servants are, in this respect, treated unjustly. I have known, of fifty-one. Some ladies there are who stop for accidental breakages, and do, what it is the province of a magistrate to do. The Irish girls make great allowance for temper, and some forgive anything that is said or done in a passion: whereas an English servant would say,—I have done my duty as a servant, and if my mistress takes the law into her own hands, she must also take the consequences. The English, too, are prone to waste, where they are not

trusted.

I will give one case:—N. N., an orphan, aged fourteen, was engaged at the office for three months at three shillings and sixpence per week. She was washing; her mistress called her, hurriedly, to take in some crockery she had purchased: the girl was in the act of drying her hands, when her mistress said——. The girl was afraid, and ran along the passage rather too quick; for she thought the crockery was outside, whereas it was in: she fell over the basket, cut herself, and broke a dish, a tea cup, and a tumbler. Her mistress scolded her well then, and for several following days. About three weeks after this, the girl, when cleaning a pair of snuffers, they broke: this scold lasted two days. A child's frock was to be made; the girl had the skirt to make; it was not so neatly made as the lady could wish, so she went to unpick it, and being rather *too quick*, she tore it. Oh, she would not be teased any longer with such a servant; and that day N. N. was dismissed. The lady knew no law but her own will; the agreement of three months was to her nothing: but here is her account, for the girl would not receive the balance of her wages, without first showing me the same:—

Due to N. N., for nine weeks' wages, at 3s. 6d	£1 11 6
	s. d.
Four yards print, at 7d.	2 4
For breaking a dish	4 3
Tea-cup and <i>saucer</i> *	1 0
Tumbler	1 0
Repairing snuffers	0 9
Epsom salts	0 3
Sewing cotton	0 11/2
Tape	0 4
	£0 10 01/2
Cash offered N. N. and refused	£1 1 51/2

I told the lady, the magistrate could stop for breakages, on proof of malicious intention, but she could not. “Then she may go to the magistrate for her wages.” I knew the girl could get her wages if she did; but, as she was so young, I thought it might have a bad effect on her to have it proved her mistress was wrong: I advised her to yield and wait—this the child did. And I lament to add, that although I have written twice, this lady *continues obstinate*—I leave it, therefore, until she has time to hear a little of public opinion on the matter. I was told, I ought not to mention this; but I have heard and know so much of the feelings of the servants of Sydney, that I will not have all the ladies suffer for a few. It is only justice to the great majority to bring these things to public view —there I leave them. But as this is something against the mistresses of Sydney, I must look into my

portfolio to see if I cannot balance it—No. 4 *will do*:—

Wages due to John M——, for twelve months' service as shepherd	£22	0	0
	£.	s.	d.
Two pair kip boots, 15s. 6d. & pair	1	11	0
One pound tobacco	0	6	0
One fustian jacket	0	18	6
One hundred and fifty pounds flour	5	2	8
Carriage of box on master's dray	0	8	0
One pound tea	0	6	6
Four pounds sugar	0	2	0

And some other articles I need not enter. That the above charges are unjust, I have no hesitation in stating; for I enquired the prices of the above articles at five neighbouring stations, and their charges ran thus:—

	s.	d.
Boots	12	0
Tobacco	4	0
Jackets	12	6
Flour, & pound	0	51/2
Tea	4	6
Sugar	0	5

And these prices allowed on the Sydney prices about sixteen and-a-half per cent., which is, I believe, considered a fair, and only a fair profit.

When I saw John M——, he had been kept waiting to be paid his wages for three weeks. I may also remark, that although this grinder gave two pounds of flour less per week than any other settler in the district, in drawing out his agreement, he had very knowingly entered wages, to commence from the day of his arriving at the station: and yet this *gentleman* had charged for the carriage of his box. He had written a letter, stating this fact, and had a considerable number of names attached to it, proving what he said to be true. I told him he had been unfortunate in meeting with a bad master; prevailed on him to give me the letter, and I procured him a good place. I have been told that this truck system should not be mentioned in this work; but my abhorrence of grinders is so great, that I do not feel inclined to spare them: I know of nine, and the sooner others know them the better. I am sorry I have promised not to mention names, for they do an *immensity* of mischief—the good masters suffer for this. It is rather a curious fact, that five of the nine intend leaving you when they have got all they can.

The “Herald” remarked wisely, when they said, “men of this kind care not how they injure the colony.” I have a few brilliants that would look well here, but I must reserve them for separate settings.

I know a considerable number of families who weigh out their rations to the female servants; and if they find it the best and cheapest way, they have an undoubted right to pursue it: all I mean to state is, that it will take an English servant some time to accommodate herself to the system. One lady I know, who followed very closely the lock-up system (so much so, that the servants are obliged to ask for a slice of bread when they feel hungry) had, a short time since, some meat in her safe. An English servant, who was there, remarked to her fellow servants, "that meat will not be good tomorrow—shall we tell the mistress, and ask for some salt?" "No, no; if it was cooked, she would take care of it—she would *keep it*." Not one out of four would tell the mistress, and ask for some salt. *How different* ought the feeling to be. It is pleasing to be able to state, the very marked change that has taken place, since the opening of the Home, as regards the importance of character. At first, numbers said, "Oh, if she is a good servant, and does her work, that is all I care for;" but now, I am happy to state, that a girl finds it difficult to get a place, except she can *produce a good character*. I made it a rule not to allow a girl to make an engagement in the office, when I knew anything against her character. I kept the girls on rations, until some person liked to take them, knowing their character. This had a good effect on other girls; and, as they saw them go into my room to close their engagements, they were aware of the reason. I have, during the time I was in the Home, known many hundred ladies, who act the part of good and careful mistresses—and I would, with all respect to those ladies, urge them never to engage a servant for less than three months (the weekly engagements have had a very bad effect on both parties); and if for six, they would find it add to their interest and comfort.

I cannot help here stating a fact, that will, I think, give satisfaction to the magistrates of this colony. I have placed many girls in public-houses; indeed, I could not refuse them—but it was a source of deep anxiety to me: but I am happy to state that, amongst the wives of innkeepers, are some of the best mistresses in the colony, and that many of them look as well after their servants as their children. I have never felt it my duty to remove but two; and one was in consequence of information received from her mistress. Some sailors, who knew the girl in the ship, followed her—"I cannot close my door against good customers; but if you can get the girl out of Sydney, you will do her a real service."

I cannot help observing here, the great want of common caution and prudence that some ladies have shown, when calling at the office for a servant: perhaps they have found forty present.— "Have you no English?" "Not one." "Then I will go without; I am so thoroughly disgusted with the Irish." At such an expression, I have seen some of these poor girls' cheeks

glow. The Irish feel these things keenly. One poor girl called on me to tell me she must leave her place. "Why?" "From the morning till the night, my mistress is *flinging* at my country; and it's the country to love, ma'am—ah! you have never seen it, or you would see I could not stay;" and this warm-hearted lover of her country cried as though her heart would break. The poor have feelings—the rich should respect them. I had a strong Irish party in the office, when a lady came for a servant—none but English would suit her. I was astonished to see a merry, laughing-eyed lass, from Tipperary, go to her and make her courtesy. "Are you from England?" "Sure 'tis from Liverpool I come." The engagement was made in a few minutes. I called the girl into my own room to speak to her regarding the deception. "Oh, sure, ma'am, you'll not take the bread out of my mouth; don't you see the lady don't know the difference; it's only that she wants to be in the fashion; I'll make her a good servant never fear." I did not choose to be a party to this deception; but the girl had stated she came from Liverpool; and, though I explained to her mistress she had only been there ten days, the lady was satisfied—so was I. I shall be very glad to see English immigrants arrive here—I have no prejudices—no favourites—I can welcome all, consequently I have a double enjoyment; but as I have had to get people provided for, and know the difficulties attending *getting them off*, I hope the remarks I am going to make will be received in the same spirit in which they are given.

There is now great distress in England, and it will be easy to remove the distress from England, and *fix it here*. Take the Spitalfields weavers; say they are sent here: the single men will get engaged as shepherds; but what will you do with the married men with families? The settlers would not engage them as farm labourers; they would not give them carriage, for they know that they have never been accustomed to hard work; that they would have everything to learn. I can assure you, gentlemen, that when a settler is about engaging a man and his wife, with a few children, he first calculates the amount of rations; then wages; and he then looks very earnestly at the man, to see if he can get that value out of his labour. When people have to pay, it behoves them to be careful; and *men of this class wont pay*: it is, therefore, *cruel* to bring them. Go into the country districts, and get men accustomed to out-door work, and they are certain of employment—no matter whether they are English, Irish, or Scotch, they will soon find places.

The anxiety of a certain party here (not the people) is so great for an influx of English emigrants, that they say they will take *any sort*.—Brumagem boys—men who, from their childhood, have been stowed away in factories—men, that shiver in the Autumn, and can scarce bear a long

walk in Spring: *these are the men*, they say, that can stand the climate and hard work of this colony: these are the men to milk cows, plough, sow, mow, and take charge of drays to Bathurst. This experiment they are desirous of making at the expense of the land fund. I have remarked that this class of persons are remarkably careful of their own coin: but as amongst this party there are several wealthy men—men, too, of public spirit, that is, they show the same *occasionally*—it's not kept for *every-day use*—these would not mind paying the expence; for those who have plans of their own they wish to work must expect to make some sacrifices for them. I would therefore advise His Excellency the Governor that this plan should have fair play, on this one condition—that they, the promoters, should undertake to ration the families until provided for—of course, receiving the amount of the ten days' rations from the importers. Say one thousand persons are sent for,—this will give the friends of this colonial blessing an opportunity of looking at the difficulties attending this importation. Myself, I see but one—that of persuading the keen hands of this colony that a weak man can do the work of a strong one, and that a man can learn to plough or milk in a month or less—this, I must acknowledge, is a difficulty; still, I am such a lover of difficulties, that I will set about removing it. But notwithstanding what His Excellency has been pleased to say of the willingness of the settlers to *oblige* a lady, I cannot ask them to *believe* this; for all their letters to me ran thus—“Send me a strong able man that *can work*, and make himself useful about the farm: he must be able to plough.” No, no; it would affect my credit in the country districts. These wonders must be gradually and *stealthily* brought about. The first thing to be done is, to start off a few spirited leaders—an AntiIrish cry—abuse the Irish. Follow this with well selected paragraphs, certain sly hits at the Catholics —rake up old embers—talk of plots and facts, that some Protestants believe and Catholics deny—say that the Jesuits can manufacture cannon balls—that the ladies make gunpowder. Then there must be a pause—another leader: he must start with a political view, and must be named “No Bigotry.” Now, this article will require great skill; for if you hit at the Irish only, if you leave *creed out*, the Protestants, aye, the Presbyterians, will be one with the Catholics. Have a care how you attack the Irish *as a body*: the Irish love their country; they are a people led by their feelings; and they have but one feeling against the man who dares to abuse their country, and slander their *country-women*. We will suppose talent and caution necessary, for this is to be found at——. The next thing you have to do is, to make seventy-three thousand English Protestants *afraid* of thirty-five thousand Catholics: the idea is ridiculous; for, if their number were equal, *neither* would know fear. But they don't want to fight,

and they cannot be made to fight—what should they fight for? Their rights? —dear me, no: these can be readily got without; for the love of justice is so strong and deeply rooted in the hearts of the English people, that neither the bigotry of the few, or the fears of the many, could, from the Tree of Liberty, tear or touch a leaf.

I am happy to state there is a feeling taking root in this colony, a feeling that will spread (and the only feeling which can give vigour to Australia) that each party is trying which can build the most churches, and *do the most good*. But the flag is hoisted; the Birmingham boys are come; spirited leaders are in *request*; the “Herald” is the starting post; the “Australian” the whipper-in. Dear me! the single men are off—how quickly they go. The girls, too, though slightly made, get good places; but the dead weight still remains. A few are sent to——; but the thing *wont take*. Are there any orders from the District Homes?—No, not one. The committee know what suits their district, and they regard the same. Day after day, week after week, these unfortunate men eat rations: rations are expensive—their purses (the regulators of zeal) begin to feel it. They cannot put the men on half-rations, for these men have read “Cobbett's Gridiron.” They have *brought with them* a few Birmingham ideas; they have occasionally visited Manchester, and have their own ideas of the rights of man. Stop their rations— they will not try to find their way to your hearts, or your doors; but they will play you a Bristol tune on your windows. But, by this time, you will have your corporation, your mayor, and common-council men. You will therefore understand a *special rate* —but *this must not be*; yet something must be done: the crisis is approaching. Oh! we must have a “Nine-o'clock;” that is, a solemn, silent, *secret*, meeting! A. starts in the morning, and meets B., and says, in a tone of solemn import, “The club at nine!” This solemn summons passes from one to the other, and it will be a sight worth seeing—to view the awful, quiet, stepping of these gentlemen up Bent-street, at nine. The men of Bold Measures meet not to dine, but sup: with great solemnity they take their seats; their appearance is awful and imposing; the waiter feels the effect. They bow their heads to *slow time*; they raise their port, and drink off the same with terrific import. Occasionally there is a glance at the door; the waiter gets alarmed; it's the first “nine-o'clock” he has ever witnessed, and he is afraid. He has heard of one man committing suicide, and he begins to fear that the whole party have met to die: one less timid would say they had just left the School of Arts, and believed in ghosts. The cloth is removed; the waiter is told, if a gentleman calls, he is to be ushered in. The party are scattered about in whispering groups; a stranger enters; the waiter gives another glance. Now, if he had been in the neighbourhood of Charles-street, St. James's, he

would at once have announced a change of Ministry. The stranger seems ready for sea; 'tis twelve o'clock; a midnight subscription is raised, and the meeting, with solemn silence, se-separates. In the morning, the tents are empty; the families are gone. Where?—ah! that's a secret. The curious can enquire at Portsmouth.

I may here observe, that it is not easy for respectable young men to get employed as shepherds. Gentlemen *prefer common men*; they know they are stronger, and they look to the man that *can work*, if he is wanted. I have known some young men suffer so much in this colony, that I give a few letters, to prove what I say is correct. I should like to know why single men are not allowed a tent in barracks until a situation is offered them; this exclusion is cruel and unjust.

* Gave the girl the saucer.

Sydney
MADAM,

Having heard of your great exertions in behalf of those unfortunate individuals who land here without being able to obtain employment, I take the liberty to offer myself to your notice as an object not altogether unworthy of your notice, or of any trouble you may take in procuring him some kind of employment. I came out here cabin-passenger in the——: ever since her arrival I have not been able to get any thing to do; in consequence of which I am reduced to the utmost distress—in fact, I am literally starving, without a roof to shelter my head under. Any thing you can do for me, madam, in the way of getting me a situation, (I care not what) I shall feel grateful for; and I have not the least doubt but that I should give every satisfaction to my employer. It may be as well to mention, that I have been six years in a merchant's office. I am well versed in accounts. Hoping that you will take my case into your kind consideration, and waiting your reply,

I have the honor to be, madam,

Your most obedient servant,

_____.

Sydney
December 2nd, 1841.
MADAM,

The undersigned (your humble petitioner) a self-exiled orphan from his native country, has been allured, like many of his numberless fellow-sufferers, to tempt the deep, and try his fortune in a foreign land. But, even here, misfortune will pause not in her cruel pursuit; she haunts his every step, and dooms him, 'tis feared, a prey to her merciless tyranny, unless your accustomed kindness and generous feelings of pity for the distress of others, interpose 'tween your humble petitioner and the outstretched, unsparing, arm of Ruin. He humbly requests that you would, in your good will, forward him to one of your immigrant homes, that he might, with your kind aid, get into some mercantile establishment, as a compositor to some journal—in the police, or some similar respectable situation.

Confiding in your goodness that you would not fail, when opportunity allowed, to render him some subsidiary act, in order to forward his views, in Sydney, you would please to accept the most sincere wishes for your welfare, and heartfelt feelings of gratitude for your kindness.

From, madam,
Your obedient servant,

To Mrs. C——, Sydney.

March 1st, 1841.

MADAM,

I beg you will excuse the liberty I have taken in sending you this note, as particular circumstances happen to me which cause me to write to you—that is, in case no vacancies should offer as a tutor, you would be so kind as to recommend me to any other situation vacant. I am now in such a distressing situation, that I am not able to remain longer in lodgings, having resided about ten weeks in great expenses, and met with so many disappointments, that it is impossible for me to resist them. I expected my friends from England out before me, with whom I was to reside, until I would have been settled; but they have not yet arrived. I therefore beg, madam, you will be so kind as to assist me to a situation, as I have no friend here where to call or seek for assistance.

You would oblige, madam,
Your most humble servant,

_____.

“Non ignara mali, miseris succerere disco.”—VIRG.

February 2nd, 1842.

MADAM,

To you, as the protectress of the houseless and the orphan, may the prefixed words of the poet be truly applied; for your delight is to minister to the wants and comforts of the wretched and distressed. But your benevolent and truly charitable exertions in the cause of humanity need no eulogy from man; they will meet their due reward from Him alone, for whose honor and glory they are employed. Little did the many creatures who, relying on the delusive hopes held out by the government, think that, after having severed themselves from home, kindred, and friends, and undergone the dangers of so long and perilous a voyage, they should be allowed, by that government, to be driven by the gusts of desperation, sorrow, and despair, against the quicksands of intemperance, depravity, and those other vices, with which New South Wales must necessarily abound. But thanks to that God who, ever mindful of his creatures, has raised you up as a safe-guard to these unprotected and deluded females, who, otherwise, would prove a curse rather than a blessing to the colony.

Now, madam, as you have kindly and charitably requested to know what situation I am fit for, I have only to say, that I leave it entirely to your own discretion to determine; but the one most congenial to my wishes would be that of tutor, in a respectable family, or conductor of a school. I can teach a course of Greek and Latin, geography, geometry, English grammar, reading, writing,

&c. I have also had a good knowledge of the theory of agriculture and gardening, and would have no objection to take charge of a farm or garden, if no other situation would offer.

Submitting myself entirely to your disposal, and fearing I trespass too much on your precious moments,

I have the honor to be, madam, yours &c.,

Mrs. C—— Emigrants' Home, Sydney.

Some young men of this class I have sent into different parts of the country, and I could not get them off. A gentleman to whom I had written, after keeping one for weeks, thus writes:—

March 23rd, 1842.

MADAM,

The bearer has been here for some time without being able to obtain any employment. Poor fellow! he is not suitable for the country; he is very willing to do anything he can, but does not understand farming work. I think he has a better chance in Sydney than here. He might be able to get a light porter's situation; that would answer him well.

I do not think, at the present time, six clerks are wanted in Sydney.

I have before made some remarks about the *would-be governesses*. I must now state that, during this year, thirty well-educated women would meet with comfortable homes, at a salary of £30 per annum: this salary will be considered low, but there are advantages to compensate for this, and few families give more. But young ladies of this class ought not to come to this colony, except they *have friends* with whom they could stay until provided for.

I am now going to give advice, and am really at a loss how, and where to begin. 'Tis a delicate—an ungracious task; this I know from experience. Perhaps the very thing I am going to advise, —— has determined to do; and if this is the case, I dread the perverseness of human nature: for I have more than once heard a person say, “Now I meant to do the very thing you tell me; but if I do it now, it will look like taking your advice—and to be advised by a lady. Pshaw! nonsense—the idea is ridiculous, and I wont do it.” Now an “I wont” from a gentleman, is just as troublesome a thing to manage as an “I will” from a lady—how must I proceed? By the bye, I recollect having read, that enlightened men of all ages have looked upon advisers as friends, and have said that “shreds of knowledge may be picked up from plough-boys, and patches from old women are worth preserving:” this encourages me to begin; and as this is a *very* ceremonious colony, where a breach of etiquette would be a serious offence, I will commence with His Excellency the Governor. I therefore, with every feeling of respect, beg to suggest to His Excellency the Governor, that he should promise protection and shelter to all female immigrants sent to this colony, until situations are provided for them. I also most earnestly entreat and implore that no more engagements may be *allowed* on board ship. As soon as an immigrant ship arrives, the Board should assemble, and the immigrants be fairly drafted to the District Homes, giving a fair and proportionate share to

Sydney. The gentleman whose duty it is to draft the immigrants according to orders received, must have the *confidence of the people*; he must be a person of honourable integrity, and alike *proof* against a lady's entreaties and a gentleman's censure. Those immigrants that are intended for Port Macquarie, Moreton Bay, Maitland, Wollongong, Manning River, &c., should be received per steamers and small craft from the ship. Those intended for Sydney, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Goulburn, Bathurst, &c., should be sent to the place intended for their reception, and I hope Grose's Farm will be appropriated for this purpose: this would be very convenient for drays. I also beg to curtail the *privileges of the Board*: they must not be allowed to select servants *for themselves*, or *their friends* even, though they chance to be members of the Bent-street Club. All who want servants must go to the Registry-office for them; let all have a fair chance: this appendage to the agent's office I hope your Excellency will sanction. The district Homes cannot be kept open without one, and I do hope your Excellency will give them all the aid in your power. Any government buildings that are unoccupied cannot be better employed: and I also hope you will lend tents *freely*. I think you must acknowledge that I have not asked for half what your Excellency expected: my moderation will, I hope, induce you to grant *all*.

I now beg to call the attention of the gentlemen of the interior to the necessity of establishing Homes. The expense of a Home in the country is very trifling: if there should be no government buildings available, a few tents and a small cottage will suffice. Food is cheap and plentiful—a sack of flour from one, a bag of potatoes from another, a basket of cabbages, and a few pumpkins, go a great way, and *all would help the Home*—a few sheep too, a welcome gift; and what gentleman is there that would not give one or two in the year? The amount of the ten days' rations you could fairly claim. Sending the immigrants up in large numbers, would make conveyance *cheap*: you would establish such rules as met the wants of your district. A Home well looked after will be a *saving* to you of *time, trouble, and expense*. You become familiar with the people; you know their characters; you can influence them for their good. If a man forfeits his word, and flies from his agreement, his conduct is reported to the committee; his character *is known in the district*. I see no other plan by which you can get a *fair* supply of servants: if you go on in the old way, you *must take* what the people of Sydney *refuse*. Wealthy men can afford to spend their time in Sydney; and before you can hear, in the country, of a ship's arrival in Sydney, the single men, the shepherds you want, will be on *their way* to J. P. or M. C's. station. I think it is desirable that branch establishments should be formed at the following places:— Port Macquarie, New England, Moreton Bay, Wollongong, Maitland, Scone, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Goulburn, Yass, and Bong Bong. I think it due to myself and the gentlemen in the neighbourhood of the last-mentioned place to state, that it was not for want of exertion on my part, or liberality on their's, that there was not one established there. I received an application for a government building, from J. Throsby, Esq., of Throsby Park, to be converted to that purpose; but, instead of taking the letter to the governor, I sent it through the immigration office: from thence it was sent to the colonial secretary's office, and thence to the governor. What reply was made by His Excellency I am not able to say, for the answer was sent per *state coach*, a *remarkably-slow* conveyance; but as the road from the colonial secretary's office to the domain-gate is now under repair, I may

receive a favourable answer in time for the next arrival of immigrants, when I will forward the same per dispatch.

This circumstance reminds me of an official turn-over I once saw, on which was written, "Don't give—don't refuse—delay and parley—in all, *take time!*"

I have now to tender my sincere and grateful thanks for the handsome manner in which the institutions have been supported by the public. To the Liverpool, Campbelltown, and Maitland committees and secretaries my best thanks are due. The institution has had working friends in all quarters—zealous friends: *without them*, my wishes, my plan, *could not* have been fairly tried and carried out; they have done *much for me*; they have allowed no sectarian spirit to creep in; charity and good will have united them; they nobly stepped forward to protect the young women sent into their several districts; and they have their reward, for, without their aid, I could not have stated a fact, I feel it an honour to pen that, out of fourteen hundred girls, sent through my office since October, 1841, into Sydney and the Interior, only seven have lost character. This *fact* must be gratifying to the benefactors, as it is creditable to the girls and honourable to the colony. In Sydney and the country I have been ably supported by the clergy of *all* denominations, and I am certain this statement will give them sincere and heartfelt satisfaction.

I cannot conclude this work, without stating one or two pleasing circumstances.—I had a young and unfortunate girl in the Home (a Catholic): I had *reasons* for wishing her out of the way; and when Mrs. Creak, of the North-shore, (this lady has now left the colony for Bristol in England) called at the office, as she always felt an interest in the Home, I mentioned the circumstance to her. "I will take her home with me." She did so; and on the Sunday, she offered to send her in her boat, that she might attend St. Mary's Church. I did not wish her to be seen in Sydney, and the girl remained with this lady, until provided for. This, my readers will say, was charity.

I must also mention another fact, that I feel a pleasure in recording.—When I was obliged to visit Maitland to establish a Home, I had one young and thoughtless girl, about whom I had reason to feel much anxiety. Before I left, I called on the Rev. R. Allwood, (I hope he will pardon my giving his name, for I could not conceal an act of charity that will be precious to his people and a brilliant example for all), and requested him to see her, and give her good advice. I went to Maitland; on my return, my first enquiry was for —; when I was told that the Rev. R. A. had taken her to his own house until I should return. There are many other persons I long to name; but I shall take another method of making their good deeds known.

I have now to request, Reverend Gentlemen, that you will accept and consider the dedication of this work to you, as a token of my grateful esteem.

I have the honour to remain, Reverend Gentlemen, with veneration and respect,

Your obliged, humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

Appendix.

Immigrants' Home

April 28th, 1842.

SIR,

You would particularly oblige me by stating if you are aware of any young woman (sent through this office) having lost character in your district—I mean, as regards her honesty and morality.

I should also be glad if you would make it known to such persons as you consider most likely to give me the information, and that I should esteem any communication on this subject a favour.

My object in requiring this information is, to enable me to meet the prejudices of some amiable and pious persons, who tell me the town afford more protection to young women than the country, where they consider the danger greater, and the protection less.

I have acted on the contrary supposition, and facts are necessary to prove whether I am right or not; my intentions were good, but my judgment may have led me into error, and I am therefore anxious for the honest and impartial opinion of those who alone are competent to judge—viz., the resident gentry.

Any general facts bearing upon this subject will be most acceptable; such as, if the moral tone of society has been raised amongst the middling classes, and if the married families sent have conducted themselves with honesty and sobriety.

It would likewise aid my calculations to know if, during the last two years, there has been any distress amongst the above class for want of food.

I am aware there has been much and serious depression, but has it extended to the cottage? has the hard-working man been unable to provide his family with the necessaries of life? Have you known one instance in your district where children have been limited as to the quantity of food they should consume?

Do you think that married families, of industrious and sober habits, need fear obtaining employment? and whether, supposing the man to be a good farm labourer, and his wife willing to work, they could provide as much food as is necessary for their families, giving them many comforts, such as tea, sugar, &c., &c., also good and sufficient clothing, and besides this, be enabled to pay a weekly sum of sixpence for each child they could send to school?

I would also thank you to inform me the probable number of single women required for your district during the next year, and the present rate of wages.

I would thank you to ascertain for me, as far as is practicable, the total number of unmarried males and females in your district.

If you will take the necessary steps to give me the information I require by the 8th of May next, you will enable me to make my report in a more satisfactory manner.

I do not wish to give my ideas except facts will support them.

I remain, Sir,
Your obliged Servant,
[Signed] C. H. M. CHISHOLM.
To——,
Police Magistrate.

Extract of a Letter from S. North, Esq., P.M.

There is no doubt young women, if so disposed, might save some part of their wages; most of them, however, prefer expending the whole of their wages in dress. Well-conducted young women seldom remain long in a single state; they soon get husbands, and, if careful of themselves, they may, in general, marry well. Wearing apparel may be had as cheap in Windsor as in Sydney.

Police Office, Campbelltown
9th June, 1842.
MADAM,

In reply to your note of the 6th instant, requesting to be informed if any of the immigrants, forwarded by you to this place, are officially known to me, I have much satisfaction in stating, that no complaint has been made of the inmates of the Campbelltown Home since its establishment; and I have every reason to believe that all of them are comfortably situated in the service of the neighbouring families.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,
F. ALLMAN,
Police Magistrate.
Mrs. Chisholm, Sydney.

Extract from a Letter received from the Rev. J. Rigney, Wollongong.

Of these six, one is well married; three are engaged to good matches, and will be married before a week; and the other two were asked to follow the example of the former four, but, either uncertain of the character of those who made the proposal, or warmly attached to the families they serve, have signified their intention of remaining as they are for the present. I ought not, however, to omit mentioning one material feature in the case; that is, that all these young women have been remarkably prudent, industrious, and regular in their demeanour since they came to my district.

To Mrs. Chisholm.

Police-office, Windsor
7th June, 1842.
DEAR MADAM,

In reply to your note of the 3rd instant (received this day), I beg to say that I have not officially known any of the immigrants recommended by you to this district, with the exception of one young woman, who was committed and found guilty of stealing a sovereign.

I beg also to say, that you are perfectly at liberty to make any use you may think proper of the paragraph you allude to, in my letter of the 9th of November last, or any other part of the same letter.

I remain, dear Madam,

Your obedient Servant,
S. NORTH.
Mrs. Capt. Chisholm, Petersham House.

Port Macquarie
2nd May, 1842.
DEAR MADAM,

I think I have fully answered all your enquiries in the accompanying letter. Not a single immigrant has been brought before me for any crime or misbehaviour whatever, nor has any such thing come to my knowledge.

I have found both women and men most willing to take advice. I could find places for ten more single women, were the government to send them; and in New England, fifty single men would immediately be employed at twenty pounds a year, with ten pounds of flour, ten pounds of meat, one pound and-a-half of sugar, and three ounces of tea, weekly.

There is neither house-rent, wood, or water, to be paid for in this part of the country, which is a great thing to a family. I have, since the 1st of January, got clear of three hundred, including children.

Yours truly,
J. GRAY, P.M.
Mrs. Chisholm, Sydney.

Police-office, Port Macquarie
May 2, 1842.
DEAR MADAM,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, and I have much pleasure in replying thereunto; inasmuch as I am enabled to report most favorably on the subject-matter of your various queries; and, also, as my opinions on the important topic of Immigration coincide closely with your own.

I must premise, that many of the immigrants who have landed at Port Macquarie have obtained employment in the neighbouring districts of New England, the Manning, and the Mc Leay; consequently my observations must not be expected to extend to them, and referring, therefore, solely to the police district of Port Macquarie. I do myself the honour to reply to your queries seriatim:—

First—Since the 1st of January, all the single women who arrived here through your office found immediate employment, at wages of from ten to fifteen pounds per annum; and it affords me the highest gratification to assure you, that in no one instance have any of these young women lost character since their arrival here, nor has the slightest imputation reached me either as regards their morality or honesty.

Secondly—With regard to the eligibility of the country districts, for favourably carrying out the best principles of immigration, I decidedly am of opinion, that the country is preferable for the majority of the female servants, and more particularly for the Irish. This class have, but in few cases, been totally unused to the duties of service in respectable families; and in the large towns, like Sydney, very few persons will take the necessary trouble to teach them the required routine, and their term of service is consequently but of short duration. In the country the case is widely different: families will *take pains* to teach their servants, rather than incur the trouble and expense of frequent change; and more particularly when, as is the case in this district, the young

women are well-disposed, and anxious, and willing to learn.

Thirdly—The introduction of well-behaved families of immigrants in a district where the majority of the lower classes are prisoners, must tend, in an eminent degree, to raise the moral tone of society amongst that order; and this has been strikingly evinced by the fact, that every family in the district has returned the convict women to government, and gladly availed themselves of the services of the female immigrants in their stead.

Fourthly—Sixty-four married immigrants have arrived here since the before-mentioned date. They have all found employment in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. Their conduct has been most exemplary in every respect; and I am gratified to add, that *not one of them* has been brought before me in my magisterial capacity on any charge whatever.

Fifthly—I can declare, unreservedly, that the circumstance of a family being in want of food, or the necessaries of life, is totally unprecedented and *unknown* in this district. Depression has certainly occurred in monetary and commercial affairs here, but it has not extended, even in a degree, to the cottage; and the honest and industrious man has never been unable to provide himself and his family with food.

Sixthly—With reference to the future, I am confident that permanent employment may long be found in this district for hardworking men, willing to engage as shepherds and labourers. They will find ample provision for their wives and children, notwithstanding the children may be at that age when they are a drawback to the exertions of the parents. But when the industry of the husband is evident, nothing would be expected from the wife but her attention to her husband and children, although a very great portion of the labour in the maize districts might be easily performed by women and children.

Seventhly—I think I may fairly state, that fifty single women would find employment during the next twelve months, in this district, at wages varying according to their abilities, of from ten to sixteen pounds.

I have the honor to be,

Dear Madam,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. M. GRAY, P.M.

Mrs. Chisholm, &c., &c.

Maitland

7th May, 1842.

MADAM,

In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, I beg to inform you, that of all the young immigrant women who have engaged at the Home here, one only, as far as I have yet learned, has been found to be an immoral person. These women are so widely dispersed, that it is quite impossible for me to state how many of them have been married since October last.

I presume, that it would be no easy matter to remove the prejudices of the persons you allude to; but, in my opinion, the country affords quite as much protection to the well-disposed immigrant woman as the town; and her chances in the country of obtaining *a house of her own*, by marriage, are far more numerous. Besides all this, it seems to be forgotten by the persons you speak of, that you could not, in the towns,

obtain employment *for all*. The choice, therefore, lay between useful employment in the country, or a maintenance, in idleness, in the towns.

I am not aware of a single instance, during the last two years, of any hard-working men being unable to provide a sufficiency of food for his family, or of such person having been forced, by the depression you speak of, to work for food *alone*. That depression affected the employer more than the employed; and I believe that its effects were but slightly felt in the working-man's home.

As long as married men, with large families, expect, as they do at present, to receive, besides food for children, as high wages, or nearly so, as single men, it will be difficult for them to find employment. The power to provide for a family, in the way you speak of, must of course depend on the number to be provided for. I consider that, in most instances, where the parents are both able and willing to work, that, at all events, sufficiency of good wholesome food and clothing could be earned.

It is impossible for me to say, with any accuracy, how many single women may be required for the next year in this district; but I believe that two hundred may find employment. I have had but very few complaints of the married families.

I have the honor to be, Madam, your obedient Servant, Mrs. Chisholm.

E. D. DAY, P.M.

Police-office, Wollombi

3rd May, 1842.

MADAM,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, requesting information on various points therein referred to, respecting the conduct and prospects of immigrants, I beg to state, that the following is the best reply I can give, on so short a notice, to meet your wishes on the 8th instant.

I am not aware of any young woman, sent from your office, having lost character in this district, as respects honesty and morality.

I cannot reply to the query, how many young women immigrants have been married since October last, and, for the reasons above stated, there is not time for enquiry; besides, I shall be in another part of my district the remainder of this week.

As respects the prejudices you state exist on the minds of some "pious persons," who think "the town affords more protection to young women than the country, where they consider the danger greater and the protection less," I am decidedly of the opposite opinion; and without entering into any argumentative detail, I shall confine myself to the well-known fact in the statistics of crime, that in proportion to the population, it is much greater in towns than in the country: and this applies with increased force to a colony where drunkenness is either the direct or concurrent cause of crime, in seven or eight out of every ten cases, coming before every court of criminal jurisdiction. Had I statistical tables to refer to, I could show, from them, the correctness of my position.

Statistics having been one of my hobbies in the old country, as a matter of taste, perhaps, more than duty, I perambulated the two districts of which I have had charge; and by calling on the settlers of all classes, I made myself tolerably acquainted with their characters, as well as their means of subsistence; and, from the information thus acquired, and my experience as a magistrate, I have very great pleasure in stating my conviction, that the moral tone in those districts has greatly improved during the last

four years.

During the last two years, there has been no distress in this district for want of food—there is a large *superabundant* quantity; and I have pleasure in adding, that I am not aware of there being a single person subsisting on charity.

Although there has been great depression throughout the colony, it has not extended to a single cottage in the district; and I feel justified in adding, that there has been no limitation to the quantity of food for consumption.

I do think that married families, where the husband is a *good* labourer, and his wife industrious, and both willing to make themselves useful, could procure employment, with sufficient rations and wages to procure clothing, besides a sum of sixpence per week for their children's education.

The wages of young girls and women may be stated at from £ 9 10s. to £ 14 per annum; but the number required I cannot form an opinion—but more anon on this subject.

According to the late census, there are, in this district, 578 males and 223 females unmarried.

There is one point in your letter untouched, which I think it necessary to refer to—that your report to the government may be more satisfactory on the fitness of the immigrants introduced on bounty. It appears to me that, in a majority of cases, there has not been sufficient caution in selecting immigrants, and that the individuals have been left to represent themselves farm labourers, or whatever they have chosen to put down. And there have been so many disappointments within my knowledge, that a ticket-of-leave holder, or otherwise free person, will get from five to seven pounds more than an immigrant: and this observation applies with still greater force to women. In several instances, I have been requested to give orders for women from the Factory, when the preference would have been given to free persons; and I feel quite satisfied, that until a better selection of immigrants is made, that there will continue a strong prejudice against them. I am quite satisfied, from my knowledge of the old country, that the means of effecting a beneficial change are very simple, and easy of being carried into execution.

I write a hurried reply, as there is only a weekly post, but I shall, with the greatest pleasure, afford you any further information in my power, on a subject of the first importance to the welfare of this colony; for it gives me great pleasure to comply with your re-request, convinced as I am of the great good your exertions have effected for the emigrants generally; indeed, I look upon it as a blessing to the female portion of them. Although so much has been done, unless there shall be a continuation of a system calculated to keep up a communication between the settlers and the emigrants, and with that attention to moral character and other qualifications, a relapse may be anticipated, which I should sincerely regret.

I am, Madam,

Very truly yours,

DAVID DUNLOP, P.M.

Mrs. Chisholm,

Immigrants' Home

Gifts of Gratitude,

RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY, DURING HER SEVEN MONTHS RESIDENCE AT THE HOME.

From Widow——, a four-pound jar of butter.

From John——, the first gathering of beans from his garden.

From A. E., twelve eggs.

From A Highlander, a club for my little boy.

From——, one jar of preserves and six bottles of wine, transferred by consent to the sick.

From R. B., two pictures.

From E. N., four oranges.

From Esther Morley, a bunch of wild-flowers—walked seven miles to present them.

From Flora Fraser, Baxter's Call to the Unconverted.

From Widow Lawton, four eggs.

Forty seven bridal favours.

Fifty-one pieces of wedding cake.

NOTE.—I have given fictitious names to some of the individuals introduced in this work, so as not to affect their future prospects in the colony; but the facts detailed are true to the letter.

To the Immigration Board

To the Immigration Board.

GENTLEMEN,

Having observed that, during the last seven months, a great number of very useless persons have been sent to this colony,—I believe nearly two hundred,—I consider it right to bring this to your notice, that you may take the necessary steps to prevent more being sent here. I believe, of the number above stated, one hundred have made up their minds to work, and are now in employment; but upwards of fifty are now in and about Sydney, living on the charity of the public, if it can be called charity to encourage idleness.

The present mode of selecting immigrants must be faulty, when it allows so many bad bargains to creep in. I have heard that this evil will be remedied by getting the parochial clergy of England to select emigrants for you. The idea amuses me, that you should suppose you can get people to do for you, what you ought to do for yourselves. You should bear in mind there are poor-rates in the mother country, and to suppose that the clergy and magistrates will send you their *best* and keep their *worst*, is really giving them credit for an extraordinary share of kindness. An active superintending agent, from this country, should be sent home: a knowledge of this colony is necessary towards making a good selection. As I believe the bounty system is to be continued, I will make a few suggestions regarding the same; and the *first* thing necessary, is a clear understanding between the importers and yourselves. There are difficulties, and I would advise a friendly meeting, when these difficulties should be talked over, and met in the best manner; let the good of the colony be kept steadily in view: and, as it is impossible rule No. 3 in the regulations can be kept to, and give the colony the number of young women required, the sooner it is altered the better. It is highly important that gentlemen of character in this colony should import immigrants; and as long as a merchant can get a certain percentage, he will go on: but if he fails in this one way, he tries another. I am *aware* that one firm here, of high respectability, have taken measures to withdraw from this speculation; this I regret, for if the respectable merchants, now engaged in it, give it up, it will fall into worse hands, except the government take it up.

I think it would be advisable, that a merchant should be able to calculate on having a certain number of bounty orders every year, for three years; for freighting ships with human beings is an undertaking that causes considerable outlay. They must have their country agents—their town agents; and when people are engaged only for a few months, they do not work as they would if certain of their employment for years. When the importers' agent has a number of persons who wish to emigrate in any town in England, the government agent, who should be sent from this country, should, at a fixed time, meet the people; give them check-orders of approval: and when a ship is about to leave, he should inspect the immigrants, to see if the people were the same he previously approved. No more than forty children should be allowed in any ship; and I hope the necessary steps will be taken to prevent any emigrant paying a share of his passage-money: a great number of the most *useless* people sent here have paid a part of their passage-money, or had it paid *for them*.

I will trespass on your time by giving you a specimen of one of your bad bargains, who having been a burthen on his parish all his life, you *kindly paid* his passage here, to give him an opportunity of eating government rations. He never appeared in the office until he had been three months in the colony; nor would he then, but that he was struck off rations and turned out the tents, he then came to me, looking as idle, miserable, and wretched as he *could make himself*.

“If you please ma'am, I want relief,”

“What relief?”

“I am turned out, and I have four children, and nothing to eat.”

“Where are you going to stay?”

“With a shipmate.”

“Come to me every morning at seven, and I will give you rations for your family until you get work.”

“Oh, ma'am, I can't get work!”

“I will find you work in two days.”

“Thank you! Heaven bless you! but I am not well enough to work. I was thinking of going to the hospital; but I am a little afraid of the doctors here not understanding my complaint.”

“What is it?”

“It's called a *compleracation*.”

“Dr. Harnett would cure you in a week.”

“Would he though, really: you see, ma'm, I am very weak.”

“Very.”

“Very; I require something strength'ing.”

“Dr. H. has great faith in blisters; they are said to be the best things in your complaint.”

“Ah! but I could not bear them: you see, ma'am, they would throw me into a fever—that is the *worst* of my complaint, what does me good one way, does me harm another.”

“But with low diet there would be no fear of a fever. I will write you a note to Dr.—”

“Why, no ma'am; I'll wait a day or two, thank you. Are there any parishes in this town?”

“Several.”

“Will you please to tell me where the parish-officer lives?”

“There are no parish-officers.”

“Do you *say so*, ma'am?—(A long pause.) Where is there a vestry? for you see, ma'am, I'll never be able to do without a little relief. Have you a benevolent society here?”

“Yes.”

“Do they give relief?”

“Yes.”

“Will you please to give me an order?”

“You are not old enough by twenty years.”

“Oh, ma'am, cannot you do something for me? Do you not know any kind people who will help me with a trifle?”

After trying his patience for some time longer, I gave him two days' provision for

his family, and told him I would try and find an *easy* place for him. A few days after he came, and renewed his demands in the following manner:—

“If you would only give me six shillings for a pair of shoes.”

“I will the day you are engaged. Now here is a little coffee for you, and here is a needle, cotton, and thimble for your wife, to mend your coat; you must come to me to-morrow, at nine, and I will give you a waistcoat and shirt.”

I then spoke to him about a shepherd's life; told him of the flocks that belonged to men who came here without a sixpence. I gave him a sheet of paper and pencil, and told him to go home and calculate what he could save in five years. I was glad to observe his step was quickened: the following morning he was punctual. I had a new loaf, *quite hot*, some tea, sugar, a beef-steak, a few pounds of potatoes—these were in a basket.

“That's fine beef, John—it is for your breakfast.”

“Do you say so, ma'am? well, I am lucky.”

“You will get a good place to-day. Now here is sixpence; go and get shaved and your hair cut; and here is two-pence—you are obliged to buy water here; and, as soon as you come back, you can take the basket, for I have something else for you yet.”

In less than half-an-hour he returned, quite another man; and, as I reminded him of my promise to give him the six shillings, he went off in high spirits; and at half-past ten John Baldwin sat in the office as a candidate for work. Though the improvement was very great, still he had an idle look: I therefore sent to Thorp's for one of their cheap neckhandkerchiefs, and I must confess I never laid out one shilling and three-pence better. The office was crowded, when Number Five entered; in a loud voice, he talked of the dreadful times; cheap labour; still he wanted a few shepherds; but he was on the look out for a bargain—a cheap bargain. I could perceive John view him attentively, and then cast a wistful eye at the money that lay on the office-desk. At last, Number Five praised John for his apparent anxiety for work: he blushed at the compliment; and, as I saw it was likely to be a bargain, I went into my room—(whether it was that I felt guilty of using a little *starch*, or my dread of the ridiculous, that made me retreat to where I could see and hear without being observed.) My success pleased me, for I was certain Number Five would make John earn his wages; and I, at the same time, knew he had half a lawyer to deal with. I returned to the office, entered the agreement at £ 18 per annum—a man and his wife for £ 18. I could see Number Five was delighted; so was I, for methought what a change, what a blessing for his family, that he has come to a country where we have no home for the idle: what an advantage to his children! This man has been now some months with his master, and if he turns out well, I shall be bound to acknowledge, that even grinders may do good. I may also remark, with reference to these idlers, that when the men in barracks were ordered by the immigration agent to work in the Domain, nine came to me very sick— Would I give them a ticket to Mr. Mc Lean, to say they were unable to work? “No; but I will to the doctor.”

They were not *quite ill enough* for that, and went accordingly to work. I think every person who wishes well to the immigrants must regret the idle time they spend on their arrival.

It is gratifying for me to state, that from the opening of the office, I had the confidence of the immigrants. In a short time, they requested me to fix the wages, and do what I considered right. Disappointed, as many of them were, in their expectations,

they never doubted my endeavours to serve them. I felt this confidence and responsibility, and exerted myself, as far as it was possible, to get at an accurate knowledge of what wages could, according to the times, be paid them; but this was a matter of extreme difficulty. In order to ascertain the rate of wages the flockmasters could pay their shepherds, I first enquired of the wealthy men—gentlemen whose flocks cover the mountains, and whose cattle crowd the vallies. These agreed on fifteen and sixteen pounds per annum, as the most that would be paid. These gentlemen said they acted from principle, and did not value the money.

I then enquired of those respectable settlers who, having a sheep station and cattle station, live at a convenient distance from both—from eighteen to twenty pounds; but the latter was doubtful.

I went to the third class—men, who having two stations, spend their time at either one or the other. From these, nothing less than twenty pounds; they could afford to pay it; never wished to *see it less*. These men (and may their numbers increase) acted on the principle of “live and let live.” I could only account for this difference of opinion, from the fact, that the former begin to feel the effect of paying for free labour. The day of indulgence is past, and the consequences are felt severely by those, who, in those days, walked in the golden path of favour.

There is nothing, perhaps, injures a colony more than giving the working part of the population a bad character. Respectable people, who have capital, get alarmed at the idea of being constantly teased with bad and extravagant servants. Many charges have been brought against them which I must say I consider unjust. What will the good people at Home think, when they read what was stated in Council, on the—of June last. Mr. H. M. states, “It was a matter of fact, that the prices realised for wool now, were not sufficient to pay the expenses of producing it, and of the *luxuries* which had been brought so generally into use, and were now *universally required by servants*.” This is rather a serious charge to be brought against a large body of people, who, in return, get the wages agreed for, and rations of meat, flour, tea, and sugar. I have known a *few* persons give, in addition to the above, a little soap, nothing more. But this charge is supported by Mr B., who says, “a friend of his went the other day to purchase some cases of pickles; and on his asking him why he bought such a quantity of pickles, he replied, that his *servants would have pickles now*, and he was obliged to give them.”

I must confess, gentlemen, I feel exceedingly curious about this said pickle-case. First, to know if the gentleman was fond of acids, and did not like Mr. B. to think he could, in *these hard* times, buy pickles for himself. Secondly, if he had been at an auction, and bought a cheap lot of pork, that could hardly be told from fish. Thirdly, whether his was a distant station, where *salt was dear*; and, in addition to the case of pickles, he had some *pickled* beef to treat his men with. Fourthly, whether he kept a store, and expected to make two hundred per cent. by them.

This was one of those solitary cases that it was hardly fair to drag before the Council. I might, by way of a change, be allowed to give this extraordinary fact a place in my book; but to drag it into the Senate House, to turn the Council Chambers into a house of lamentation, was too bad. Now, I consider that extracts could be taken from that paper by any active American immigration agent, that would, with little effort, fill two ships.

This colony has her rivals, and it is for you, gentlemen, to watch her interests—to

exert yourselves to counteract any statements that are likely to prove injurious to the cause of immigration, of which you are the reputed guardians. The greatest enemy the colony has, could hardly have said anything likely to have a more injurious effect, than what was stated on that day—proving the wisdom of the adage, of “Save us from our friends.”

In conclusion, I beg most respectfully to request that you will take into consideration, the need the young women have of government protection, and recommend the same to his Excellency the Governor. If you will do this, I shall have much pleasure in again devoting all my *leisure* time to the service of the young and friendless women sent here, gratuitously, as I have hitherto done.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

With great respect, your obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.