

themselves than dole out an inadequate amount of pauper relief in the midst of the idleness, threats, turbulence, violence, and wretchedness that must accompany this system? What country more eligible for this purpose than Western Australia, where labor meets its sure reward—which is a large field for Government works, and public improvements—and where religious provision is being made for Irish emigration?

Yours truly,

Trinity College, Dublin.

AN IRISHMAN.

CONVICT LABOUR.

To the Editor of the Swan River News,

SIR,—Respectability and exclusiveness are very well in London, where there are thousands from whom to select the materials for society; but, in a colony like Western Australia, the choice is between this principle and success—which shall be abandoned. Throw off this delusive pride—it is a very becoming principle under other circumstances; let convicts be introduced into the colony, and the fortune of Western Australia is made. If this generation of settlers do not allow the importation of convicts, the next will have to work like convicts! Surely they can have but little confidence in their moral courage to fear contamination from a few gangs of well watched prisoners* Let them consider the immense increase in the Commissariat expenditure—the improvement of roads, bridges, and public works—the increase of available labor for *all* purposes—the additional military guard—the frequent communication—in short, the thousand advantages which would accrue from Western Australia being made a penal colony—let them consider this calmly, coolly, dispassionately, and out of that false light which you journalists have contrived to throw upon the subject, and I am sure they will be of the same opinion as

Yours &c.

AN ADVOCATE OF CONVICT LABOUR.

[We insert this letter on the principle of *audi alteram partem*, although we do not exactly understand what our correspondent means by "the false light which we journalists have contrived to throw upon the subject." For our own part and on the part of our excellent contemporary and fellow labourer the Perth *Inquirer*, we entirely disclaim all desire of throwing any but the correct light upon it. Our sentiments on the subject are too well known to require our commenting on this letter, especially as we see nothing in it to shake our former opinion in the remotest degree.—Ed. S.R.N.]

* The Colonists never feared contamination from the "prisoners," but from the free men they would afterwards become.—Ed. S.R.N.]

COLONISATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor of the Swan River News.

SIR,—Your ready admission of my previous communications emboldens me to trespass upon your space with one more suggestion. I should like to see the plan recommended in your September number carried out experimentally by those ministers of the Church of England who distinguish themselves by their active philanthropy, their knowledge of the subject, and their connexion with various societies having for objects the amelioration of the social condition of the working classes. Colonisation and national education are of a co-ordinate importance and should be co-extensively promoted and systematised. If, for instance, rural schools on the plan of Fellenberg, were established throughout the country, and colonial geography, statistics, &c. taught, together with other knowledge, necessary to form an useful member of colonial society, proper care being given to the training and disciplining of youth, in seven years from the adoption of the system, colonisation would be nearly *nationalised*. It is calculated that forty thousand persons emigrate annually from the United Kingdom to settle in some one of our colonies. It is a matter of regret with the friends and members of the Church of England that these persons should be destitute of those humanising and restraining influences, which, at home, they had more or less felt. Instead, then, of making yearly appeals to the public for pecuniary contributions towards supplying those spiritually abandoned settlers with the means of religious instruction in the colonies, the Church should, by blending education and colonisation, prevent the evils which it can now do little more than expose and deplore. A Church of England co-operative colonisation society, for promoting emigration to Western Australia, (a colony whose moral superiority is equalled only by its natural advantages), properly organised, would soon shew how much better prevention is than cure. In a worldly point of view, the proposed agency for carrying out your plan of forming clubs throughout the country would be the most *respectable* of any, and, from the influence, position in society, ubiquitous ramification of its connexions which the ministers and the establishment possess, the church would be found the most efficient agent for making colonisation an affair of national interest.

I thank you for the too flattering approbation you are pleased to bestow on my humble efforts to befriend an ill-used but deserving colony. The little good that I may have done is through your co-operation. But for your aid—but for the existence of your valuable periodical, I could have done nothing. Be the credit

yours, Sir, and may you live to witness the triumph of those principles of colonisation which you were the first to advocate in a journal devoted to the interests of a colony.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant.

Albany Street.

A SUBSCRIBER.

THE SHIP "WILLIAM WISE," will, we believe, leave the docks for Western Australia on the 1st of December. She is under an engagement to the Government for whom she will carry a quantity of stores, consisting of gunpowder &c. &c.

DISSOLUTION OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COMPANY.—It may not be generally known to our readers that a resolution was unanimously come to, at a meeting of the proprietors of this Company last February, entirely to abandon the last straws by which it clung to existence, and, by the extreme liberality and judicious management of the Directors, backed by the forbearance and good feeling of the Proprietors, the Company was forthwith dissolved. Thus after a lingering existence of six years, this once promising Company, stricken by the effects of one grand mistake, has been entirely broken up.

FORTIFICATION OF FREMANTLE.—A site had been fixed on for the construction of suitable defences for the town and anchorage of Fremantle. The erection of a five gun battery, together with magazines, guard house, and other accommodations for an officer and thirty men have been deemed requisite, and will be undertaken by the Home Government at an early opportunity.—*Simmonds' Colonial Magazine*, October 1st.

A BISHOP FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—We have already stated that some 8000 acres of land had been surrendered by the colonists towards forming a fund for the endowment of a bishopric for Western Australia. As there appears some difficulty in making this available, we hear that an appeal is about to be made to the general public, and we have no doubt that, when the circumstances of the case are disclosed, it will be readily responded to, as we understand that so great is the spiritual destitution at King George's Sound, that children are unbaptised, the marriage rites, uncelebrated and the dead buried without funeral ceremonies, except during the short periodical visits of the Chaplain, and in many other districts, the services of religion are performed only by the magistrates!

PROGRESS OF ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The Church of Rome numbers 200 members in Western Australia, and has provided a Bishop to superintend their spiritual welfare. The Church of England—"The Established Church"—refuses a Bishop to 3500 of her sons!

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THE Overland Mail, by way of Marseilles, brought, on the 26th instant, a few letters from Swan River to the late date of the 2nd August. They principally refer to the general dispatches sent by the Southampton route, and only mention one point of any interest—the indisposition of Governor Clarke, of which we shall be anxious to have farther particulars. The letters were conveyed to Singapore by the colonial schooner, *Champion*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. B.—As the proceedings of our Subscribers will dictate the course we are to pursue, we have taken the opportunity this month of printing several letters which were awaiting insertion and have nearly cleared up our arrears. Next month, we shall, if possible, give the remainder, so that, if the paper be discontinued, none of our correspondents will have cause to complain of our neglect. W. B.'s communication ranks among the second instalment. Several letters are still under consideration.

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