

justice ; he thought that it was also one of morals, which had induced him to take a part in the discussion. An honourable member had made allusion to the circumstance of the members being interested parties, but on this point he was free ; he had been in the colony nine years, during which time he had only had four convicts assigned to him, two of whom ran away almost as soon as they were assigned to him, and had not since been heard of. He had not a single acre of land on which to set his foot, nor did he possess a single sheep or an ox—and it is not likely he ever will do. So far, therefore, as personal interest is concerned, he approached the question totally unbiassed. He thought that the council ought to adopt such measures as prudence and wisdom should point out, to show the people of England that the representations that have been made respecting the colony are altogether on one side. He recollected, when in England, seeing a figure in which all the rules of perspective and proportion had been disregarded, but the parts of which, when he looked at it through a particular kind of glass, were restored to harmony. Now it seemed to him that the inquiry into the state of this colony had been conducted on similar principles, but that a glass the reverse of the one he had been describing—one which distorted everything—had been used. The council would recollect the fable of the statuary and the lion—‘ If we lions had been statuaries,’ said the lion, ‘ how different we should have made the figures ;’ so he would say to the people of England, Allow us a committee to inquire into your vices, and we will draw a picture that will horrify you. If all the good was left out, the vices and evils would make a horrific picture. The genius of the colony had been represented as a monster without any redeeming virtues ; but he would appeal to any dispassionate man, whether he could acquiesce in the representations that had been made respecting the colony—he certainly did not. The general question of transportation, it was not the proper time to go into ; but with respect to the cause of the insubordination said to exist at present, he thought that it was gone into by Mr. James Macarthur, and probed to the bottom. [His lordship read an extract from Mr. M.’s evidence, in which he states that formerly, when ten men were assigned to him, he used only to keep five of the best, and turn the others in, but, in consequence of the scarcity of labour, he is now compelled to keep every man that is assigned to him.] He thought that by inquiry into the question, much good might be done, as we could show the people of England that we are not so bad as we have been represented to be ; it will not satisfy the people of England to show them that we want the convicts, but we must show them that we are in a condition to reform the convict, and make the punishment of transportation an object of dread ; and, unless we can do that, all that we can say will have but little effect. The quotation he had read from Mr. Macarthur’s work, pointed out one great cause of laxity of discipline. If a convict finds that his master will put up with all his vice rather than turn him in, and he mixes all the men together—the good with the bad—it is impossible the good can have any chance of reformation. He thought that settlers would find it to their advantage, when a convict is very bad, and repeated punishments have no effect on him, to turn him in, and turn their attention to those who are better. As to a portion of the community being corrupt, he was willing, to a certain extent, to admit it was so ; but he would say with the Attorney-General, to whose remarks, on a former day, he had listened with much pleasure, how can you be surprised that we have a corrupt population, when you consider the torrents of vice that have been poured in upon us ? He had heard

talk of the godlike intentions of those who first founded the colony ; it was a very strong term ; and he would say, that in carrying godlike intentions into effect, it was necessary to use the means which God has commanded us to do, for we have no right to expect miracles. It came within his knowledge, that in 1787, when the first expedition to this colony started from England, it was not intended to send a single minister ; and he knew, from the late Mr. Marsden, that it was only on the representation of Mr. Hay, of Leeds, who wrote to the secretary of state upon the subject, that a minister was sent ; and from 1788 to 1803, the colony was only provided with two ministers. What has been done since in the matter was within the knowledge of all ; but he had no hesitation in repeating what he had before asserted, that the provision for the religious and moral wants of the community has been totally insufficient to the wants of the colony, and a discredit to a country like England, and the people of England ought not to be surprised at the result. The evidence had been truly represented as giving ‘an incorrect picture of the actual condition of the colony.’ Since this subject had come before the council, he had read the greater portion of the evidence, and he was struck with the correctness of that part of the petition which complains ‘that effects having their origin in causes wholly or partially obsolete, are spoken of as if those causes were still in full operation.’ This expression he fully agreed in. One circumstance that had been alluded to was, that a son of a clergyman of the Church of England had been transported ; this was a fact, and this young man had unfortunately been placed under the tuition of a convict ; but it had not been stated that this happened almost twenty years ago.\* But what does this isolated fact prove ? Does it show that none but those who have been under the tuition of convicts act unworthily ? The late Archdeacon Scott, than whom a more honourable or right-minded man never set his foot on these shores, had always set his face against the employment of convicts as teachers ; and one great cause of the misunderstanding, to use no harsher word, which had existed between the Archdeacon and the late Chief Justice, was their difference of opinion on this point. He was loth to speak of what he had done himself, but the Ecclesiastical Records of the colony would show what representations he had made to Her Majesty’s government in England on the subject. Whatever evils, however, had arisen from this cause, he looked upon the cause as obsolete. Another lamentable case that was alluded to, was that of an individual whom it had been his painful duty to suspend from the performance of clerical duty within this diocese. On the case of this individual it had been remarked, that the contaminatory influence of this colony was so bad, that it contaminated the pastor as well as the flock. Now this individual had no connexion with the colony ; he had been appointed to a mission at New Zealand, and was in transit, when, through the sudden death of Mr. Hill, he was appointed *pro tempore* to do the duties of St. James’s Church ; but he had no more to do with New South Wales than he (the bishop) had to do with Canada, and any crimes that he might have committed were not chargeable on this colony. There are ridiculous people in all cities ; but he certainly considered it was unworthy the dignity of the British Parliament to listen to a long story about some old lady who had compared herself to the Duchess of Cleveland or Bedford. Perhaps the old lady was not so far wrong as might at first be supposed. Persons who had acquired large landed properties would, in the course of

---

\* The Bishop must be understood to mean that the “tuition” was twenty years ago ; the transportation was in 1836.

time, stand in the same relative position to the body of the people, as the dukes the old lady alluded to, do to the people of England; and in three hundred years hence their property will be as valuable, and perhaps as honourably acquired, as if it had been obtained through feudal ravages, or the spoliation of the church. He hoped to see a true aristocratic feeling prevail among the higher orders of this colony, as it will promote a high feeling of honour, and a liberal encouragement of the arts. Before the council appointed a committee, it would be well to consider whether it would cause the ill feeling that had been spoken of. If the inquiry was gone into, all the measures of the last seven years must be inquired into: those who had objected to the measures would show why they did so, while those who had been of a contrary opinion would reply. Truth is the first object; and if he thought that by the inquiry the committee could arrive at the truth, and refute the assertions that had been made, he should vote for the inquiry; but he was afraid they could not, and therefore he should object to the appointment of a committee. If the council determined to proceed by resolutions, the only objection he had to those suggested by the Attorney-General was, that they did not sufficiently repudiate the aspersions, which, if they had not been adopted by, have at any rate received the imprimatur of the House of Commons. He knew that those aspersions had caused a feeling of sorrow among many in England who have relatives here, when they consider what kind of a place their friends are obliged to live in. The real refutation of these aspersions is to be found in the actions of the colonists. From the nature of his employment, he was enabled to form an opinion of the character of the inhabitants of this colony, better, perhaps, at any rate as well, as any gentleman in the council, and he had no hesitation in saying, that he knows no district in the colony in which he could not find a number of men of as correct principles and high honour, as he had found in any country in which it had been his lot to be, and that, too, in sufficient number to give a general feature to the colony, and entitle them to claim to be excepted from the horrible picture which had been drawn of the colonists. He was not given to flatter, but when he looked at the readiness with which all the leading settlers had lent him their aid to forward the objects of the religion which they profess, he could not despair: he was confident that there is a deep feeling of religion among the settlers of the colony, which only requires to be drawn forth, and it will form a fortress of good feeling, which in a few years will alter the face of the country, and cast a light which will discover a beauty and excellence that has not yet been seen. But while he thus spoke of one portion of the community, he was sorry to be obliged to allude to the deep depravity of the other; a depravity which required not only the efforts, but the prayers, of every one who is interested in the moral improvement of the country. He would refer to the society of which he had the honour to be the head, and which without any other means, personal or political, than the disposal of funds subscribed by its own members, had effected good which he was hardly sure could find a parallel in any society of a similar description in England. If this colony be the sink of iniquity that it has been represented to be, how is it that so many men of honourable character make it their dwelling-place and live among us? How is it that so many officers of the army and navy—men whose professions make their honour unquestionable—become settlers, and sit down among us? How can the English people reconcile these facts with the pictures which every day represent the colony as being a perfect Pandemonium? Again, look at the number of people who actually visit this colony from India; is it likely they would come here, if the visitors found the statements that had been