

such a colony is no place to work moral changes, where all the convicts are necessarily allowed the most unreserved intercourse; and their return home cannot be productive of any good to society, when they bring back with them all their vicious feelings,—inflamed, not subdued—by the probation to which they have been subjected. These are difficulties that cannot be surmounted. England is now laboring under the burdens of this system; and the interest lately exhibited in the improvement of her prisons, induces the belief that ere long her colony will be entirely abandoned, and its present possessors be left in the enjoyment of the soil, and whatever of civil polity may have of necessity sprung up among them.

A distinguished member of Parliament says that in thirty years this colony has cost England the enormous sum of 3,465,983 pounds sterling—about \$15,000,000. When we carefully consider the expenses of establishing such institutions, and of maintaining them—the augmentation of criminals both in the colonies and in the mother country, because of their inefficacy in repressing crime; and the entire alienation of sympathy of the parent government, even if they become resident settlers—all which effects experience proves to have resulted from them—we are lost in wonder that they should now find favor in the estimation of thinking men. Above all one State cannot succeed in this attempt, because the place of the offenders which she might send away, would be supplied by discharged convicts from the prison of other States, and the idea of all the States speedily uniting in such an establishment is futile in the extreme. Such settlements may for a time free us from a bad population by giving them a temporary residence elsewhere; or if, indeed, they settle permanently, they cannot become a peaceful and happy people. “*Cælum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt.*” We shall not destroy the vices which we transport. We shall only visit upon other climes the misfortunes of our own, by transplanting the germs of crime to another soil more congenial to their luxurious growth; like the *Upas*, to spread moral desolation and death over the whole extent of their influence.

It would be equally unjust to the people to confine criminals here at the public cost. Why should they not be made to support themselves? Are the demands on the treasury so limited, that wickedness in its most revolting forms, may receive impunity, by public contributions towards the maintenance of the guilty? or shall we not rather hold out as a terror to all, the certainty of punishment for transgressing the laws? Those who now complain would perhaps pay more from this increase of taxes, than they now lose by the effect which convict labor is supposed to have on their earnings.

We appeal to the mechanics themselves to say whether the state of society would not become much worse if our penitentiary were abandoned. Have they reflected on all the consequences of hurrying its destruction? Look at other countries, and the various other means there used, until necessity is bringing them all to this system.