

Colonial Secretary's Office

9<sup>th</sup> May 1834.

Sir.

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I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that His Excellency's recent inspection of the settlement of Port Arthur has been highly gratifying and that it affords him perfect satisfaction to observe the result of your zeal for the public Service manifested by the general good order and discipline of the station, and I am to observe that the abandonment of all hope of escape on the part of the Convicts is an unquestionable proof of the good judgement as well as energy with which all your measures have been conceived and executed.

I am to express His Excellency's

particular

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

particular pleasure to remark that, whilst  
the complete execution of your duties in  
rapidly moving from Station to Station  
had required you to keep a Horse, you  
had procured one at your own expense  
and had purchased forage without making  
any charge upon Government, but His  
Excellency hopes that you will be reimbursed  
for the sacrifice you have made, and

intends to take an early opportunity of  
considering the subject in the Executive Council.

Whilst the Lieutenant Governor has  
the gratification of thus notifying his  
great satisfaction at the general state of  
the Settlements under your Command,  
there are some points to which His Excellency  
would desire to call your attention; great,

as is the advance you have made in  
Prison Discipline (and His Excellency  
hopes you will not rest at the point you  
have gained, but, keeping in mind the  
vast importance of bringing your system  
as near to perfection as possible) he trusts  
there will be no relaxation, but on the  
contrary, that every effort will be made to  
render the grand national object of a penal  
settlement effective to the utmost degree.

To this end His Excellency would draw your  
attention to a further extension of classification,  
and, so arranged that the worst disposed  
convicts shall never be left one moment  
unobserved by convicts less evil inclined,  
by which means although bad thoughts  
cannot be prevented, at least bad actions

will

will be checked, for instance recent  
detection has rendered it evident, that some  
Convict has been fabricating base coin; now  
by a constant examination of all their  
clothes, and by an incessant watch upon  
the movements of every suspicious character,  
His Excellency entertains the hope that it  
may be next to impossible for any Convict  
to be thus wickedly employed without detection.  
A rigid system of espionage will, perhaps  
be one of the most efficient punishments of  
bad men as well as one of the best checks  
to crime. The objection which every  
honorable mind must entertain against  
such a practice in Society in general,  
producing as it must ever do mutual distrust,  
cannot lie against the practice in a situation  
where

where the worst men are congregated, and against whose malicious plots we must make a common cause.

The Lieutenant Governor remarked that the various huts in the Penitentiary were clean and perfectly wholesome, but some of them were in a very dilapidated state. His Excellency would therefore suggest that the paling of the Penitentiary should be enlarged and some new huts constructed within it, having regard only to their being substantial, weather-tight and airy, that they should be in any other respect "comfortable" would rather be objectionable even if it were attainable without expense.

One hut only within the paling  
should

should possess the character of being comfortable, the School Hut? this Building His Excellency wishes to be the very first put up, and every accommodation afforded within it to allow the Convicts to attend the School. The plan of instruction also His Excellency wishes to be made as inviting as possible, taking it for granted, as it is conducted under the Wesleyan Minister, that it will always close with prayer, and occasionally with a judicious exhortation; when once the Convicts have minds to be worked upon, a deep sense of the weight of Punishment will follow, and His Excellency hopes also a feeling of shame will be engendered, which will be of the utmost importance in leading to reformation.

The

The Lieutenant Governor is of opinion that immediately behind the Penitentiary huts, should be a large range of Solitary Cells constructed in the same simple and inexpensive plan as the small range already built, in which the most vicious characters should be lodged so soon as their daily work is over — contrasting these dismal abodes with the warm and cheerful School-rooms will, His Excellency trusts, not be without a beneficial effect upon those whose feelings are not totally destroyed.

Although the Lieutenant Governor desires to see nothing like Comfort in the Convict huts, His Excellency is still anxious they should be clean, as well as airy, and it is absolutely impossible that too much

attention

can be bestowed in cleaning the Huts, the  
Bedding and Penitentiary yard; this  
should be insisted upon to the minutest  
degree. The whole range of  
temporary workshops are in so delapidated  
a state as to require to be renovated forthwith.  
The design of erecting a new range His  
Excellency entirely approves, and considers  
it very important that they should be  
proceeded with as soon as possible; weather-  
boarded huts will be quite good enough,  
the one for Shoemakers should be far  
more extensive, and, at the end of it,  
should be a raised platform from whence  
the Overseer may glance his eye over all  
the Workmen.

A Chapel sufficiently commodious,

but



but suitable to such a congregation, should also be constructed, and the room at present used as a Chapel should be given up to the Commandants Department; there should be a large fire-place in the Chapel for its better purification.

The Lieutenant Governor has instructed me to add that there is a greater degree of sickness, though of a mild nature, than His Excellency expected to find, and I am to desire that the Surgeon may examine into this and report through the Colonial Surgeon for His Excellency's information.

In the mean time His Excellency wishes you would cause some change to be made in making the Bread, he  
perceived

perceived it was sour and when at all  
state must be exceedingly unwholesome, this  
should be attended to without delay.

The ground should be further  
cleared immediately around the settlement  
and His Excellency entirely approves of  
cultivating a very large space for  
Potatoes, Cabbage &c. since vegetables twice  
a week will be very beneficial.

The clothes and Shoes in possession  
of the convicts were in a better state than  
the Lieutenant-Governor has remarked  
them in any other Gangs in the Colony;  
but the convicts hair might be cut closer,  
and they should be peremptorily required  
to bathe frequently. The Gangs should  
be paraded for the inspection of the  
Surgeon

Surgeons at least twice a week so that the slightest disease may be speedily detected.

The Lieutenant Governor was happy to find the Establishment for Boys had engaged your attention and that you had bestowed upon it, as well as upon every other part of your duty the most diligent care. As soon as possible a Schoolmaster, who will also act as Catechist, will be selected and sent down, as such a person His Excellency perceived was much wanting. As more time is given in instructing the boys in reading and writing than is necessary, His Excellency wishes the following course to be pursued. As soon as the Boys are dressed one hour is to be given to reading and writing, half an

hour

hour is then to be allowed for Breakfast, immediately after Breakfast the boys are to be mustered for work at some Trade until dinner time; half an hour is to be allowed for dinner, and directly after that meal is over, all hands should turn out for active labours in the fields until nearly dark, after which an hour should be again given to the School — The Lieutenant Governor would not be understood to insist upon this exact division of time throughout the day, but to vary it according to the season of the year, giving a limited time only to the school and dividing the rest of the day between some useful Trade and labour in the open air.

I am further to remark that it

is necessary to keep in mind that these Boys have been very wicked, and that they are Transported in order, by their punishment, that other Boys may be deterred from being equally criminal, consequently the mode of treatment must be such as is calculated to make them feel this, and the utmost care should be taken to enforce upon their minds the disgraceful condition in which they are placed, whilst every effort be made to eradicate their corrupt habits.

The Lieutenant Governor remarked: many of them had not their hair cut - <sup>close as</sup> as is desirable, and desires that this shall be attended to, and under the sanction of the Surgeon, in such a Climate there would be no risk in making them bathe twice  
every

every week even in the Winter months  
and of course oftener in Summer.

You will readily perceive that  
attention, even to trifles, in the way of  
cleanliness in their persons, their clothes,  
their Bedding and their Rooms, will tend  
to give their minds a new-direction, and  
His Excellency strongly recommends it;  
also any very corrupt Boys should be  
separated from the rest and placed under  
greater coercion at the settlement.

His Excellency observed the Boys  
did not consume their ration of Salt meat,  
and I am to inform you that you had  
better cause what has been saved to be  
returned into Store, and the ration of meat  
should be decreased, and a quantity of  
vegetables

vegetables substituted.

Two tons of Potatoes have been ordered to be sent immediately to the settlement by the Assistant Commissary General, and the Superintendent of the Government Garden has already been instructed to forward a large supply of Cabbage plants and Garden seeds.

I am further to inform you that no time will be lost in engaging, as you wish, the services of a competent free person as Schoolmaster and Catechist.

In conclusion the Lieutenant Governor would desire it to be remarked that upon leaving Port Arthur His Excellency proceeded directly to visit the party of Grass Tree Hill, and was  
much

much struck with the state of Convicts  
employed in that Gang compared with  
those at Port Arthur, and could readily  
believe the statement made by Mr Bayley  
that some of the Convicts removed from  
Port Arthur wished to be sent back. This  
probably arises out of some defect in the  
supplies at Grass Tree Hill which must be  
corrected, and upon which instructions will  
be issued, but at the same time you will be  
sensible that unless punishment is kept at the  
extreme at your station, the grade of  
classification, so important to be observed,  
will be lost.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your very obedient  
humble servant

Lieut. J. Barrett