

voured to build up Sydney and Paramatta at the expense of the morals of the community, and appears to have discouraged free emigration. The emancipated convicts were admitted by him to the same privileges and immunities as the free settlers; and he treated the whole colony as if it were the gift of the mother country to those of her subjects who had outraged her laws. This policy soon had its effect at home, where it is said that crimes were committed in the hope of being sentenced to transportation; and it is asserted that the emancipated convicts, known as ticket-of-leave men, were much more desirably situated than honest persons of their own rank of life in the mother country. Many of these in consequence wrote to their friends to come out to them, and pointed out the means of doing so at the expense of the crown. This state of things was offensive to the free settlers, who opposed the endeavours of the colonial government to break down the distinctions that naturally exist between the polluted and unpolluted. Their repugnance was increased by the attempt, on the part of the emancipated convicts, to make property the only qualification for acquiring civil and political rights. So strongly was the line of distinction drawn by the free settlers at that time, that it remains unbroken to the present day, and affects even the third and fourth generation. From the countenance shown to the convicts by Governor Macquarie, their minds have become impressed with the idea that the colony is intended for their benefit; and they consider that they have the best right to administer the government, while the free emigrants in their opinion are interfering with their rights, by occupying all places of emolument and trust. Sufficient interest was excited by the complaints of the free emigrants to cause a commission of inquiry to be appointed. Much good resulted from its action, and a settled policy was at length adopted in relation to the treatment of the convicts.

Governor Macquarie was succeeded, in 1821, by Sir Thomas Brisbane, during whose administration all restrictions on the press were removed.

In 1824, by an act of Parliament, a Supreme Court was established, having equity, common law, admiralty, and ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Trial by jury was authorized under certain limitations, and the Legislative Council instituted. This was a great improvement upon the former system, and reduced the power of the Governor, which had before been absolute, while it at the same time gave him the best advisers.

The Legislative Council consisted of the Governor, with three civil officers, and three gentlemen not holding office. The establishment of