

removed from the mother when at the breast, and taken to the factory at Paramatta, where convicts' children are nursed and brought up. The mother is thus severed from her progeny for months, and, perhaps, for ever. The scenes that occur at these separations are often heart-rending, and ought to condemn the whole system. The feelings of the poor creatures may be more readily conceived than described.

Connected with the convict system, are the convict prisons, where the road and iron-gangs are lodged for safe keeping. There is one on the hill at Sydney, which, like most of the buildings at Sydney, bears the name of Governor Macquarie, 1817. In it are shown the guard-room, the working and eating-rooms, and dormitories, all of which are well ventilated. The prisoners sleep in hammocks, swung from parallel bars a few feet above the floor. A whipping-post was shown in an adjoining yard. The older prisoners are kept at work making brooms.

The female convicts who do not conduct themselves well, are sent back to the factory at Paramatta, where they are engaged in prison labour. The practice of keeping them in great numbers there, after they have been sent back, is liable to many objections, and is not calculated to produce reformation. It is very questionable whether their employment in small parties would not have a greater tendency to produce the desired reform.

The factory at Paramatta is situated on the river, about half a mile from the centre of the town, near the place where the steamboats stop. It is a large stone building, enclosed with high walls, and usually contains one thousand inmates. A part of these are those female convicts who have not yet been assigned; and the rest, those who have been remanded for their refractory conduct. Many of the settlers have, from necessity, taken these females into their service, and have been quite glad to get rid of them; for their corrupting influence had often resulted in the total ruin of the male servants who had been assigned in the same family.

It is only lately that good order has been introduced into this establishment, and this is owing to the supervision and care of Sir George Gipps. The accounts of the disorder in it in former times are truly disgusting.

These females are now divided into three classes, according to their ability and behaviour, of which the latter is more especially attended to. The first class is employed in making linen clothing, such as shirts, children's clothes, &c., and do much work for the shop-keepers in Sydney. The second, in making up coarse articles of apparel for