

driving it was the owner, and that although a ticket-of-leave man, he was married to a free woman of handsome fortune, living in one of the finest houses in Sydney; that their house was built on the very spot where he stood under the gallows some years since, although through a reprieve, or some accident, he had not been hung; and that it was at any time within the power of the wife to send him off to the whipping-post, and have him severely flogged. There are many convicts who are now the most wealthy people of New South Wales. I do not intend to be understood that they mix at all in the society of the better class; on the contrary, the convicts and their descendants, even to the third and fourth generation, are excluded from it.

Society here is composed of many distinct circles. All those of the first class are entitled to be received at the Government House, or are invited there. This privilege seems at present to be the touchstone of gentility; and if an inquiry is now made of the standing of any one, it is quite sufficient to say he visits at the Government House.

Any connexion with convicts would at once preclude admission to this circle; and so distinctly has this line been drawn, and so closely is it adhered to, that should an officer, or other person, contract marriage ties with any one of the lower classes, he would forthwith be shut out. This state of things naturally leads to many heartburnings among the rising generation, who have every thing to recommend them but a pure descent; whose behaviour is acknowledged by all to be irreproachable, and who among the community stand deservedly very high, some of them occupying posts of high trust and responsibility among men of business, and not a few of them being at the head of large moneyed institutions.

These differences frequently break out when subscription balls are given, and result in challenges being sent to the managers. One occurred on the giving of the St. Patrick's ball. A Mr. D. was admitted as a subscriber by the committee; he afterwards asked for a ticket for a friend of his, which was refused. Objections were then taken to himself, and he was requested to withdraw his name, and receive back his money. This brought forth a challenge, which was disposed of in a summary manner by the committee handing him over to the police, by which he was obliged to apologize to the committee, and bound over to keep the peace. I cannot but believe that this state of society is destined in a very short time to undergo a great change; and many of the inhabitants seem to be of the same opinion, particularly if they obtain a colonial legislature. This it seems almost indispensable they should have, for the wishes and wants of the rising community are too little known and heeded, at the distance of sixteen thousand miles, to