

insure good government; and the acts and the varying policy of the mother country are so ill adapted to the state of things here, as to strike the most common observers, and only tend to loosen the ties of affection that bind the colonists to it.

The introduction of free emigration, and the discontinuance of the use of the colony as a penal settlement, must soon produce the necessity of legislative bodies, and the elections will give the wealthy part of the citizens, emancipists and their descendants, a powerful voice in those bodies when constituted, which will finally lead to their amalgamation with the higher classes. I was surprised to find among the emancipists themselves the same distinctions kept up.

The labouring class of free emigrants form another class. They have great difficulties to contend with on their landing. As few of them will consent to serve as domestics in association with ticket-of-leave men or convicts, they find themselves placed in many difficult situations. They are compelled to resort to the public inns kept by these people, who endeavour to take every advantage of them, and cause them to part with what little amount they may have brought with them from the mother country. They soon become destitute, and from disappointment betake themselves to all the vices of the convict class. Some steps have been taken to provide for the emigrants on their first arrival, under the government system; but they have not yet been carried into effect, and it is difficult to enforce them.

There is yet another class, and one, as far as my experience goes, now unknown elsewhere, which sets at defiance both law and regulations. I mean a class known here by the name of "Crimps," who are a pest to the trade of the port, and the destruction of all the sailors who visit it. Their trade or employment may be summed up in a few words: it is to entice or kidnap sailors from their ships, and keep them drunk and concealed in some out-of-the-way place. Whole crews of merchantmen are frequently carried off by these fellows, and they are in consequence at times detained until the master or assignee resorts to the agents of these crimps, who are ready to give them a crew at four or five guineas for each sailor. I was told, a few days after my arrival, that the crimps had determined to get some of the men of the squadron; and they succeeded in enticing away the crew of the tender *Flying-Fish* and three or four other men belonging to the ships. The vigilance and system of these crimps bid defiance to the laws and police, who although quite aware of the existence of the evil, find it out of their power to put a stop to it. Since my departure, the shipping interests have memorialized the Government and Council, and there is a prospect that this nuisance will be abated.