

parties of the colony, it would appear that those establishments were like bee-hives, the inhabitants busily pouring in and out; but with this difference: the one works by day, the other by night; the one goes forth to industry, the other to plunder.

“To the careless or worse than careless conduct of the overseers, he did attribute a vast proportion of the burglaries and robberies that were committed in the country districts. It had been proved in a recent case that a party of these men had committed a robbery, under such circumstances of aggravation, that sentence of death had been passed upon four of them.

“The settlers themselves were to blame for many of the crimes committed by convicts belonging to road-parties. It appears they have frequently employed these men, in their leisure hours, or on a Sunday, paying them for their labours in money, which was spent in drink, and so prepared them for crime; and it also appeared that after using their services in harvest, they remunerated them for their services, by granting passes for several days more than was necessary for them to return to their gangs, during which time the whole country they passed through is laid under contribution by their depredations.

“Another source of crime was the occupation of the waste lands of the colony by unauthorized and improper persons, both bond and free, who, commencing with nothing, or a very small capital, soon after acquire a degree of wealth, which must lead every reasonable man to the conclusion that they do not get it honestly.

“The congregation of large numbers of convict servants in the town of Sydney, to which were to be attributed the vast proportion of the burglaries and robberies committed there, the master allowing the convict servants to wander about when and where they please after his work is done.

“The allowing improper persons to have licensed public houses. It had been proved that a great many robberies had been committed at such places, many of the proprietors of these low houses being not far removed from the class of life in which the prisoners were themselves placed.

“Another cause, which comes home to all, is the almost total want of the superintendence of masters over their assigned servants. It had been proved to him that many of the robberies which had been committed are attributed to this alone; also, that convicts, six or seven in number, armed with muskets, and masked, had committed various robberies on their adjoining neighbours. One of them attempted a robbery in the middle of the day, on a Sunday, on the high-