

colonies has led to a great accumulation of criminals in the country ; and it has got, in consequence, into the unhealthy condition of living subjects when the natural evacuations are stopped ; and in the second place, the ticket-of-leave system,—a system essentially false in principle in the circumstances,—has greatly exaggerated the evil. We cannot, however, agree with those who give a paramount place to the latter cause. Were it to be abolished to-morrow, and criminals imprisoned for the shorter periods,—whether five, seven, or fourteen years,—in no case released until the close of the legitimate terms recorded in their sentences,—the master evil would still remain. The felon, now let loose upon the public at the end of some two or three years, would in the other case not be let loose upon it until the end of five years, or of seven, or fourteen ; but ultimately he *would* be let loose upon it ; and, even if inclined to live honestly, he would have quite as little chance of procuring the necessary employment at the end of the longer as of the shorter term. There is only one way in which the master evil in the case is to be remedied. The old means of evacuation must, at whatever cost, be procured. Britain, whatever difficulties may lie in the way, must again have recourse to the scheme of penal colonies, or both life and property must continue to remain insecure. And, though difficulties do lie in the way, we do not see that they are by any means insurmountable. Half the trouble which our ancestors had in extirpating the native wolves would suffice to rid us of a greatly more formidable class of wild beasts,—the incorrigible criminals. It is surely not at all necessary that a penal colony should be a paradise. It was no advantage, but, on the contrary, much the reverse, that during even the healthiest state of the country, the incipient felon looked with longing eyes on the representations of New South Wales given in the print-shop windows, and then went off to qualify himself by some bold