

Society in aid of the measures of Govt for the religious & general instruction of the Female Councils of O'D Land.

18

Sept. 1841.

Madam, Lady Franklin

Deeply impressed with the melancholy & degraded state of the Female Councils of this Colony, & the awful responsibility which must fall on those, who themselves under the privilege & blessing of the Gospel, withhold their unwearied & earnest endeavours to shed its blessing & sanctifying influences on their unhappy fellow sinners, who have forfeited their liberty to the laws of their Country, & are for the most part in a reckless & despairing state, hopeless of raising themselves from the depths of sin, into which sin has plunged them, & the indignant in accordance with the wishes of His Excellency the Lt Governor, and under the patronage of Lady Franklin, have formed ourselves into a Society, for the purpose of visiting frequently the several Factories, & assisting the instructors appointed by Govt in carrying on a course of religious instruction amongst the Female Councils, and for their benefit, from time to time, to offer for the consideration of Govt. such suggestions as may seem desirable for the improvement both of the interior discipline of the Factories, and of the

regulations under which the convicts are assigned
out for service.

The blessing of God has so evidently followed
the exertions of similar societies in England,
that if undertaken in the same spirit, & in
communication with them, adopting their
system, we may hope for equal success ~~in~~ in this
distant colony, & we trust that we, individually &
collectively, enter upon our duties, influenced by
that Spirit, with a single eye, to the glory of God
in the salvation of souls, through Christ Jesus.
We conclude this sketch of our views & principles
in the words of the author of the "Prisoners of
Australia":

"Alas, why is it that from year to year, Mercy still
wings her way from Heaven to Earth, bearing in her
hand the glad tidings of good will towards man,
and in the other the censur for the prayers & works
of faith, which are alone meet for the sacrifice
of the Saviour's Altar, and yet returns again & again
with the message despised, & the censur still
overflowing with the tears & complaints of those ^{English} whom
might but will not save, and whom Australia might

"but will not reform."

"And shall Australia then, that fair land of hope
& promise, be for ever left thus, the channel
ground for all that England in her supine
casts away as refuse, unworthy of her rich soil,
sending forth sin, to multiply tenfold in a land
which given to her, as a future trophy of Daughters
Conversion, demands our religion & not our care.
Let this be said no more, let every heart which
beats within the bosom of the a Briton, respond
to our appeal in behalf of English poor, & of Australian
Prisoners, that the one may grow rich in Christian
piety, & the other rejoice as being made free in
Jesus, our common Saviour."

Signed by
P. Hair
J Hopkins
M A Burgess

L. Bolton
J S T Dowbiggin
E Barnard
J Mather
J B Walker
J Williams
J Officer